

What Desta's Readers are saying. . .

“What a passion for details, simplicity and readability! . . . Ambau did all these without any exaggeration or distortion of the customs or the cultural facts. . .

“The key to knowledge is curiosity. I greatly admired Ambau's choice of the mountain, the sun and clouds as his objects of curiosity in the novel. How original can one be! This is not just another book on Ethiopia. I truly enjoyed reading it. Thank you, Ato Getty Ambau for writing this book!”

—Dr. Alula Wasse, social historian

“I read DESTA in manuscript form a year ago, and this amazing, lovely book is still in my mind. Getty is a fabulous storyteller, and Desta and his family are wonderful, vivid, flawed, and ultimately uplifting characters. I cannot recommend this book highly enough. Like Harry Potter or The Book Thief, it is a book for both adults and younger readers. READ THIS BOOK! You will be glad you did. It is a true literary and cultural treasure!”

—Lori Schryer, author

“A very unique, creative and exciting plot . . . extremely impressive usage of language. All the pieces to the story are brought to life cleverly and beautifully! There is a hidden, effortless, unintentional spiritual quality to the writing. . . And there is a truly magical world within which the imagination and the spirit can soar. I loved it.”

—P. Sanders, writer

“A marvelous work. . . . I enjoyed it immensely. What fascinated me the most was how the author was able to weave in the book our cultural nuances, blending it well without deviating from the storyline. . . . I am certain there are many Destas who went through similar life experiences who could cherish this work.”

—Getachew Admassu, writer

“The language is graceful, the story and writing nourishing to the spirit. . . It would be great for students!”

—Monika Rose, author, educator

“A beautiful novel with full of hope and emotion. . . .The characters are well crafted and believable. The sense of family and belonging are portrayed wonderfully. . . . What is also amazing is its visual aspect. The author has a unique gift in painting vivid pictures with words. . . .This novel would make an incredible movie!”

—S. Metcalf, writer

“Amazingly sensorial!—you can see, smell, and hear everything so clearly. It’s a great, inspiring novel—I loved it!”

—Joy Roberts, manager, literary press

From miscellaneous readers:

“Engrossing! Stunning and imaginative!”—“A great blend of storytelling and fiction writing with an entrancing magical setting.”—“Mature and original.”—“Brilliant and wonderful . . . Moving, funny and mysterious.”—“Like a good book, it gets better as it goes on.”—“Unusual, poetic and magical.”—“Masterful! Plausible, foreign, exotic with an ancient-like setting.”—“Skillfully portrayed with vivid characters that imprint on the mind.”—“Absorbing and relaxing.”—“Authentic and Powerful.”

“I was a Peace Corps teacher in Bahar Dar, Ethiopia from 1967 to 1969. DESTA is an accurate and beautifully written description of the land, the people and the culture of that part of Ethiopia where I lived. Reading this book gave me many wonderful memories of my experience in that very unique country. This book allows you to feel the emotions of the characters, and almost “see” the world in which they live. By all means, read this book and learn about a very different and beautiful people.”

—Robert Hill

*Dest*a

and King Solomon’s Coin of Magic and Fortune
is the winner of Moonbeam’s Young Adult Book award and
Independent Publishers’ Children Book award.

Destra

AND KING SOLOMON'S
COIN OF MAGIC



Getty Ambau

Book one of the epic adventure series of an Ethiopian shepherd boy
in search of his ancestral family's twin sister coin of magic and fortune

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Volume 1

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1. The setting—an actual place.
2. Wedding scenes—Fiction.
3. The coin and watch—Fiction.
4. The children's game and the robbery—Fiction.
5. Genealogy—Fiction.
6. The market events—Fiction.
7. The murder and funeral—Fiction.
8. Land ownership disputes—Fiction.
9. Child miscarriages—Fiction.
10. The boy's trip to the mountaintop—Fiction.

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places and incidents are either the products of the author's imagination or used fictitiously. The author's use of the names of actual persons, places and characters are incidental to the plot and are not intended to change the entire fictional nature of the work.

The cover illustration is solely a product of the artist's imagination. The reader may have a completely different perception of the boy after reading the story.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Second Edition

Dedicated to:

the Desta-like boys and girls of the world.