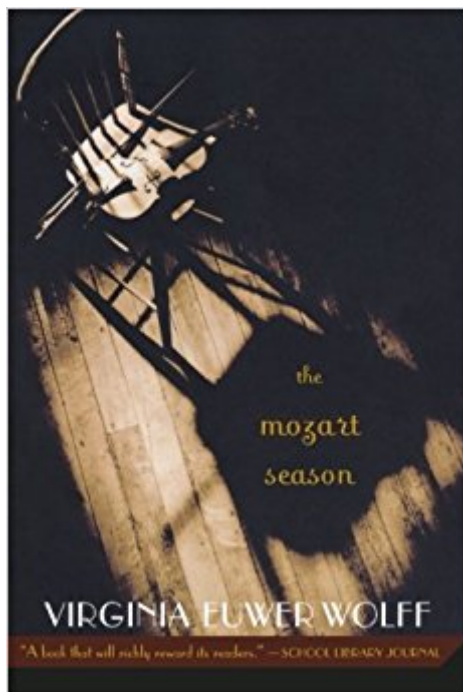


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# The Mozart Season



## Synopsis

"Remember, what's down inside you, all covered up— the things of your soul. The important, secret things . . . The story of you, all buried, let the music caress it out into the open." When Allegra was a little girl, she thought she would pick up her violin and it would sing for her— that the music was hidden inside her instrument. Now that Allegra is twelve, she believes the music is in her fingers, and the summer after seventh grade she has to teach them well. She's the youngest contestant in the Ernest Bloch Young Musicians' Competition. She knows she will learn the notes to the concerto, but what she doesn't realize is she'll also learn how to close the gap between herself and Mozart to find the real music inside her heart. The Mozart Season includes an interview with author Virginia Euwer Wolff.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

At the beginning of summer, 12-year-old Allegra Leah Shapiro finds out that she has been selected as a finalist in a local violin competition. She spends the summer practicing Mozart's fourth violin concerto, preparing for the competition and sorting through her conflicting feelings about wanting to be herself and wanting to please her parents and grandmother. The Mozart Season is long on rumination and short on action, as Allegra wrestles with everything from what it takes to be a musician to what it means to be half Jewish and half Gentile to the exact nature of her connection with her grandmother, murdered in a concentration camp during World War II. Unfortunately, Wolff's constant repetition of themes is hardly hypnotic, as was probably intended, but simply mind

numbing. However, Wolff's slightly flawed work contains some redeeming qualities--it is a pleasure to have a novel of ideas for young adults that describes the delicate dance between honoring traditions of the past and being your own person in the present. Ages 11-13. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 6-8-- Allegra Leah Shapiro is happily making the transition from seventh-grade softball season to summertime when she can concentrate on her violin lessons. At their first session, her teacher informs her that she has been chosen as a finalist in a competition for young musicians, probably the youngest of those selected. Allegra, a gifted violinist, plays in a youth orchestra in her hometown of Portland, Oregon, but she is also a three-dimensional, real 12-year-old who wrangles good-naturedly with her older brother, chafes at her parents' restrictions on late-night bike riding, is loyal to her friends, and is intensely curious about the world around her. As the summer progresses, several themes weave in and out of Allegra's consciousness and growth as she struggles with the Mozart concerto she will play in the competition. A strange dancing man who appears at outdoor concerts, the mysterious sadness surrounding her mother's friend Deirdre, and a very special gift from her grandmother in New York--all these find their way into Allegra's awareness and eventually into her own interpretation of the concerto. With a clear, fresh voice that never falters, Wolff gives readers a delightful heroine, a fully realized setting, and a slowly building tension that reaches a stunning climax at the competition. Like Patricia MacLachlan in *The Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt* (1988) and Bruce Brooks in *Midnight Hour Encores* (1986, both HarperCollins), Wolff interweaves the themes of adolescence, music, and striving for excellence with great success. A book that will richly reward its readers. --Connie C. Rockman, The Ferguson Library, Stamford, CT Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A sweet story about a young girl working hard toward a goal. It was slow, but in a refreshing way - a thoughtful look into the family life of professional musicians.

I love to read well-written children's books, and this is one of my favorites. The subtle details that the author includes create an authentic portrayal of the inner life of a child on the brink of adolescence. My 10 year old and my 14 year old daughters agree that the main character rings true. We all enjoy reading this book.

found this at the library of the middle school where i work. after reading it, recommended it to all the members of my son's quartet.

Have no idea what this is ordered by mistake

At 42 years old, I still feel that some of the best books written are for young adults, and "The Mozart Season" certainly fits. On a personal note, two of the coolest things about this book are 1) It is about an amazingly talented 12-year-old violinist; when my own mother was 12, she was also quite advanced as a violinist. 2) It is set in Portland, OR, where I happen to live, and its tone catches Portland's "weirdness" very well. I saw this book (this is SO sad!!!!) at the dollar store and gave it to my mom for Christmas. She read it in a day, just loved it, and said I would too. I will spare the synopsis as there are already plenty written here. What I will say is that this novel is such a refreshing break from so many of the action-packed, life or death books that are very commonplace these days; don't get me wrong, I loved the "Hunger Games" series; still, it is an absolute delight to read an author with such diverse and believable characters and voices. One example occurs early in the book: when deciding which of two Mozart concertos to learn, Allegra spins her violin bow like one spins a tennis racket to decide which one: typical 12-year-old behavior, yeah? What's more, she goes on to describe her parents' and teacher's age-appropriate reactions as well: "When Mr. Kaplan and my parents found out I'd treated my bow With Such Astonishing Disrespect, they got very alarmed about it." When I read, that sort of thing never fails to tickle me. I understand some reviews that state this book is slow-moving, and comparatively, it probably is. The main conflict is certainly not blatantly life or death, or protagonist versus [insert Generic Childhood Trauma or similar Past Life Event here]; however, it does speak to all of us who have taken on life's "everyday" challenges. It will especially appeal to those who have studied music and can relate to the hard work it demands.

Allegra Shapiro is a twelve-year old violin prodigy who is chosen to compete in a prestigious competition. She is the youngest violinist there, and spends the summer practicing Mozart's fourth violin concerto. Along the way she learns a great deal about the importance of remembering, friendships, and understanding the music inside all of us. "The Mozart Season" is my favourite YA book dealing with music--Eliot Wolff fills the pages with sparkling cadenzas, trills and double stops, Miles Davis jazz records, and a midnight radio serenade. Allegra's reactions and insights into Mozart's compositions helped me to better interpret them myself. There is a memorable cast of

characters as well: besides Allegra there is Bro David, her older cartoonist brother, Deidre, the strange semi-famous soprano who throws up before going on stage and breaks down easily at the smallest things, Mr. Trouble, a brain-damaged man looking for his lost song, and more. The book is full of detail: the smell and colour of the roses in the park, the sound of water splashing down a metal sculpture, the pianissimo notes floating softly through the air, the feel of the embroidered velvet purse that belonged to Allegra's great-grandmother, the smells from the food vendors at the concerts. This is the most descriptive (and aural) book that I have ever read; from page one you will be drawn into Allegra's "Mozart Summer" wishing that it would never end.

I first read this book when I was 12 or 13 years old. I was unimpressed. The book is about Allegra's 12th summer and her preparation for a large violin competition. There is a very clear plot to the book, but nothing really happens. No huge conflicts or page-turning climaxes. Just a girl, her violin, and her family. I finished the book and thought nothing of it...for awhile. Then little tidbits, little memories from the book popped into my head at random times. Allegra's nighttime, insomniac-driven walks; turning pages for her parents at an outdoor concert; Mr. Trouble; big vocabulary words; her music teacher; Mozart's fourth violin concerto; and more. I soon realized I treasured this book with its collection of vignettes about a girl on the cusp of adolescence. I've since reread the book many times. For me, the book is neither plot-driven or character-driven. It is atmospheric. The book takes me to a world of cool summer outdoor concerts, to the intricate sounds of Mozart, to the love of a family, to the memory of starting to understand the world around me. The Mozart Season is a beautiful book. Not engrossing or page-turning. But thoughtful and sweet. I highly recommend it to anyone looking for a gentle read.

Allegra Schapiro is the youngest person to be a finalist in a youth violin competition. She spends her summer practicing Mozart's fourth violin concerto, playing in her orchestra, searching for a lost song, and turning pages for other musicians. Getting to know the concerto leads her to thinking about herself. She wonders about religion, her history, why people do certain little things, how can she make the concerto hers? Allegra is a girl you will love, and the people she knows and meets make her summer even more interesting. This is a must read!

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