



Orfe

Cynthia Voigt

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"Love stories aren't about how they end." A chance meeting on a street corner with her childhood friend Orfe plunges Enny into the tough world of popular music. As Orfe's business manager, Enny sees Orfe and her band, the three Graces, arrive at the brink of success -- and watches Orfe's dangerous obsession with Yuri.

Yuri, with his black, tightly curled hair that hangs like the tendrils of grape vines. Yuri, with his dark eyes that look right into yours as if he doesn't want to miss anything about you. Yuri, with a problem that may be deeper and stronger than the love he and Orfe share. Orfe's music has always been her salvation, but it may not be enough to save Yuri. And without Yuri, what will become of Orfe herself?

Orfe Details

Date : Published February 1st 2002 by Simon Pulse (first published 1992)

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Author : Cynthia Voigt

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Polly says

I was near-obsessed with this book when I was about 16. If I remember it correctly, it's a pretty gritty and disturbing version of the Orpheus story.

rr says

I've read Orfe a number of times since its publication in the mid-1990s, and every time I do, I notice something new. It's one of my favorite renditions of ancient myth for a young audience.

Josephine (biblioseph) says

I don't remember a great deal of the middle of this book. But her ability to throw up on cue and the random end of this book have stuck with me. Mostly dissatisfied with it, I have a weirdly nostalgic feeling for how sad it was.

Jenny says

I first read this book many years ago, and was curious to see if it still stood the test. It did. Powerfully so. A superbly-written, deeply moving take on the Orpheus and Eurydice myth. Highly recommended.

Payton Cooke says

A very interesting book to be sure. It brings the classic myth of Orpheus into a new light, a new time, a new place; and it does so in a way that gives this story its own identity without ever letting go of its origins. Wonderfully fluid and thoughtful.

Lynn says

This is really a young adult novel, but it's one of the few books I can't bear to part with. The first time I started it (around the age of 13), I found it too unsettling, but something later brought me back. It's a modern-day recasting of the tragic Orpheus myth (with the genders of the 2 central characters reversed). Brief, angular, and somewhat disturbing, I still find this book hauntingly beautiful, for all its superficial ugliness. Love it or hate it--I doubt many people fall between these extremes--it's a book whose images stay in your mind.

Abraham Alvarez says

Orfe

I recently read Orfe by Cynthia Voigt. The main characters are Orfe and Yuri and Enny. As Orfe's business manager, Enny sees Orfe and her band, three Graces, arrive at the brink of success and watches Orfe's dangerous obsession with Yuri. The Conflict is Yuri, with his black, tightly curled hair that hangs like the tendrils of grape vines. Yuri, with his dark eyes that look right into yours as if he doesn't want to miss anything about you. Yuri, with problem that may be deeper and stronger than the love he and Orfe share. Orfe's music has always been her salvation, but it may not be enough to save Yuri. And without Yuri, what will become of Orfe herself.

My favorite part of the book is when she said " Sometimes I would cry and go crazy, and sometimes I would not chiry and go crazy. But every time I would try to club him a good one on the hands or head, ears or elbows, anywhere it would hurt." I would recommend this book to others because this novel have fashioned with imagination and skill and it's a love story and a powerful novel.

Rachel Triska says

Bizarre and disgusting. I don't know WHAT this book was trying to say- but it definitely did not get the message across. Yes it was beautifully written- but it also made me question the state of the author's mental health.

Karen says

It was strange, and a little stream-of-consciousness in the beginning. Deceptively deep and thoughtful.

Oh. I did wonder about the name Orfe and thought of Orpheus. But I didn't look it up until just now. I hadn't made the connection of Yuri/Eurydice, but now it's all clear.

Sarah Sammis says

The connection with the Orpheus myth and the story of Orfe seemed forced and made for an awkwardly told story. A much better interpretation is the Brazilian film Black Orpheus which has a much richer characterization. In the film I actually cared what happened to Orfeo but Orfe and Yuri are such poorly constructed, enigmatic characters that when they meet with their fated tragedies, I didn't care. I was just relieved that the book was over.

Laura Beth says

Re-read from a favorite author of my teenage years. Didn't have the same magic :(but I can see how I would have enjoyed it as a 15 year old!

Ava says

reading this was like listening to music

Hena says

Orfe is beautiful.

Melinda says

I came across this book and thought i would give it a read.

I wasn't a huge fan of this book. It felt too disjointed and I really didn't connect with the characters much. Most of focus was spent on Orfe, not much is on Enny, who narrates the story.

While it does dive into the nitty and gritty bites of those trying to reach stardom, during that time period, it doesn't quite dive too deeply into the drugs aspect (I felt Yuri's problem was only touched upon briefly and lightly).

Jenni Noordhoek says

I didn't think I would like Orfe as much as I did. It had gross moments. The characters weren't perfect. But they were real, raw characters who had love and hope and sorrow. And it felt very right to genderbend Orpheus & Eurydice set approximately in the 1970's with rock bands and drug houses.

It talked about music and Art, love and choice, beauty and horror - the role of the Artist and music that burns the soul.

While I still prefer the Eurydice-centric play (titled, naturally, Euridyce) by Sarah Ruhl as the best adaptation I've read of the myth, this book was pretty amazing.

(Also Neil Gaiman did an interesting job with Orpheus & Eurydice in Sandman, for the curious)
