



# Firebird

By Misty Copeland

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In her debut picture book, Misty Copeland tells the story of a young girl--an every girl--whose confidence is fragile and who is questioning her own ability to reach the heights that Misty has reached. Misty encourages this young girl's faith in herself and shows her exactly how, through hard work and dedication, she too can become Firebird.

Lyrical and affecting text paired with bold, striking illustrations that are some of Caldecott Honoree Christopher Myers's best work, makes *Firebird* perfect for aspiring ballerinas everywhere.

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## **Firebird By Misty Copeland Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #9334 in Books
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- Original language: English
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- Binding: Hardcover
- 40 pages

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 2–6—A poetic dialogue between an aspiring young dancer and the American Ballet Theater's soloist comprises the text of this stunning picture book. Copeland provides words of encouragement to boost the dreams of an African American girl whose desire to be a ballerina is hampered by her low self-image and lack of confidence. "I was a dancer just like you," Misty tells her, "a dreaming shooting star of a girl/with work and worlds ahead." Copeland's title role in Stravinsky's *The Firebird* serves as the theme for Myers's signature paint and collage illustrations, which feature full spreads bursting with color and excitement. Elongated forms and slanted geometric shapes are infused with a color palette of browns, yellows, and fiery reds contrasted with cool blues, purples, and splashes of white. Scenes of dynamic action and quiet serenity work together to move the narrative forward, leaving readers with a sense of hope for the future of the young dancer. The author includes a note that discusses her own struggle and need for affirmation, acknowledging those who helped her along the way. A very successful collaboration, appealing to all and particularly valuable to collections on the performing arts.—Marie Orlando, formerly at Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY

Review

**Praise for *FIREBIRD*:**

**Winner of the 2015 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award**

**Received the 2015 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award New Writer Honor**

**An NPR Best Book of 2014**

**An Amazon Best Book of 2014 – Ages 6-8**

**An Amazon Best Book of the Month, September 2014**

***Essence* Magazine Best Children's Book of 2014**

"The language soars into dizzying heights of lyrical fancy... Myers' artwork... pulsate[s] with kinetic synergy... A starscape filled with visual drama and brilliance."—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"Ballet dancer Misty Copeland makes her children's book debut with this inspiring love letter to young people, containing breathtaking illustrations of airborne dancers by Caldecott Honor artist Christopher Myers... Brava!"—*Shelf Awareness*, starred review

"An inspirational picture book for children daunted by the gap between their dream and their reality."—*Booklist*

"A poetic dialogue between an aspiring young dancer and the American Ballet Theater's soloist comprises the text of this stunning picture book... which feature[s] full spreads bursting with color and excitement... A very successful collaboration." —*School Library Journal*

"[A] soaring debut picture book by American Ballet Theater star Misty Copeland... Myers' extraordinary artwork captures the mystique of the *Firebird* ballet and Copeland's indomitable spirit. This is a tale that will inspire all up-and-comers." —*BookPage*

"Scenes of an older dancer guiding a young student... reinforce the feeling that Copeland is speaking directly to readers... Myers paints portrait after portrait of Copeland dancing, placing the images against

collages of colored paper whose curves, sunbursts, and radiating rays echo the rhythms of the dancers' movements... a strong impact.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“*Firebird* celebrates optimism—the mentality that you will succeed if you set your mind to it. And we think that’s a pretty darn awesome message.”—*Dance Spirit*

“World-renowned ballerina Copeland shows that the power and grace she displays on the stage translates to the page as well, paired with Myers' strong illustrations.”—*HuffPost Books*

“American Ballet Theatre soloist Copeland is just as graceful with words as she is with her body... Myers’s stunning collages layer strips of thickly painted paper to echo the wings of a firebird (Copeland’s signature role), whether they are illustrating the stage curtains or a cloudy sky... This book encourages today’s aspiring dancers of all colors and backgrounds.”—*The Horn Book*

“Misty Copeland’s first children’s book is destined to become a staple in classrooms and libraries... Copeland’s empowering words are matched by award-winning illustrator Christopher Myer’s dazzling red and gold hues.”—*Essence Magazine*

“Vivid and emotional. Copeland's writing and Myers' art draw you into a beautiful world, rich with color, texture and drama. For all budding young artists who maybe don't have role models they can relate to, this little book provides some inspiration.”

—**NPR Staff Picks, For Art Lovers, Kids’ Books**

#### About the Author

Misty Copeland didn't take up ballet until age 13, but by age 17, she was a professional. She was appointed ABT soloist at age 24, their first African American soloist in two decades. Driven by her newfound passion for the art, which she discovered at her local Boys & Girls Club, Misty accomplished so much in such a short amount of time through good old-fashioned hard work, discipline and unwavering belief in herself.

Christopher Myers is the award-winning author and illustrator of Caldecott Honoree Harlem and Coretta Scott King Honorees Black Cat and Horse. Myers has also won three Boston Globe-Horn Book Honors and a New York Times Best Illustrated Award.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Leona Ferretti:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be update about what going on or info even knowledge to make these keep up with the era which can be always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to a person is you don't know which you should start with. This *Firebird* is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and need in this era.

#### Roger Alford:

This book untitled *Firebird* to be one of several books this best seller in this year, that is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book retail

store or you can order it through online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, since you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this book from your list.

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