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For A Girl Becoming (Sun Tracks)



Synopsis

Transformative moments in the cycle of life are a time for acknowledgment, a chance to guide a child's path in a positive and loving direction. Swirling images laden with both myth and personal meaning illustrate this unique, poetic tale of the joys and lessons of a girl's journey through birth, youth, and finally adulthood. Within these colorful pages, family and community come together in celebration of her arrival, offering praise, love, and advice to help carry her forward through the many milestones to come, and reminding her always of how deeply she is cherished. It is a reminder, too, of our abiding connections to the natural world, and the cyclical nature of life as a whole. With its rich, symbolic artwork and captivating language, *For a Girl Becoming* is the perfect gift to recognize a birth, graduation, or any other significant moment in a young woman's life. Not only for children, this lively and touching story speaks to that part in each of us who still stands at the door of becoming. Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

• This is a blessing to bestow on all of the young women in our lives. With Joy Harjo's words, "As you travel with us, the road opens, and the journey promises to be lined with help and love." Debra Frasier, author and illustrator of *On the Day You Were Born*

Joy Harjo (Mvskoke/Creek) is an internationally known poet, writer, and musician. She has published seven books of poetry and the children's book *The Good Luck Cat*. With a style characterized by vivid color and large pastel figures, Mercedes McDonald has done work for a

variety of commercial clients as well as the children's book *Hello Night/Hola Noche* by Amy Costales.

Although yes, I'm native and have long loved Joy Harjo's poetry, this is NOT a book "just" for NDN girls. It's a book for ANY girl, of any age. It talks about our life passages and our families, beyond our ethnicity, all caught in Harjo's glittering poetic prose, both crystalline and frank, and illustrated here beautifully. HIGHLY recommend as a gift for the favorite girl in your life, whether 6 or 60.

Divine book. I have given it as a gift twice now to teenage girls who are 'becoming' to remind them of who stands with them, that they are never truly alone. Inspired me to begin to write my own song of becoming.

this book is amazing for anyone who has a daughter and wants to give her big, multi-generational love. Joy is a poet whose language is soulful and the illustrations are lovely.

"For a Girl Becoming" is a book of beautiful, sensitive poetry and song celebrating a young girl's coming of age. Created by acclaimed Mvskoke/Creek poet, writer, and musician, Joy Harjo, "For a Girl Becoming" is Volume 66 of *Suntracks*, an American Indian Literary Series. "For a Girl Becoming" is a beautiful experience waiting to be treasured by its lucky recipient, appropriate for celebrations of such joyous transitions as birth, graduation, or any other significant turning point in a young woman's life. "For a Girl Becoming" is sensitively illustrated with earth and pastel tones by Mercedes McDonald. A partial quotation from the inspiring text follows: "Now breathe./And when you breathe, remember the source of the gift of all breathing./When you walk, remember the source of the gift of all walking./And when you run, remember the source of the gift of all running./And when you laugh, remember the source of the gift of all laughter./And when you cry, remember the source of the gift of all tears./And when you dream, remember the source of the gift of all dreaming./And when your heart is broken, remember the source of the gift of all breaking./And when your heart is put back together, remember the source of all putting back together."

I stumbled across this book in an art museum bookshop in Santa Fe, and have had it stuck in my head ever since. As an English teacher and lover of books, this is a gorgeously written, beautifully illustrated poem to women of all ages...although specifically written for one girl, the messages are so completely universal that no matter what your background, if you're female you should be able to

relate. As someone who survived the teenage years, and who now watches the students in my class struggle through that time of growing, I wish I'd had a book like this to read and make me feel that maybe I wasn't crazy, and the world really was a beautiful place, and I really could do something to make it even better. As a mother, although it's far too advanced for my 2 1/2 year old, I've already purchased a copy for her so that as she grows older she can learn from the love and wisdom it contains (because hey, when she's 13, there's no way in hell she's going to sit down for a "love yourself and everyone around you" conversation with her own mother!). I've also bought copies as baby shower gifts for friends expecting girls, and for my daughter's midwife. I really can't recommend this book highly enough - if it helps as evidence of how great I think it is... I came on to buy another copy as a gift and was moved to write my first .com review:)

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