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# Gold Medal Winter



## **Synopsis**

Esperanza Flores is "America's Hope for the Gold!" in this sweet novel about a figure skater who gets the chance to achieve her Olympic dreams. After years of practice and competitions, of sit spins and perfect poses and thrillingly high jumps, Esperanza Flores will be skating for the United States. But with the excitement of an Olympic shot comes new attention -- and BIG distractions. Suddenly Espi can't go out with her friends, or even out her back door, without reporters and autograph-seekers following her every move. The other U.S. figure skaters have a lot more international experience, and they let Espi know they don't think she's ready. And Hunter Wills, the men's figure skating champion, seems to be flirting with her, even as the press matches her up with Danny Morrison, the youngest -- and maybe cutest -- member of the U.S. hockey team. In the midst of all this, Espi is trying to master an impossible secret jump that just might be her key to a medal.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Needed it for my Olympic display in our high school and students to read & check it out. USA! USA!!

I don't think this is the most well written book out there, but I've been reading a chapter a night to my seven year old who is mad about figure skating and she loves it. Esperanza is a good role model and the book consistently emphasizes her hard work, commitment, and the sacrifices she's made to achieve her goals which I like. The boy drama and mean girl aspect to the story isn't my favorite but it is definitely holding my daughter's interest.

Esperanza Flores, called Espi, is a sixteen-year-old figure skater who gets her big break when she places second at Nationals the year one of the top US skaters is out with a knee injury. Unexpectedly, she's on the US Olympic team. I love figure skating. I did it myself as a child, and I've never forgotten how much fun it is. Plus, it's one of the funnest sports to watch. Thus, I had very high hopes for GOLD MEDAL WINTER. For the most part, it delivered. I liked that GOLD MEDAL WINTER emphasizes that ice skating is tough and requires a great deal of practice and dedication. Like most performers and athletes, Espi is superstitious. Belief in yourself and not giving into mind games or the pressure is also part of winning. But Espi gets caught up in a lot of drama on her way to the games. I really didn't like the love triangle in GOLD MEDAL WINTER. Espi has made it the the Olympics, something she's been working for for years, but instead she's going to spend her time worrying about boys? Like Espi's coach, I was disappointed that she was giving into the drama. I was also disappointed that in the end, their isn't much description of Espi's routines. GOLD MEDAL WINTER is a quick middle-grade read that will satisfy ice skating and Olympics fans. Author Donna Freitas incorporates a lot of detail about how the team is picked and such that adds to the verisimilitude of the story. Espi's Dominican heritage also adds another layer of interest to the story. Predicting the ending isn't much trouble, but the journey is fun.

I've always loved to watch ice skating, although growing up in an area with no rink, I've never been able to skate myself. This book was an excellent way to experience championship skating vicariously. Espi was a very likeable heroine. This is an excellent read for anyone into ice skating.

Espi is a great model for anyone! She makes you think about a relaxment that you like to do and be proud of it! Let your talent shine!

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