



The Lizard Cage

By Karen Connelly

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The Lizard Cage By Karen Connelly

Beautifully written and taking us into an exotic land, Karen Connelly's debut novel *The Lizard Cage* is a celebration of the resilience of the human spirit.

Teza once electrified the people of Burma with his protest songs against the dictatorship. Arrested by the Burmese secret police in the days of mass protest, he is seven years into a twenty-year sentence in solitary confinement. Cut off from his family and contact with other prisoners, he applies his acute intelligence, Buddhist patience, and humor to find meaning in the interminable days, and searches for news in every being and object that is grudgingly allowed into his cell.

Despite his isolation, Teza has a profound influence on the people around him. His very existence challenges the brutal authority of the jailers, and his steadfast spirit inspires radical change. Even when Teza's criminal server tries to compromise the singer for his own gain, Teza befriends him and risks falling into the trap of forbidden conversation, food, and the most dangerous contraband of all: paper and pen.

Yet, it is through Teza's relationship with Little Brother, a twelve-year-old orphan who's grown up inside the walls, that we ultimately come to understand the importance of hope and human connection in the midst of injustice and violence. Teza and the boy are prisoners of different orders: only one of them dreams of escape and only one of them will achieve it—their extraordinary friendship frees both of them in utterly surprising ways.

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The Lizard Cage By Karen Connelly Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Connelly won the Governor General's Award for Nonfiction with *Dream of a Thousand Lives: A Sojourn in Thailand*, and her debut novel revisits Southeast Asia to soulful effect. Imprisoned in a mid-'90s Rangoon gulag, dissident singer/songwriter Teza stalks and eats the acrobatic lizards that venture across his cell's ceiling at sundown. Senior jailer Nyunt Wai Oo angles for a promotion by scheming to plant contraband writing materials inside the celebrated Teza's cage. The plot backfires when Teza inadvertently passes the proscribed ballpoint to the illiterate, resourceful serving boy, Nyi Lay, who hoards the pen for dear life. As the entire prison is shaken down and Teza and Nyi Lay are tortured nearly to death, a bond of brotherhood develops between the lowly Nyi Lay and Teza. The gangster inmate on the ward, Tan-see Tiger, who oversees an in-house smuggling operation, completes the triangle; he and Teza realize that the only measure of liberation left to them lies in making sure Nyi Lay leaves the prison camp alive. A brutal exposé with harrowing descriptions of prison life and heavily spiritual overtones, Connelly's novel combines a thrillerlike pace with finely etched portraits that show how each character takes control of his own freedom. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Award-winning poet and nonfiction writer Karen Connelly drew upon the two years she spent living among exiles and refugees on the Thailand-Burma border for *The Lizard Cage*, her debut novel. Winner of the 2007 Orange Prize for New Writers and a finalist for the Kiriyama Pacific Rim award, *The Lizard Cage* is a harrowing but rewarding read that abounds with compelling characterizations and evocative details. Critics almost universally admired these traits but disagreed over Connelly's use of language. The *San Francisco Chronicle*, for example, found that Connelly's prose sometimes "teeters a little too precariously on the border between poetic and maudlin," while others praised its lyricism. A small price to pay for the author's unique insight into the dark side of Burmese life.

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Review

"In a feat of epic vision, Karen Connelly uses her every art to tell the urgent story of what the *New York Times* calls 'Myanmar, arguably the most repressive regime in the world.' The suspense never relents. Hope is small, but it lives, strengthened by this powerful book." —Maxine Hong Kingston

"*The Lizard Cage* combines a thrillerlike pace with finely etched portraits that show how each character takes control of his own freedom." —*Publishers Weekly*

"*The Lizard Cage* ranks with the best books written about Southeast Asia . . . It is a compassionate, honest and moving exploration of faith and endurance." —*Globe and Mail*

"*The Lizard Cage* is an exquisite example of the art of storytelling at its best."

—*Weekend Post*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marjorie Ingram:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone with

everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even a problem. What people must be consider when those information which is inside former life are difficult to be find than now's taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take The Lizard Cage as your daily resource information.

Larry Devries:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specially book entitled The Lizard Cage your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unknown for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a guide then become one web form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get before. The The Lizard Cage giving you one more experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful data for your better life in this particular era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Jessie Loudermilk:

As we know that book is very important thing to add our understanding for everything. By a publication we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a set of written, printed, illustrated or perhaps blank sheet. Every year was exactly added. This reserve The Lizard Cage was filled with regards to science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your science competence. Some people has distinct feel when they reading the book. If you know how big selling point of a book, you can sense enjoy to read a publication. In the modern era like now, many ways to get book that you simply wanted.

Sherrie Beardsley:

Reading a e-book make you to get more knowledge as a result. You can take knowledge and information from your book. Book is prepared or printed or illustrated from each source that will filled update of news. On this modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for anyone. From media social including newspaper, magazines, science e-book, encyclopedia, reference book, new and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Are you ready to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just looking for the The Lizard Cage when you needed it?

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