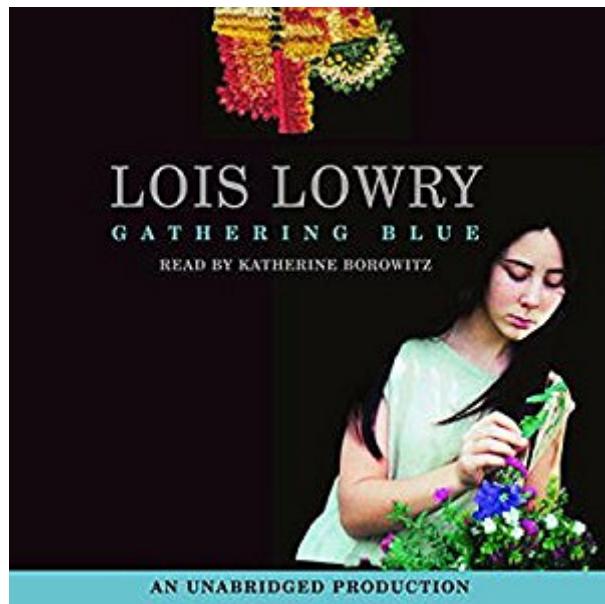


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Gathering Blue



Synopsis

Lois Lowry's *Gathering Blue* continues the quartet beginning with the quintessential dystopian novel, *The Giver*, followed by *Messenger* and *Son*. Kira, an orphan with a twisted leg, lives in a world where the weak are cast aside. She fears for her future until she is spared by the all-powerful Council of Guardians. Kira is a gifted weaver and is given a task that no other community member can do. While her talent keeps her alive and brings certain privileges, Kira soon realizes she is surrounded by many mysteries and secrets. No one must know of her plans to uncover the truth about her world and see what places exist beyond. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After being orphaned, Kira is assigned to restore The Singer's robe. She becomes friends with Thomas the Carver and Jo, the future Singer, two other orphans who also must work for the Council. They live in luxury while the rest of the villagers, including Kira's little friend Matt, eke out a not-so-great existence. As time goes on Kira begins to suspect, and then know, that things aren't quite what they seem. I absolutely could not put *Gathering Blue* down. It totally forced me to stay up way past my bedtime and then even after I was finished reading it, I still couldn't sleep since I kept thinking about what had happened in the book. I was vaguely disturbed, but also excited to see where the next book would go (it took a lot of willpower to not immediately start reading *Messenger*!). It was a little weird to read since it's the second

book of the Giver Quartet and Jonas and Gabriel are not in this one. I highly recommend Gathering Blue. It is truly excellent.

Gathering Blue, the second in the Giver quartet by Lois Lowry, follows the story of Kira, an orphaned girl. In a world where physical differences are shunned and the bearers cast out, Kira finds herself alone and vulnerable when her mother suddenly dies. As her only protector, Kira's mother valiantly fought for the disabled girl's right to exist in such a harsh community. Without her, Kira has become a target of certain villagers looking to claim the land where her home once sat, even if it means expelling her from the community. After being called into a hearing with the Council of Guardians to determine her fate, Kira is pleased to learn that her life will be spared due to her special talent. Under the watchful eyes of the Guardians, Kira undertakes the daunting task set before her by the Elders, and in doing so discovers things about herself and her community that she never would have imagined possible. While this is the second book in the Giver quartet, I find it only fair to note that there aren't any characters from the original novel in this book. Set in the same dystopian future Earth, Kira's village is less advanced and the residents have life harsher. Where the Giver had an almost futuristic feel to it, through their advancements and gadgets, Gathering Blue has a very medieval feel, where all but the most privileged of residents reside in clay and thatch huts with little to no food. I ended up reading this as part of a Summer reading challenge with my 10-year-old and I honestly can say that I don't think I ever would have read it otherwise. But now that I have read it, I want to read the remaining two books to see where this all goes. With both Gathering Blue and The Giver, Lois Lowry has created a fictional dystopia that has a hint of real life and modern prejudices and thoughts woven in. No, modern day America does not cast out the infirm, disabled or elderly; but we do have a way of treating them as less of a person unless they have something that we want or a knowledge that we can use. Gathering Blue brings that issue to the forefront in such a way that will cause the reader to think about Kira's situation and hopefully be kinder to those around them.

Gathering Blue was a sweet and contemporary read; a young reader (middle school for sure) might enjoy this story. The plot was dull however and lacked the suspense that I eagerly look forward to in all my book reading adventures! Also, by the end of the story, I was left with so many unanswered questions. I remember I kept moving along chapter after chapter hoping that at some point, I would get a more in depth back story of Kira, but all I got was the lowdown on weaving, sewing,

embroidery, threading, color dyeing and plants.» The message was merely relative to perseverance in the midst of opposition» The characters were genuinely engaging and quite comical; though at times, I felt annoyed with Kira's naiveness, but that's just me.» The only offense I came across was the way this make believe society targeted and completely disregarded the disabled. It was difficult to read at times and I just wanted to throw that out there. ;)» Meh, it was a good read. I liked it but I didn't love it. Don't buy it borrow it!

Many years ago I had the pleasure of reading "The Giver" by Lois Lowery. It was complete unto itself, a fascinating story of a time without technology, an anti-utopian future time. I never forgot the story and was thrilled when the movie came out which reacquainted me with the book. Recently I discovered Lois Lowery had gone on to write 3 more books, calling it a Quartet, not a series. I bought the second book, "Gathering Blue" and quickly became, once again, enthralled by the writing of Lois Lowery. This story takes place in a poor village and is the story of Kira, a young crippled girl with an extraordinary gift for weaving. It is a beautifully written piece. I was totally captivated by all of the characters as well as the clarity of story line, staying true to all the details of a world without technology, how the people thought and lived. The characters are separate from those of "The Giver", but there is still the theme of not everyone being willing to follow the norm, the original thinkers. As with the first book, there are loose threads, there are questions. That is where the reader gets to use his or her imagination to decide what might have happened next or leave the book as it is, a unique glimpse into a possible future time, and be satisfied. I, myself, love the what ifs which will keep me occupied for a long time to come. In the meantime, I downloaded the rest of the quartet. I am in no way hoping to connect the dots to turn these stories into a series. I look forward to more thoroughly enjoyable and thought provoking reading. Thank you Lois Lowery.

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