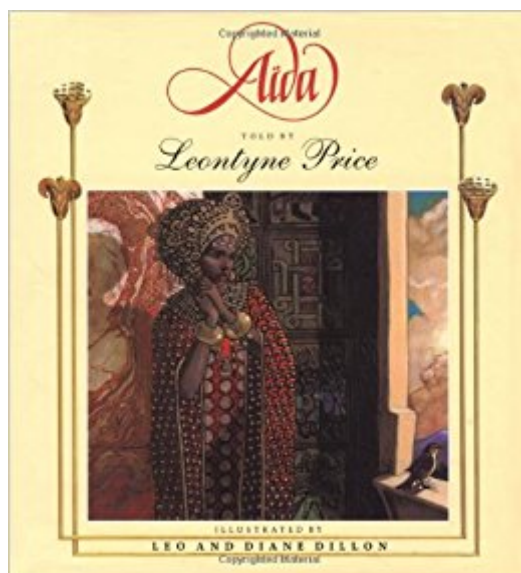


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# AIDA



## Synopsis

With depth and understanding, acclaimed diva Leontyne Price retells this famous opera about the beautiful princess of Ethiopia. “The Dillons magnificently capture the drama with powerful full-page illustrations that resemble stage sets. . . . Ideal for reading aloud during an Egyptian unit, in music classes, to children attending the opera, or for the pure aesthetic experience.”--Booklist

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There's no voice like that of opera singer Leontyne Price, and in this retelling of *Aida*, published in paperback for the first time, we discover that her writer's voice is equally moving. This tale of the Ethiopian princess-turned-slave, her soldier lover, and their inevitable tragedy is a favorite of Price, who reveals her feeling of sisterhood with the doomed *Aida* in the book's afterword. Price brings just enough distance to this story of love, jealousy, war, envy, and suicide to temper her passion. Telling the tale of *Aida*, one of the world's most famous--and tragic--operas, in appropriate language and tone is a task to which Price is more than equal.

This retelling of one of Verdi's most popular works suffers from the primary problem inherent in retelling any opera. Operas are composed, first and foremost, as musical works, and character motivation tends to be expressed in the music. While Price has faithfully outlined the opera's plot--the Ethiopian princess *Aida*'s love for the Egyptian warrior *Radames*; the jealousy of *Amneris*, the Pharaoh's daughter; *Radames*'s ultimate execution; and *Aida*'s sacrifice--she does not provide a

plausible rationale for their actions and, in the absence of Verdi's music, the story comes across as thin. Considered individually, the Dillons' paintings make dramatic tableaux, and taken together they form a stunning, unified whole. The art focuses on overall action, not individuals, and goes a very long way to illuminating the motivations lacking in Price's text. Even with minor reservations, this Aida is lavishly packaged and strikingly designed. All ages. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I bought this book for the illustrations. I encountered the Dillons' (the illustrators) work in another book and went to look for their books. AIDA is the second I ordered. I am familiar with the opera and the story. Leontyne Price, who brought the part of Aida to vibrant life in this century, is the author of the text, and it is beautifully done. For me, though, the truly luscious illustrations are what make the book. This is one to treasure, to savor. (I will say, now, that if you are thinking of ordering this book used (the only way you'll get it) query the seller to see if the dust jacket is included. Mine had none, and I really wish I had that beautiful illustration of the harpist on the back. But that's a risk you take with used books. I regret the lack of the dust jacket. But the book is lovely without it.)

I was not able to get this book in hardcover. My parents bought it for my youngest sister when we were younger and it first came out. In the softcover, the pictures are still of great quality and the lettering is easy to see, and beautiful as well. The story is timeless and if you play AIDA the opera behind it, or possibly some Habesha or Egyptian caberet music, you can really set a mood for your kid. I get the music from the library even and it is nice to do. The pictures capture a young one's interest alone.

A little damaged for what I was expecting, but great for the price! I love this story, it has been one of my favorite picture books since I was a child. I was very excited to find it and to receive it.

For young lovers of music (I mean adolescents) this is a book that tells how Aida and Radames came to the point where their love took precedence over how a slave and general should be. I always thought the opera lacked a back story, but Leontyne Price (a great Aida) provides one for us. Something that she needed as an actress as well as a singer to create her character in this piece by Verdi. We are lucky to have her insight into this opera so we can appreciate not just the music but the deep conflicting emotions behind the music.

I was only about 10 or 11 when my PATS class was studying the arts. I was given this book as a gift, and brought it to the class. The teacher then got the information from my book to buy it for herself. To this very day I have an appreciation for the arts, and especially Aida. Even though I cannot find my book, I still have the cover, and the memories. The tale is beautifully written, and the exceptional artwork in my opinion should be enlarged and framed. I recommend this beautiful book as a teaching tool for young students.

The illustrations are simply beautiful, and the story is well told, and can easily be understood by children. This was purchased as a gift for a pre-schooler who loves to listen to wonderful music. Opera is a great way of combining music and story, and Leotyne Price has done an excellent job of doing just that in this book!

Dust jacket was a little worn but this book is so beautiful and necessary to have in your library, who cares.

Book in perfect condition ;-)

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