The representation of Joan of Arc has been variously interpreted over the centuries in the form of artworks, plays, films and books, including books for children. This picture book version includes a chronology of the key events in Joan's life and the history of France upon which she was to have such an astonishing impact. Poole's powerful, urgent text draws the reader onwards from the voices at Domremy through the scenes of battle to the tragic inevitability of Joan's execution. The blues and golds of Barrett's palette together with other devices in her artwork are reminiscent of illuminated manuscripts. From the lushness of a country orchard to the splendour of court to the muted tones of the trial and execution scenes, her illustrations interact with Poole's spare yet poetic account to create a truly stunning picture book in which the enigma of the life of this charismatic, driven girl is poignantly evoked. A book that will be enjoyed by readers of any age from seven upwards.

Source URL (retrieved on Apr '17): http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/113/childrens-books/reviews/joan-of-arc

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