



# Firebird

*R. Garcia y Robertson*

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## **Firebird** R. Garcia y Robertson

In the fantastic land of Markovy east of Europe, in the Iron Wood filled with werewolves and other unpleasant creatures, in the house of the dreaded Bone Witch, lives a young orphan girl named Aria. Her life is changed forever when a foreign knight, Sir Roye de Roye, enters the forest pursued by enemies, carrying with him the most precious artifact of the kingdom, the egg of the Firebird. Aria saves him and falls in love with him, and it becomes her mission in life to restore the egg to the firebird's nest. And so she and her knight set out on a wonderful quest, filled with spectacle, romance, and hair's-breadth escapes, to save the land and find a life together.

## **Firebird Details**

Date : Published June 26th 2007 by Tor Fantasy (first published May 16th 2006)

ISBN : 9780765352132

Author : R. Garcia y Robertson

Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Abandoned, Adult, Fairy Tales, Fairy Tale Retellings, Novels, Romance

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# From Reader Review Firebird for online ebook

## Gillian Wiseman says

A lovely, though definitely ADULT reformulation of the Russian Firebird legend, with lots of late medieval fantasy-history thrown in.

I LOVED the lead characters in this story. Aria and her knight are both perfectly people of their time and place, but also people with minds and spirits of their own. I recommend!

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## Remy says

A unique book unlike any I've read previously. Aria is a charming heroine who is given the seemingly impossible quest of returning the stolen firebird egg to its nest on Burning Mountain. Along the way Aria meets many people, (some who become valued friends and allies), travels and learns about the world, as well as grows and develops into the brave, responsible, caring, resourceful, and smart young woman we leave at the end of the book..

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## Rebecca says

This book was tightly plotted and fun. Yet somehow it felt too light. Jaqueline Carey writes medieval Euro-fantasy in all the best ways: she makes you feel like you're there and that the cultures are real. This book felt too superficial in comparison. It bounced between arguing that women ought to have more freedoms to saying they maybe shouldn't (which I hope and believe was probably tongue-in-cheek). More troublingly, I felt that the book didn't take rape as seriously as it ought to be taken. But since it took regime change and murder and war on a similar somewhat non-serious note, it's hard to say if that was just a strange tone. Overall, it had problems but I might recommend it to the right person. A person mature enough to not be too upset when this book is not mature enough to handle its own content.

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## Lindsey says

Firebird is written in a similar fashion to an old tale from King Arthurs time which would typically make me like it. It has all the elements of a quest and of a double standard when it comes to women; however I was surprised by the dynamic between the main character and her "true love" as well as by a lesbian scene...

Quote: Women like to be wanted, even if they don't want you.

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## Victor says

First of 4 books of a series: part Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's court [but female & at the time of the

War of the Roses:], part Timeline, part Time Traveller's Wife [but only forwards:]. Fast paced action, much contrasting of lifestyles between the modern and 15th century England.

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### **Pamela Lloyd says**

I loved the setting and a lot of the story, but ultimately the frequent references to the the heroine and other female characters as teens were too disturbing in the context of the sex scenes with a male character whose age was never given but who was clearly an adult, ruining my enjoyment of the other elements of this book.

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### **Tracy says**

This could have been a good fairy tale, but I found it badly written. Characters seemed to die off or disappear and show up later without any reason. There were too many extra scenes that added nothing to the story but a few extra chapters.

I had read another series by this author and really enjoyed them so some of my dislike is because this is so different in story and style to the previous works I have read by R. Garcia y Robertson.

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### **Amy says**

I'd picked this up to try another fantasy writer, particularly one from Tor Publishing. There were things I liked a great deal about the book, such as the setting -- Markovy lies just beyond the Iron Wood, east of Europe. And has werewolves and other baddies. This meant that there was some grounding in our world (Sir Roye de Roye is from France, and has the knack of always choosing the losing side) and there were references to other European countries that I know and have visited in my own once-upon-a-time.

Aria and Sir Roye are on a quest to return the firebird's stolen egg.... etc, etc. I found that though there were charming scenes and moments, I was just a little weirded out by the continual reference of Aria (and other girls) as teenagers, sexually involved with adult men and women. It colored my view of the story. Lolita of the fantasy world, I guess. (Not that the scenes were out of place for the story or "time period" -- just my own discomfort thinking of Aria the age of my granddaughters, romping around with some adult.)

I did like the Russian/Ukrainian fairy tale aspects. The Bone Witch had a strong Baba Yaga vibe.

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### **Wealththeow says**

Aria, the mischievous foster-daughter of the Bone Witch, comes across a French knight wandering in her forest. They fall in love, but have no time to luxuriate in it. Numerous armies are massed against them, for the knight has stolen the Firebird's Egg, the curse and luck of Russia's rulers. Aria and Sir Roye go on a quest to dispose of the egg, but are separated almost immediately. They each have their own adventures, but are finally reunited and manage to throw the egg into a pit of fire.

It's not a good book. The author regularly jumps from one character's perspective to another's within the

space of two sentences. Whenever he gets bored with a plot, he inserts a randomly chosen deus ex machina to sweep the characters off to the next bit. In the first few chapters, Robertson y Garcia writes detailed characterizations for Aria and Sir Roye. As the chapters go on, however, he loses interest in their particulars and focuses on their sex lives instead. There is a lot of sex, and it's written in a rather prurient way...it felt gratuitous and a bit exploitive.

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### **Pamela\_b\_lawrencemsn.com says**

A bagatelle, not my usual fare. The story was enjoyable enough. The plot was a little disjointed, and the author mixed fictional places with actual countries and cities in a way that was a little confusing. The characters were kind of fun, and things certainly did not go well for them for most of the book. I'm glad I read it because it's been sitting around my house, but I don't think I'd recommend it. Fantasy readers would be better to stick with the Tamora Pierce books or, the ultimate, the Narnia series.

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### **Jen Killinger says**

Fun easy read!

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### **Niki says**

SPOILERS FOLLOW: I stopped reading this book after about 150 pages so my review will not be extensive but I felt I had to write one. I usually love this kind of book but this one was just awful. The main female character in this book is a teenager (Aria) and the main male character (Sir Roye de Roye) has got to be pushing thirty, maybe forty. Their relationship gets very sexual very quickly. I was grossed out by this. Other lovers of fantasy may really enjoy this book but I found it too creepy and "sex offenderish". Seriously, Sir Roye do Roye should have to register his address. It's that gross.

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### **Scott says**

I love fantasy that is based on folklore and fairy-tales, and Garcia y Robertson delivers, giving us the fantastic land of Markovy, reminiscent of the folklore of Kievan Russia. Anyone familiar with that subject will recognize the novel's hero, the orphaned Aria, and her mistress, the Bone Witch, in the story of The Firebird and Princess Vasilisa, though the novel is nothing like a strict retelling of that story. Garcia y Robertson's often humorous writing style easily fits with the subject without sounding antiquated.

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### **Xa says**

This was an interesting book. The thing I was most interested in, however, was its 2006 publication date and the fact that it was withdrawn from a public library on June 5, 2006. The library can't have had it for very long; I acquired it at a used book store.

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### **Laini says**

Huh. I'm surprised by the bad reviews of this book. I thought it was charming and very well written, with a uniquely skewed real/fantasy world and great characters. I liked Aria and Roye de Roye, but the secondary characters like the Bone Witch and the Killer of Children were especially memorable. I get what some people are saying about the sex -- to me it was just the use of the word "teenager" that was a little icky. Obviously in the context of the time/place, this kind of sexuality/brutality would not be considered uncommon. I guess it's just distasteful for some people to have to think about it. Anyway, I really enjoyed the read.

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