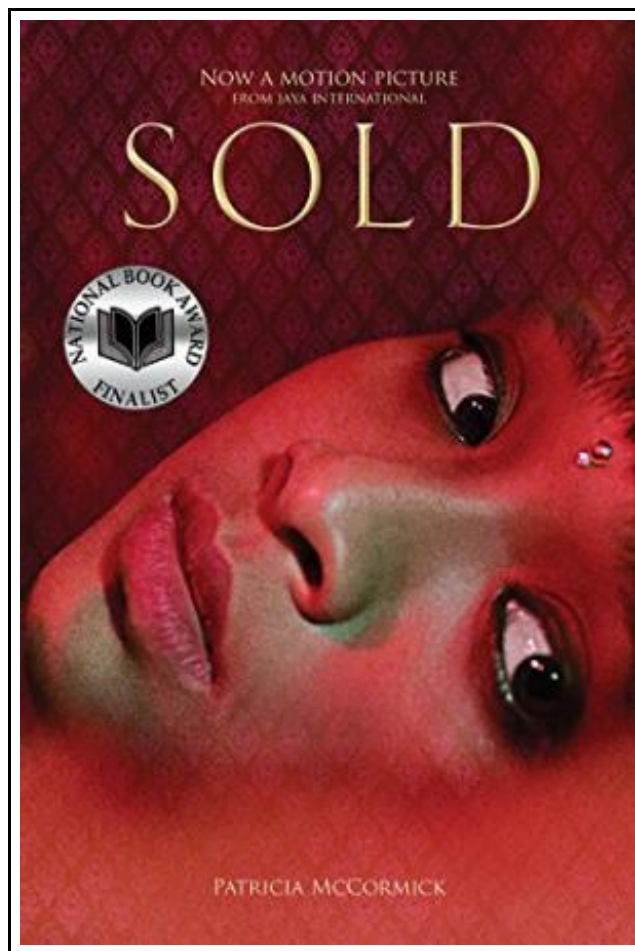


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Reviews

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Hyperion. 1 Paperback(s), 2006. soft. Book Condition: New. (Finalist for the 2006 National Book Award for Young People's Literature and winner of the Quill Award, the California Young Read Medal, and the Gustav Heinemann Peace Prize) This stunning young adult novel the inspiration for Jeffrey Brown's award-winning film of the same name is a story told in spare and evocative vignettes. It begins in a village in Nepal, where 13-year-old Lakshmi tends her goat and her vegetables on the family farm. But soon Lakshmi is in India, unwittingly sold into prostitution at the Happiness House, a brothel run like a prison by the cruel and cunning Mumtaz. Living in a nightmare from which she cannot escape, she survives by remembering her mother's words "Simply to endure is to triumph" until the day arrives when Lakshmi has a chance to risk everything and run. Also the author of *Cut*, *My Brother's Keeper*, and *Never Fall Down* (her second National Book Award finalist), as well as the coauthor of Malala Yousafzai's autobiography *I Am Malala*, Patricia McCormick wrote this heartbreaking story in response to witnessing the ongoing sex trafficking that ensnares thousands of Nepalese women and girls every year. "Written in free verse, the girl's first-person narration is horrifying and difficult to read. 'In between, men come. / They crush my bones with their weight. / They split me open. / Then they disappear. I hurt. / I am torn and bleeding where the men have been.' The spare, unadorned text matches the barrenness of Lakshmi's new life. Part of McCormick's research for this novel involved interviewing women in Nepal and India, and her depth of detail makes the characters believable and their misery palpable. This important book was written in their honor." *School Library Journal* 263.



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