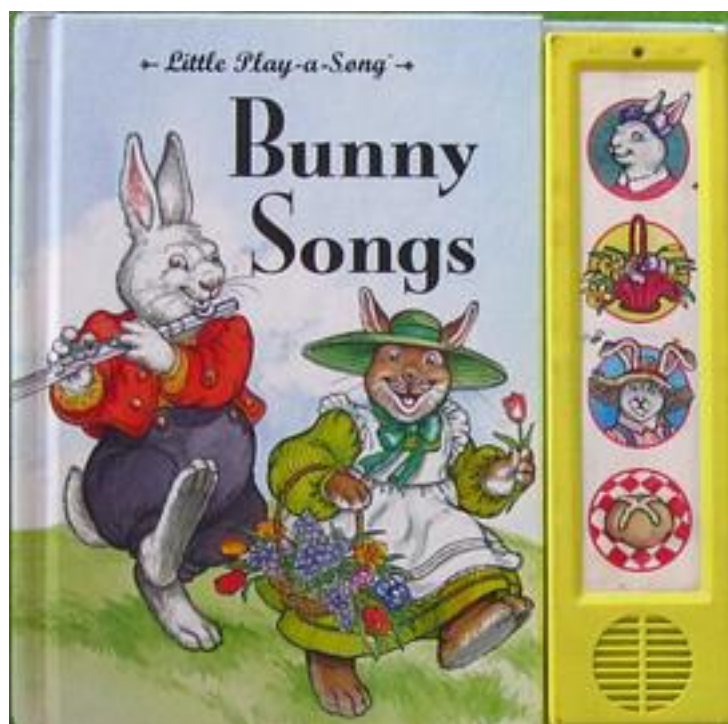


Little Play a Song



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32104,Valley Of The Wolves,Valley Of The Wolves,0439585538,Laura Gallego Garcia,57.00,19.00,Arthur A. Levine Books,1-Apr-06,简装,336,,,Valley Of The Wolves, From School Library Journal Grade 6-9–Dana is isolated from others in her farm community because she sees and converses with an invisible boy named Kai. Her otherwise ordinary life is disrupted by the arrival of a gentleman who refers to himself as Maestro. He senses the girl\'s potential and takes her from her home to the Tower where he lives to train her in sorcery. The Maestro\'s rules are simple: she must never be in the forest after dark as she will be set upon by wolves, and she must never disobey him. Dana soon discovers that Kai (who has accompanied her) is not the only

invisible person with whom she can communicate. To understand this mystery, she braves the wolves and risks the magus's anger by going into the woods—equipped with spells—in search of a unicorn. Dana's progression from a frightened farm girl into a courageous sorceress is superficially delineated. The initially benevolent Maestro is a one-dimensional figure who is abruptly revealed to be a murderous and power-hungry villain. While the story line is engaging, the novel is not entirely fleshed out and it is at best an additional purchase.—Heather M. Lisowski, Philip S. Miller Library, Castle Rock, CO Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Gr. 5-8. Odd flashes in her sapphire-colored eyes at birth are the first sign that Dana is unlike anyone else in her impoverished farming family. Her only childhood companion, Kai, lies across "a perplexing abyss"; he appears to be a boy of her age, but he is visible only to Dana. After an elderly stranger offers Dana an education at his distant academy, Dana's journey to understanding begins. The stranger is a sorcerer, and as Dana works through her apprenticeship, Kai by her side, she begins to question her benefactor's motives and to explore the terrifying power of the magic she has inherited. As in *The Legend of the Wandering King* (2005), Spanish author Garcia creates a stirring, thought-provoking adventure steeped in ancient lore. The vivid world, both enchanted and treacherous, and the well-drawn characters will easily hold fantasy fans. But even readers with an aversion to spells and unicorns will see their own urgent, bumpy paths to self-discovery mirrored in Dana's struggles to balance her thrilling talents with the discipline and maturity necessary to harness them. Gillian Engberg Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved See all Editorial Reviews"

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