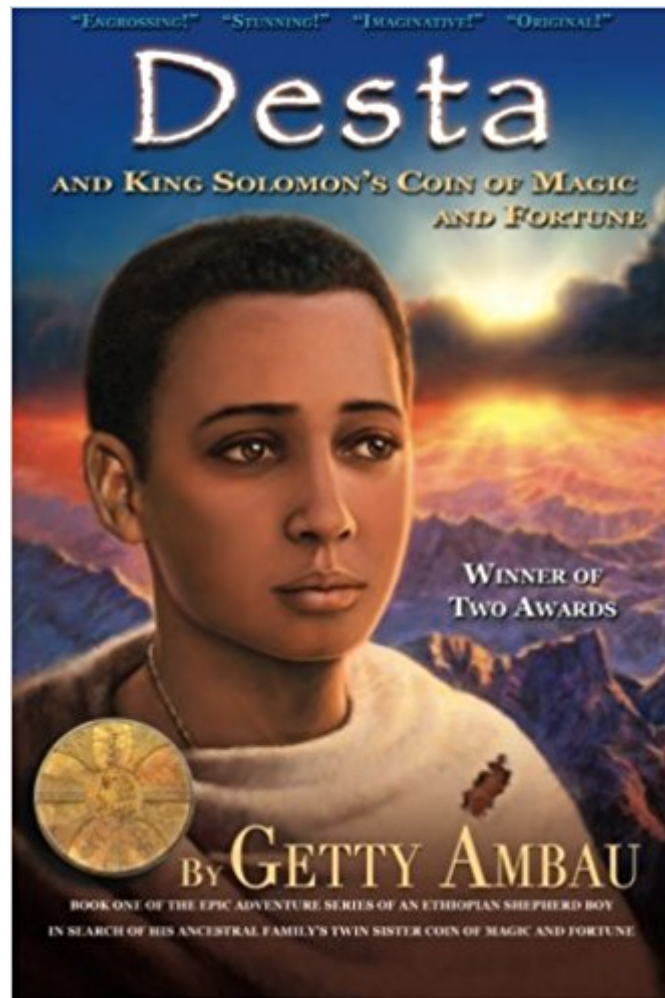




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# Desta And King Solomon's Coin Of Magic And Fortune - Vol 1



## Synopsis

A moving and riveting epic novel--a family saga, spanning three generations and dealing with their dark and mysterious past, set in an Ethiopian, magical mountainous countryside, in a world of monkeys, goats and spirits. Desta, a seven-year-old boy and Abraham, his middle-aged father, are on separate but parallel missions. The boy dreams of climbing one of the mountains that circle his home to touch the sky and run his fingers through the clouds. Abraham yearns to find his own long lost father. Each faces a series of obstacles and each ultimately realizes his dream, although not in the way he hoped. In the center of this sweeping novel is a 2,800-year old Solomonic gold coin, a family heirloom that went missing along with Desta's vanished grandfather forty years earlier. A symbol of the family's financial success and personal pride, this coin is one of the reasons why Abraham grew up fatherless and why his mother abandoned her farmland estate and came to settle in an isolated, mountainous valley, setting the family saga in motion.

**Reviews**

"An entrancing magic carpet ride to a far-off world . . . This is a journey you don't want to miss!" Stephen Holmes, novelist

"Brilliant and wonderful . . . Pure Pleasure" Caroline L., author, Book Critic

"Stimulating word pictures, executed with the skill of an accomplished painter. Ravishing views and evocative sights and sounds abound, crowding the pages with color and variations of light and dark. This is the art of the storyteller made manifest." Anthony J. Brady, Author

**Student Readers**

"Amazing!" Justin Kah "Magical!" Guicela Sandoval "Gripping." Marissa Nall "Educational and inspirational!" Brea Richmond "Hard to put down!" Harbir Dhillon

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Set in Ethiopia in the 1950s, Ambau's moving tale is a lively coming-of-age story with merging themes of forgiveness and redemption. Desta's early years are filled with longing to be loved more fully by his family and to understand why he is so often the object of his brothers' torment. He longs, too, for the day he will climb the mountain beyond his home to touch the sky and gather the clouds in his hands. For several years, he plans what he'll take on his journey, but he is too young to make the trek alone, and his sisters and mother repeatedly fall back on their promises to accompany him. On the eve of Desta's seventh birthday and his rite of passage into adulthood, his father, Abraham, reveals the duties that will now be expected of him; aside from his new grown-up responsibilities of tending animals and helping with harvests, Desta and his niece, Astair, have been tasked with contacting the spirits with the assistance of a sorcerer, Deb'tera Taye to ask for help in resolving his sister Saba's inability to conceive and carry a son to term. Desta's real troubles begin when a cloudlike man appears to him during the spiritual ceremony, providing instructions for Abraham and his family that will further anger Desta's brothers and turn them even more vehemently against him. To make matters worse, many in the community laugh at the boy and scorn him for what they suspect are wild imaginings. Ambau's deft descriptions of spiritual happenings and ancient blessings transport the reader to another time and place that almost seamlessly alternates between the magical world of the cloud man--stippled with dots and tinged with gold; and the despairing reality of a little boy who suffers brutal beatings at the hands of those he loves. Readers may wonder what caused the abrupt shift in Abraham's character when he whips the boy mercilessly, since the author has shown us a gentle and compassionate father to this point. One might also wonder at the quickness with which young Desta puts the affair behind him, as he later does again when slighted by his father at a family feast. Throughout, Ambau shows us a boy who is perhaps unusually resilient and abundantly forgiving of his father, yet real enough to be mightily challenged in his attempts to forgive his bullying brothers. Desta's strength and tenacity in this first volume will entice many readers to eagerly anticipate the next installment of the young boy's journey and the continuation of his family's saga.

Desta is a tale of impossibility and inextinguishable dreams. In fact, it is a story so outlandish, in a setting so completely unfamiliar, that it seems the stuff of dreams. And therein lies its power. Desta, a shepherd boy in 1950s rural Ethiopia, lives a life so hemmed in by lack and want that the very landscape seems to shut out the sun. It is a world so alien that it could just as well be on a different planet than the one shared by most readers of this astonishing adventure story. Yet in Desta, there

is something instantly recognizable to anyone who has ever tried to make sense of distant parents, malevolent siblings, and the unquestioned code of elders who hold sway over them. There is also the mythology that broods below the surface of this and every family, haunting youthful hopes and dreams. Like any of us, Desta must grapple with his family's taboos, superstitions and mysteries, which draw his curiosity like a moth to light, but which no one will explain: the relation gone missing, the home abandoned, the family's animus toward a neighbor. And what youngster hasn't been made to feel that their dreams and ambitions somehow threaten the settled familial order? It is all of this that makes Desta so immediately accessible and familiar, his experience universal. With an unerring eye for quotidian detail, Ambau masterfully renders the rituals and cycles of life in Desta's pre-modern, off-the-grid agrarian world. The author's high-def evocation of time and place in the birth, death, marriage, coming-of-age, and new year's celebrations of his characters lends authority and credibility to a tale whose twists its author dares us to believe, in the best tradition of magical realism. And against our better judgment, we do. Like all great adventure novels, Desta is not simply one boy's story. Ambau places this coming-of-age tale in a far larger frame that is literally biblical in scope, tying this poor, illiterate shepherd boy's destiny to the full sweep of Western history. Without giving too much away, it is not overstatement to say that by the end of the novel, Desta's yearning to connect with his forebears will come true on an unimaginable scale, and propel him from the long shadows of his origins to dazzling, visionary heights. In this first installment of Desta's saga, there is the promise not only of the fulfillment of one small boy's dreams, but of prophecies spanning ages and continents. Desta is a worthy beginning to this unfolding epic.

Desta is a book about rural life in Ethiopia through the eyes of young shepherd boy. Getty Ambau did a splendid work writing this book. It tells the daily routine of family life in rural Ethiopia it might as well be the story of any African boy in any part of Africa, who spends his day herding cattle, instead of attending school. But it is inspirational, because it shows determination and persistence even in the face of adversity. As a reader, you won't stop until you find out if the boy achieves his dream. Sure it being an epic, character-driven story, it takes the reader little time to get the setting. But once the story unfolds as the reader goes through the intricate events of the days. The author being an Ethiopian born, reveals all the intricate cultural, and landscape details without bias or prejudices makes it unique and appealing. It is inspiring, to all African young boys and girls and gives us some optimism, and we will be compelled to admire the determination of one young man who succeeds despite the continued adversity he faced. This book is must read for all NGOs and the aid workers, who may be heading to Ethiopia, or Africa.

I just finished Desta vol.1 & ordered vol.2 I wish I got both at the same time. I want to thank the writer for this beautiful story I laughed , cried & ached with Desta I can't wait to read his journey finding the sun.

DESTA is a moving, emotional journey that young adult readers will find fascinating for several reasons. Based in Ethiopia, a young boy seeks spiritual guidance as an escape from his earthly torment. His resilience and courage shine through the author's vivid descriptions of survival and the magic of his destiny. DESTA enlightens us about life in another land, yet the overtones could be anywhere. As the boy overcomes hardships and maintains his positive outlook, you feel you are taken back in time into dreamlike settings that are beautifully described by the author. I highly recommend this book for young adults and adults who want to read something different with magical overtones and a heartfelt story. Once you read DESTA, you will want to find out how his epic adventure continues in the upcoming series.

What a fun and intelligent journey. Getty is an amazing writer

I was a Peace Corps teacher in Bahar Dar, Ethiopia from 1967 to 1969. Desta is an accurate and beautifully written description of the land, the people, and the culture of that part of Ethiopia where I lived. Reading this book gave me many wonderful memories of my experiences in that very unique country. This book allows you to feel the emotions of the characters, and almost "see" the world in which they live. By all means, read this book and learn about a very different and beautiful people.

First of all I appreciate the book writer it's good book.I would like to comment a little bit for the writer if he visit and discover the rest parts of ethiopia would help him for the future to write or prepare another book, because this time there is a lot of generation change including culture.RegardsJote

My daughter is from Ethiopia and I am reading everything I can get my hands on about the country. I enjoyed this book immensely, but more for insight into the Ethiopian culture than for the story line. I appreciate realistic plots, so toward the end found it a bit ridiculous, however it did intrigue me, and I will purchase the sequel when available.

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