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# Falcon In The Glass



## Synopsis

>In Venice in 1487, the secrets of glassblowing are guarded jealously. Renzo, a twelve-year-old laborer in a glassworks, has just a few months to prepare for a test of his abilities, and no one to teach him. If he passes, he will qualify as a skilled glassblower. If he fails, he will be expelled from the glassworks. Becoming a glassblower is his murdered father's dying wish for him, and the means of supporting his mother and sister. But Renzo desperately needs another pair of hands to help him turn the glass as he practices at night. One night he is disturbed by a bird—a small falcon—that seems to belong to a girl hiding in the glassworks. Soon Renzo learns about her and others like her—the bird people, who can communicate with birds and are condemned as witches. He tries to get her to help him and discovers that she comes with baggage: ten hungry bird-kenning children who desperately need his aid. Caught between devotion to his family and his art and protecting a group of outcast children, Renzo struggles for a solution that will keep everyone safe in this atmospheric adventure.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

I just love how vividly Susan creates the setting for her books. I always feel like with her imagery I can step into the community/time period and really view the world. I was quite excited to read her

newly released, yes you can get this fantastic book NOW!! book, *Falcon in the Glass*. My thoughts on *Falcon in the Glass*: What an experience, to go back in time to life in Venice in the 15th century and experience life through a glass maker laborer's existence. I always love how Susan Fletcher can spin a tale. I am quite a fan of her *Dragon Chronicle* series and was completely lost in this new gorgeous tale which is filled with intrigue, adventure, survival, glassmaking, history, murder, assassins, and determination. The book slowly welcomes you into a world where you care about every character and begin to worry about each fate. The main character is Renzo, a young boy determined to pass a test to prove he is worthy of being an apprentice to a glassmaker. He is in a pretty desperate situation after his father is murdered by an assassin and failed the first test almost a year ago. Renzo takes a risk and reaches out for help from someone that could create some pretty big complications. It has been a little while since I read a historical fiction book about a new-to-me time period. I love how Susan Fletcher immersed herself in this world and created a magical yet realistic place to exist in imagination. I hope many students who loved getting lost in another fantastic book, *The False Prince* by Jennifer A. Nielsen, also enjoy getting lost in this story. I would recommend it for mature fifth grade students up through adults!

Renzo dreams of becoming the greatest glassblower on Murano, the island near Venice where many beautiful glass pieces are created each day. But since his father's death he has been forced to prove himself early in the hopes that he can become an apprentice and help support his mother and young sister. His task is much harder, because he's not allowed to have anyone help him learn what he needs to know before he is tested. When he happens across a band of children who have a mysterious connection with birds, he forges a relationship that just may help him get what he needs while providing them with food and shelter. To do this, Renzo will have to work against forces that would lock up the children and bring him and his family down with them. *Falcon in the Glass* by Susan Fletcher brings the history and beauty of glassblowing in Murano to life along with a tale of children who must be daring and brave to change their circumstances. Renzo at first sees the bird children as pawns he can use to help him get what he needs to bring security to his family. But as he begins to look at them as individuals, he learns that he can no longer think only of his own comfort. He finds himself taking risks for them because he knows it's the right thing to do. He also begins to feel a special bond with their leader, Letta. When Letta and the others are accused of witchcraft, Renzo has to find a way to help his new friends without bringing suspicion upon his own family. Fletcher is a master at evoking a vivid depiction of a past way of life while also creating a fascinating tale set there. As a twelve-year-old boy, Renzo is grown up beyond his years because

he has an enormous amount of responsibility to take care of his family.

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