



## Bamboo People: A Novel

By Mitali Perkins

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### **Bamboo People: A Novel** By Mitali Perkins

Chiko isn't a fighter by nature. He's a book-smart Burmese boy whose father, a doctor, is in prison for resisting the government. When Chiko is forced into the army by trickery, he must find the courage to survive the mental and physical punishment meted out by the training facility's menacing captain.

Tu Reh can't forget the image of the Burmese soldiers burning his home and the bamboo fields of his oppressed Karenni people, one of the many ethnic minorities in Burma. Now living in a Karenni refugee camp on the Thai border, Tu Reh is consumed by anger and the need for revenge. He can't wait to join his father and the Karenni resistance in the effort to protect their people.

Chiko and Tu Reh's stories come to a violent intersection as each boy is sent on his first mission into the jungle. Extreme circumstances and unlikely friendships force each boy to confront what it means to be a man of his people.

Set against the political and military backdrop of modern-day Burma, *Bamboo People* explores the power of courage and compassion to overcome violence and prejudice.

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## Bamboo People: A Novel By Mitali Perkins Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

\*Starred Review\* Gr 7-10—With authenticity, insight, and compassion, Perkins delivers another culturally rich coming-of-age novel. Two teens on opposing sides of ethnic conflict in modern-day Burma (Myanmar) tell an intertwined story that poignantly reveals the fear, violence, prejudice, and hardships they both experience. Chiko, a quiet, studious student whose medical doctor father has been arrested as a traitor, is seized by the government and forced into military training. Chiko is groomed for guerrilla warfare against the Karenni, a Burmese minority group living in villages and refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border. After he and his patrol stumble into land mines, Tu Reh, an angry Karenni and rebel fighter, must decide whether or not to save him. Tu Reh's home was destroyed by Burmese soldiers, and he struggles with his conscience and his desire for revenge and independence. Both Chiko and Tu Reh are caught in a conflict that neither fully understands. Family, friendships, and loyalty have shaped their lives. But as young soldiers, they face harrowing situations, profound suffering, and life-and-death decisions. Both boys learn the meaning of courage. Chiko and Tu Reh are dynamic narrators whose adolescent angst and perspectives permeate the trauma of their daily lives. Dialogue and descriptions are vibrant; characters are memorable; cultural characteristics are smoothly incorporated; and the story is well paced. Perkins has infused her narrative with universal themes that will inspire readers to ponder humanitarian issues, reasons for ethnic conflict, and the effects of war. The author's notes provide helpful background information on Burmese history and the ongoing military regime's repression of minorities.—Gerry Larson, Durham School of the Arts, NC α(c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

When 15-year-old Chiko is pressed into military service by the Burmese government, he finds himself involved in an ongoing war with the Karenni people, one of the many ethnic minorities in modern Burma. A scholar, not a soldier, Chiko soon gets wounded and finds himself at the mercy of Tu Reh, an angry Karenni boy only slightly older than he is. Will these two teens, who should be natural enemies, find a way to friendship? Perkins' latest novel—told in the individual voices of the two boys—explores that possibility while introducing a considerable amount of factual and contextual information about present-day Burma. Though occasionally didactic and a bit preachy, this is nevertheless a story that invites discussion of the realities of warfare rooted in long-standing antagonism and unreasoning hatred of “the other.” A particularly good book for classroom use. Grades 5-8. --Michael Cart

Review

"With authenticity, insight, and compassion, Perkins delivers another culturally rich coming-of-age novel." --★ *School Library Journal Starred Review*

"A graceful exploration of the redemptive power of love, family, and friendship." --★ *Publishers Weekly Starred Review*

"First and foremost, a compelling story." -- *Boston Globe*

"A tender tale of parallel sorrows and dreams." -- *Sacramento Bee*

"Thrilling jungle survival story." --*Stanford Magazine*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Phyllis Ramirez:**

The ability that you get from Bamboo People: A Novel is the more deep you excavating the information that hide inside words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to understand but Bamboo People: A Novel giving you excitement feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by means of anyone who read this because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this specific Bamboo People: A Novel instantly.

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#### **Bernice Capps:**

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#### **Martha Lockridge:**

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