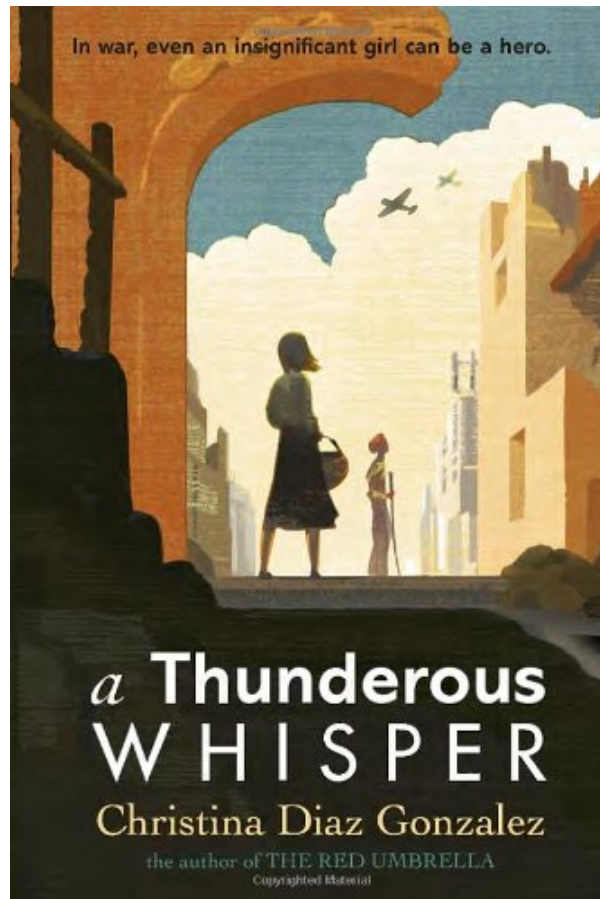
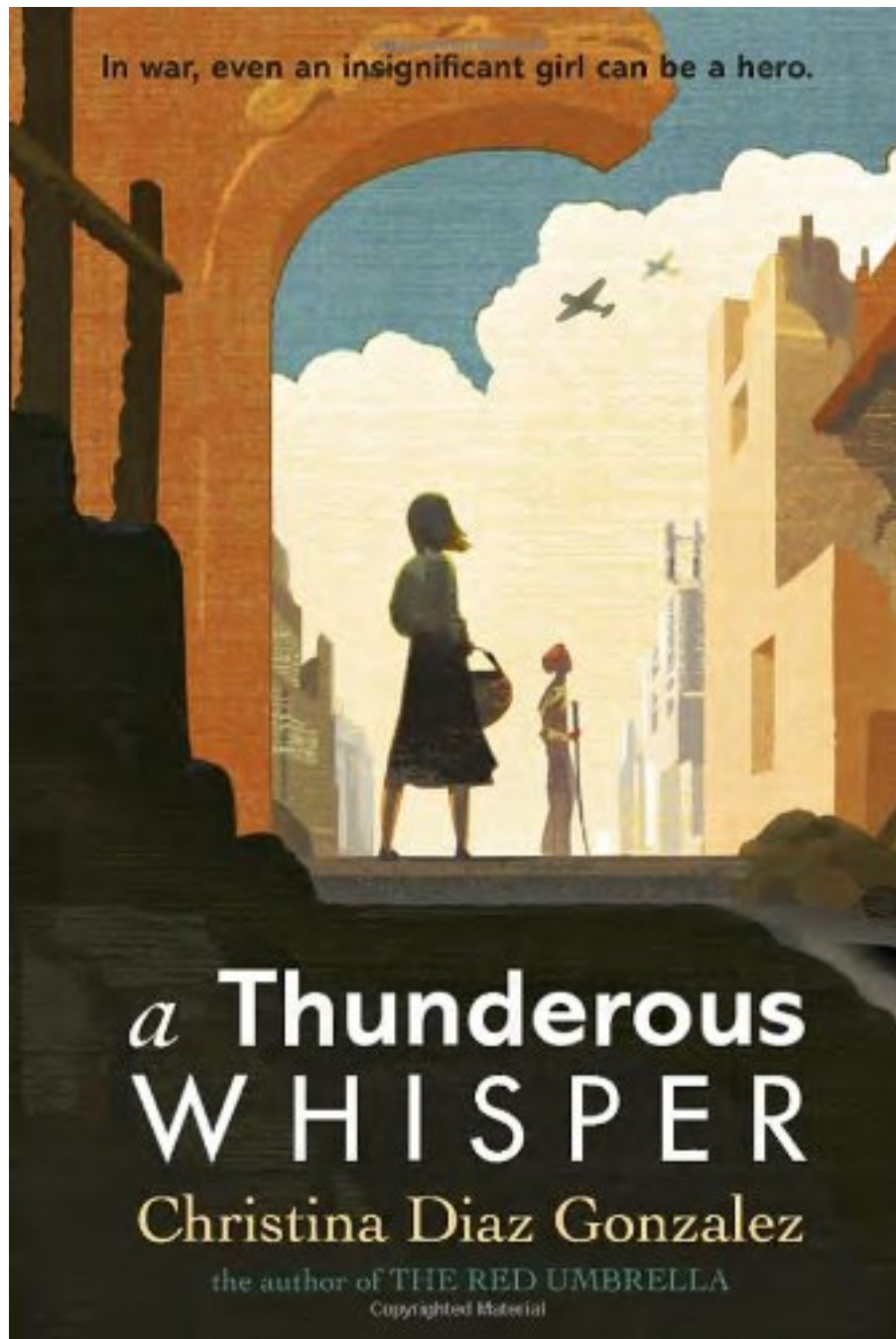


# A THUNDEROUS WHISPER BY CHRISTINA DIAZ GONZALEZ



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From School Library Journal

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"In the midst of the Spanish Civil War, 12-year-old Ani unexpectedly gets drawn into a network of underground rebels working to thwart Franco's efforts to destroy the Basque people's way of life. . . . Exciting." -- SLJ

Ani believes she is just an insignificant whisper of a girl in a loud world. This is what her mother tells her anyway. Her father made her feel important, but he's been off fighting in Spain's Civil War, and his voice in her head is fading. Then she meets Mathias. His family has just moved to Guernica and he's as far from a whisper as a boy can be. Ani thinks Mathias is more like lightning. Mathias's father is part of a spy network and soon Ani finds herself helping him deliver messages to other members of the underground. For the first time, she's making a difference in the world.

And then her world explodes. The sleepy little market town of Guernica is destroyed by Nazi bombers. In one afternoon Ani loses her city, her home, her mother. But in helping the other survivors, Ani gains a sense of her own strength. And she and Mathias make plans to fight back in their own unique way.

From the Hardcover edition.

- Sales Rank: #91090 in Books
- Brand: Gonzalez, Christina Diaz
- Published on: 2013-10-08
- Released on: 2013-10-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.56" h x .75" w x 5.19" l, .50 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

A wonderful Novel

By Sebastian Almazan

A wonderful novel that contains facts about the civil war in Spain mixed with fiction. A must read for young people as well as adults interested in the civil war of Spain. It portrays the views of young people during war times. Excellent reading!!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Depicts the horrors and true costs of war

By Lyn M. Lachmann

Anetxu is known as Sardine Girl by her classmates, who bully her relentlessly because she is poor and smells of the fish that she and her mother sell in the marketplace and deliver door to door. At home, things aren't much better. Her mother still mourns the death of Ani's brother years earlier. Ani endures both physical and emotional abuse from a mother who won't call her by her given name but merely "neska"—the word for "girl" in the Basque language—and she misses her father, who has volunteered to fight against the Fascists.

One afternoon, while sitting under her favorite tree outside the city, Ani sees a slightly older boy with a limp. She has never seen him before, and she learns that he has recently moved to Guernica because his father manages movie theaters for a large company. Mathias's father is of Basque heritage, and his mother is a German Jew; for that reason, he too supports the anti-Fascist cause. After some mutual distrust, Ani and Mathias become friends. He brings her to his father's theater, where they eavesdrop on his father and other community leaders who have become spies. Soon, the children are carrying messages to the anti-Fascist resistance about the location of Franco's ground forces and Hitler's planes and ships. However, they are unable to protect their city against the devastating bombing that destroyed Guernica and killed hundreds of residents.

Many young people learn about Guernica from the famous anti-war painting by Pablo Picasso. Díaz González's novel portrays the people in a way that contributes greatly to our understanding of the painting, of the war that has widely been seen as an Axis testing ground for the Second World War, and of the lives of children living in a war zone. The author realistically depicts life on the home front and the longing of many children to become part of the fight and to "make a difference" with little understanding of the true costs and horrors of war.

Excerpt from *The Pirate Tree*

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A beautiful, rich story!

By Creative Mom

If you've read *The Red Umbrella* by Gonzalez you'll be just as pleased with her latest novel! Gonzalez writes about a tragic time in history through the eyes of Ani, a girl who is forced to grow up too quickly. You'll be rooting for Ani in this engaging story!

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