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Moving Target



Synopsis

Cassie Arroyo, an American studying in Rome, has her world ripped apart when someone tries to kill her father, an art history professor at an Italian university. Is she their next target? Cassie sets out to uncover what is happening, only to learn that she is a member of an ancient bloodline that enables her to use the Spear of Destiny--a legendary object that can shape the future. Now running from a secret organization intent on killing those from her bloodline, Cassie must--with the help of some friends--decipher the clues that will lead her to the Spear. Her life--and the fate of the world--depends on it. Christina Diaz Gonzalez has created a fast-paced thrill-ride of a book, rich with riddles and myth, that young readers will not be able to put down.

Book Information

Series: Moving Target

Paperback: 256 pages

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Best Sellers Rank: #29,465 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino](#) #245 in [Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives](#) #544 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 4-8 • Cassie Arroyo's life is turned upside down when her father is shot and she finds out that she was the target. When she must leave her ailing father's side or face an assassin working for a dangerous secret organization called the Hastati • Cassie goes to her father's friend, Brother Gregorio, for protection. Cassie learns from Brother Gregorio that she is the marked descendent of Saint Longinus and only she can control the Holy Lance of Longinus (the Spear of Destiny). Cassie, accompanied by her best friend and Brother Gregorio's nephew Asher,

decides to leave the protection of the monastery to find the spear and her father before the Hastati find them. Gonzalez has created an action-packed mystery that utilizes Christian mythology seamlessly. This plot-driven story wastes little time in character development and background, which may turn some readers off, but the pacing will hold most kids' attention as they try to piece out the clues alongside Cassie and her friends. A cliff-hanger ending will keep readers anxiously awaiting the next installment. VERDICT Fans of Jude Watson's *Loot* (Scholastic, 2014) and Chris Grabenstein's *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* (Random, 2013) will devour this series opener. —Amanda Augsburger, Moline Public Library, IL --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Praise for *Moving Target*: "A grand adventure! The spunky heroine must decipher riddles, follow clues, and make life-or-death decisions. An exciting and entertaining adventure... that will keep readers engaged until the cliffhanger ending and leave them waiting for the next book." -- Kirkus Reviews "Gonzalez has created an action-packed mystery . . . A cliff-hanger ending will keep readers anxiously awaiting the next installment. Fans of Jude Watson's *Loot* and Chris Grabenstein's *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* will devour this series opener." -- School Library Journal "Moving Target is a story with so much of what I love: secret history, ancient relics, a breathtaking pace, and characters I can't help but root for." -- Matthew J. Kirby, Edgar Award-winning author of *Icefall* "Christina Diaz Gonzalez weaves a tight, twisty, heart-in-your-throat adventure that delivers thrill after thrill." -- Jude Watson, author of *Loot* Praise for *Return Fire*, the sequel to *Moving Target*: "Readers will root for Cassie and stay with her to the nail-biting end." -- Kirkus Reviews Praise for *The Red Umbrella*: A Top Ten Indie Next List Pick 2011 Best Fiction for Young Adults "Gonzalez enters the literary scene with this exceptional historical novel." -- Kirkus Reviews

I bought Christina Diaz Gonzalez's new book after having read and loved her previous novels. I also bought it to read with my eight-year-old son, since he's now more into middle grade stories now. *MOVING TARGET* did not disappoint; in fact, my son would beg every night to "keep reading just one chapter more," and at the end of the novel, his exact words were: "That was AWESOME!!" While my son likes to read, it's usually not his go-to activity. Yet, with *MOVING TARGET*, he could not wait to pick the book up and continue where we'd left off. For me, *MOVING TARGET* was a great mix of fast-paced adventure, a heroine I cared about, secondary characters who were complex and real, a gorgeous setting, and a really cool legend. The chapter endings were masterfully done so

that we had no choice but to read "just one more chapter." This is going to be a favorite that we'll cherish over and over again as a family.

Wonderful read! Quick paced and full of excitement. Read like The Second I Code, but for teens. I think this SSYR book is a great novel, well written and a cliff hanging ending.

Great reading! Not able to put down. Thrilling, moving, intriguing! Can't wait for next book!

My daughter (a non-reader) sped through this in 3 days and can't wait for the sequel . . . highly recommend this author for middle school girls.

This book is perfect for rising middle schoolers. It is intriguing and fun, with twists and turns in the plot. I strongly recommend this book.

It was a good book and I can't wait to read the second one.

It was an action packed book and I loved it I hope to find the sequel to this book it is now one of my favorites

I liked the nonstop drama and it read like a teenage Jason Bourne with a female twist. My students will love this book.

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