

THE JAGUAR AND THE CACAO TREE



TITLE INFORMATION

Title: The Jaguar and the Cacao Tree
Series: Max and the Code of Harvests (Book One)
Author: Birgitte Rasine
Genre: Juvenile Fiction/Historical Fiction & Fantasy
Audience: Upper middle grade/YA (ages 9-13)
Publication Date: March 22, 2016
ISBN: 978-1-9382849-2-2
Publisher's Cataloging-in-Publication Data: Available
Distribution: Baker & Taylor, Ingram
Retail Price: \$14.95
Page Count: 332
Trim: 5.25" x 8"
Format: Paperback, eBook



ABOUT THE BOOK

What strange creatures might these be that guard cacao history?

Max Hammond has a life other science-obsessed boys his age only dream of: he travels the world with his bee researcher dad and science writer mom.

When the Hammond family arrives in Guatemala to study the enigmatic stingless bees of the Maya, Max meets Itzel, a young Maya girl who introduces him to the magic and wonders of rainforest gardens and animal spirit guides. It's a world that transforms the meaning of all the science Max has ever learned—but its magic is not always benevolent.

One night, Itzel takes Max to an ancient cacao tree tended in secret deep in the jungle by an elite group of Elders. Neither Max nor Itzel are prepared for the forces they unleash when they open the pods of the sacred tree, forces that turn everything they know about the history of cacao upside down, threaten the past and future of the world's most desirable food, and, worse still, awaken two mythic beasts that guard the very DNA of cacao.

Includes 32 chapter illustrations and an appreciation by Dr. Allen Young, curator emeritus at the Milwaukee Public Museum and author of *The Chocolate Tree*.

PRAISE & DISTINCTION

This is a unique middle grade novel that expertly blends magic, science, culture, and ecological awareness. ... An original concept helps propel this story forward, creating a magical world that entertains and educates.

—*School Library Journal*

After reading almost every book or blog on the subject, *The Jaguar and the Cacao Tree* is a strong contender for the best title in the last 5 years.

—Mark Christian, The C-Spot.com

Selected as one of the best six YA summer reads for 2016 by *Foreword Reviews*