



Pankration (A little ark book)

By Dyan Blacklock

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Pirates, a wolf-fight, kidnap - a thrilling life-and-death story about the first Olympics.

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Pankration (A little ark book) By Dyan Blacklock Bibliography

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- Published on: 1997-03-01
- Released on: 2013-03-13
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8-This adventure set in 430 B.C.E. follows the exploits of Nicasylyus, the son of a well-to-do Athenian family. During a hot, steamy summer, Nic is sent on a voyage to his uncle's home in Argos to escape a rapidly spreading plague. During his trip, he befriends Gellius, the captain of the ship, who tells the boy about his plans to enter the Pankration (a combination of wrestling and bare-fisted boxing) in the next Olympics. Before the end of the voyage, pirates attack the ship, capture Nic, and seriously injure Gellius. The following chapters alternate between Gellius and Nic. The captain is rescued by fishermen, recovers from his wounds, and returns to Athens to train for his event. The boy is sold into slavery, endures hunger and abuse, battles wolves, escapes, is captured again, and finally meets up with Gellius in Olympia. The plot is fantastic and unrealistic, but the author keeps the story moving with exciting episodes and believable descriptions of events. She provides a realistic picture of the crowds, ceremony, and pageantry of the Olympics and the grimy, sweating brutality of the Pankration. The ending is pat and characters are not finely developed but the setting and atmosphere are well done.

Cynthia M. Sturgis, Ledding Library, Milwaukee, OR

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From Kirkus Reviews

Australian Blacklock debuts with a gory, rough-hewn tale set in ancient Greece and Italy. Sent from Athens to escape the plague, young Nicasylyus is taken by pirates and sold into slavery; he escapes, makes his way to Olympia, and witnesses the vicious Pankration, a no-rules fight that lasts until all but one competitor is too broken up to continue. The author splits the story between Nic and his giant friend Gellius, a sailor who survives the pirate attack who undergoes the requisite nine months of training and purification required to compete in the games, and is beaten to a pulp but crowned victor when Nic fingers his opponent as the pirate captain. There are some who may enjoy following Nic's blood-and-vomit-splashed trail to Olympia, but neither of the protagonists sees much beyond the climactic bout, even though Blacklock prepares readers for a visit to the ancient games. The rarely used setting, tailor-made for historical fiction book reports, may spark some interest. (Fiction. 11-13) -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Wayne Hause:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open as well as read a book allowed Pankration (A little ark book)? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have other opinion?

Clair Lemanski:

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children till adult are different content. As you

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Mary Brott:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book could be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the guide untitled Pankration (A little ark book) can be great book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

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