



Norma Fox Mazer

By Arthea J.S. Reed



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In preparation for this publication, author Arthea J.S. Reed spent time with Norma Fox Mazer, the widely acclaimed young adult novelist, who works with not only her husband, but her daughter as well. The book explores the facets of Mazer's works which mirror her own life.

In *Norma Fox Mazer: A Writer's World*, Reed chronicles her discovery that, although her husband and his work are thoroughly intertwined with and complimentary to her own, Norma Fox Mazer "is fiercely independent?a feminist." Reed was fortunate enough to be able to include Mazer's voice in this work as a compliment to her own thorough autobiographical and critical articles. Written primarily for those who are looking to garner a true understanding and appreciation of the craftsmanship behind Mazer's work, readers will also discern where the author stands in the context of the history of young adult literature. Reed provides a chronology of Mazer's twenty books and several awards, a selected bibliography, and a helpful index. The seven chapters of the book are titled: The Roots of Realism, Missing Pieces and Outsiders, Star-Crossed Love, Norma and Harry: Relationship, Romance and Writing, Writing for Young Readers, Fantasy and Suspense, and From Excellence to Mastery.



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Norma Fox Mazer By Arthea J.S. Reed Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Reed has provided a good working text to continue that done by Sally Holmes Holtze in Presenting Norma Fox Mazer (Twayne, 1987; o.p.), but aimed at an older, more academic audience. Quoting heavily from the author herself and published reviews of her work, the author provides a chronology of major events in Mazer's life and then goes into deeper detail about her subject's childhood and adolescence and how her upbringing played a vital role in her novels and partnership with her husband, Harry Mazer. Several works are comprehensively analyzed, notably Silver, Missing Pieces, Downtown, Babyface, and Dear Bill, Remember Me? Several works are discussed at length due to their complexity and impact on literature: Up in Seth's Room, When We First Met, Taking Terri Mueller, Out of Control, the devastating When She Was Good, and the insightful After the Rain. Reed delves into several themes common to Mazer's work, such as her use of three and the growing emotional strength of her female characters. A useful addition to professional collections and higher-education facilities.

Susan Riley, Greenburgh Public Library, Elmsford, NY

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From Booklist

Gr. 9-12. More literary critique than biography, this ambitious effort, part of the Scarecrow Studies in Young Adult Literature series, provides an in-depth analysis of Mazer's major works. Based on interviews with the author, and drawing heavily from references (including books in the Contemporary Authors series, published reviews, and Mazer's numerous articles on writing), Reed organizes her discussion around themes and genres, such as outsiders, romance, and fantasy and suspense. Although this thoughtful arrangement should provide good flow and readability, the book stalls occasionally and is sometimes dry. Even so, researchers will find a great deal of solid information from a wide variety of sources, and aspiring writers who are familiar with Mazer's work will benefit greatly from the discussion. It's apparent that Reed is a fan, but the book is well balanced and objectively written. An extensive bibliography of primary and secondary sources is appended. *Lauren Peterson*

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Review

It is a journey worth taking, and this book will appeal to those who are doing research on the body of her work as well as to those readers who simply love it. (VOYA)

This exceptionally thorough treatment of an author is exemplary. Teachers could use it as an example of how author research should be conducted. Highly recommended. (*The Book Report*)

Another in Scarecrow's excellent Studies in Young Adult Literature> (Catholic Library World)

Highly recommended for any high school collection where young people are encouraged to analyze favorite teen author themes. (*Reference Reviews*)

...well balanced and objectively written. (Booklist, 6/1/2001)

A useful addition to professional collections and higher-education facilities. (School Library Journal)

Another in Scarecrow's excellent Studies in Young Adult Literature (Catholic Library World)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mae Saari:

The book Norma Fox Mazer make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable much more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem with the subject. If you can make reading through a book Norma Fox Mazer to be your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You could know everything if you like start and read a e-book Norma Fox Mazer. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or some others. So, how do you think about this reserve?

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