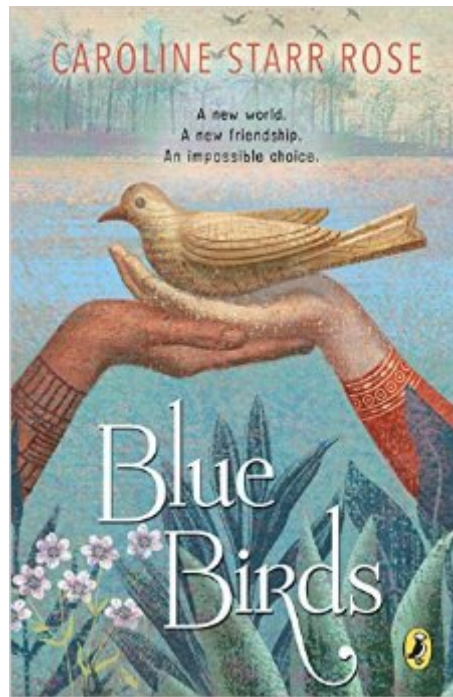


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# Blue Birds



## Synopsis

Author of the critically acclaimed *May B* returns with a stirring novel in verse. Alis and her parents make the long journey from England to settle the New World. But it doesn't go as planned and Alis, her parents, and the others of their small community soon find themselves at odds with the Roanoke tribe. As tensions rise between the settlers and the Native peoples, twelve-year-old Alis forms an impossible friendship with a Roanoke named Kimi. Despite language barriers, the two become as close as sisters, risking their lives for one another until Alis makes a decision that will change her life forever. An excellent historical offering and belongs on public and school library shelves. "VOYA With two compelling main characters and an abundance of rich historical detail, Rose's latest novel offers much to discuss and much to appreciate." School Library Journal

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0700 (What's this?)

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Dgs edition (January 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0147511879

ISBN-13: 978-0147511874

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.9 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (26 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #123,613 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans #275 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse #1103 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

When I heard about this book I was so curious. But also nervous because I haven't really read any books told in verse before. But oh, I didn't have to worry. Because I found *Blue Birds* to be all kinds of gorgeous. The writing is so pretty. And I loved the way it is told. Though there is often so little text on each page. Sniffs. So these four hundred pages went by too fast. Wishing this book had been

longer. But I also thought it was perfect the way it was. I'm giving this book four stars. I really enjoyed reading this. How to begin talking about it, though, I am not sure. *Blue Birds* is told from the point of view of Alis and Kimi. I adored them both so much. Alis is the English girl, and she's pretty amazing. I loved reading about her and hearing about her missing uncle. Sniffs. And her family too, her new baby brother. She also sort of gets friends with this boy, and oh, I wanted to know more of him. But yeah. Also pretty sad. Mostly I just really adored Alis. I loved what she chose to do at the end the most. She's so very brave. Then there is Kimi, who has lived on Roanoke her whole life. I loved reading about her so much. Loved getting to know a little bit about how they live, how they dress, and the small things they wear. It was pretty awesome to get to know. Kimi was also such a brave girl and I adored her so much. Reading about how they became friends was my favorite part. It was so sweet and a bit heartbreaking too. I liked it a whole lot. Because they are so cute together. And I wanted them to be together at all times. Sad face. There is so much happening in this book. Yet I felt like I finished it so fast and I felt like there weren't enough. But at the same time it was so perfect. I'm not sure what to share about this book.

The year is 1587 and 12-year-old Alis is the only girl out of 117 people who land on Roanoke Island. Alis brings with her a wooden bird that her uncle made. Expecting to meet up with her uncle, Alis quickly realizes that something has gone horribly awry with the small English settlement, especially when she stumbles upon bleached bones â “---a definite sign of trouble between the English and the Roanoke tribe. While civil tension ensues, Alis secretly befriends Kimi, a Roanoke girl about Alis' age. The wooden bird serves as a reminder of their friendship, as do the blue birds that always flutter about when they meet. When word gets out that Alis betrayed her people by making friends with a Roanoke, followed by her family's plan to leave for Chesapeake Bay, Alis has no idea if she'll ever see her beloved friend again. A rising author of children's nonfiction literature, Caroline Starr Rose produced a poignant tale of friendship amid the Lost Colony on Roanoke Island. Rose's novel features the parallel narratives of Alis and Kimi. Set in two different fonts, Rose mixes short prose and free-verse lines to capture the sincere mindset of teenage girls who see beauty and individuality among their supposed enemies. Rose deliberately separates the narratives until they engage in conversation, whereby she artistically combines them. While Rose zeroes in on the girls' unique relationship, she incorporates all the historical aspects that lead up to the colony's mysterious disappearance.

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