

# Inspired Determination

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might use for an errant child.

The mother clearly surpasses her driver in education and class, yet her position in the societal hierarchy accords him license to treat her with disdain. Her life is plagued with other senseless but immovable complications, including the worry that her husband will give in to pressure to take on another wife because she cannot produce a male heir.

Her situation does not, however, motivate her to push for more for Wadja; rather, she is quick to reinforce such limits with her headstrong daughter, passing on gossip about a scandal involving one of the girl's older classmates and dismissing the girl's desire for a bicycle as unthinkable.

Wadja views the many restrictions that characterize her life with disdain typical of many adolescents. When her mother lectures her, she turns up her American music; and when instructed by her principal to replace her high-top Converse with the more feminine all-black shoes worn by her classmates, she responds by coloring the white portions of her shoes with a black marker.

The willfulness evident in Wadja's determination to be herself, makes her stand-out among her classmates, whose rebellions are more contained. In such a restrictive system, only such outliers have any real shot at achieving anything beyond the limits of what society expects from them.

Though perhaps not as apparent to us, the same is true in our culture too -- that is, only the most determined outlier thinkers are likely to achieve anything very different from our expectations of them.

In Saudi culture, the image of a girl on a bicycle is unthinkable, the achievement of that aspiration heroic. But listening to all of the ways that Wadja's parents

and teachers communicate to her what she cannot do brought to mind how a similar thing happens here to girls and women, or to other groups underrepresented in positions of influence.

Similarly, I found it instructive to reflect on the ways in which Wadja's world communicates her value relative to men. In Saudi Arabia, the women are draped in so much black as to shield them almost entirely from view, while men wear white.

The enforcers in Wadja's world are nearly all women, who constantly remind her of and model for her the responsibility to shield men from seeing her ("if you can see them, they can see you") or hearing her talk ("your voice is your nakedness.") Perhaps our ways of communicating our values and expectations to women and girls are more subtle, or perhaps we are less attuned to them.

Director Mansour has found a way to tell this story with lightness and subtlety, helped by the feisty spirit of a child. But don't let that lightness fool you (as it seems to have fooled at least one male critic) into thinking of this story as slight. Her heroine's relentlessness, though naive, is also canny.

Wadja tumbles to a strategy for achieving that coveted bicycle (a Koran-reciting contest with a cash prize) that reflects her underestimation of the fervor behind the rules that confine her but also embodies just the sort of conviction that is necessary to surpass such boundaries. If you're open to it -- and if, like me, you sometimes feel a bit confined yourself -- you just might be inspired.

*Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity. Her movie review column Opinionated Judge appears regularly in The Portland Observer. You can find her movie blog at opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.*

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# CLASSIFIEDS/BIDS



Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc.

We are seeking qualified individuals to join our non-profit property management organization in the following positions:

**Staff Accountant.** Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration or similar field required. Minimum 3-5 years experience in Accountant role. Knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Knowledge of nonprofit accounting a plus. Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite. YARDI Property Management Software experience is helpful.

**Accounts Receivable/Payable Clerk.** Minimum Associate Degree in Accounting or Business with 4+ years accounts payable and accounts receivable experience. Experience in areas of Real Estate, Property Management or Non-profit accounting a plus. Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite. YARDI Property Management Software experience is helpful.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to Traci Tarver by email at [Traci@pcrjhome.org](mailto:Traci@pcrjhome.org) or fax to (503) 288-2891. This position is open until filled. Review our website for a full job description at [www.pcrjhome.org](http://www.pcrjhome.org).

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

**OWNER: CITY OF WASHOUGAL**  
**ADDRESS: 1701 "C" Street**  
**Washougal, WA 98671**

Separate sealed bids for **2013 City of Washougal Pedestrian Improvements Project**

Consisting of:

The construction of approximately 1,200 LF of concrete curb and sidewalk including pedestrian ramps, driveways, signage, and cross-walk flashing beacon.

Will be received by: **CITY OF WASHOUGAL, WASHINGTON**

At the office of: **CITY HALL, 1701 "C" STREET, WASHOUGAL, WASHINGTON**

Until **2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 20th, 2013** and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

CONTRACT PROVISIONS, PLANS, AND BID PROPOSAL forms may be obtained by going to the City of Washougal online plan (document) center at (<https://plancenter.swca.org>). This online plan center provides Bidders with free of charge access to these documents with the ability to email, download, and view full/partial plan sets and any addenda. If a Bidder has not previously done so, the Bidder will need to create a free user account.

Information copies of the contract provisions, plans, and bid proposal are also on file for inspection at the City of Washougal, City Hall, 1701 'C' Street, Washougal, WA 98671.

No bid will be considered unless fully completed in the manner provided in the "Instructions to Bidders" upon the bid form provided in the Contract Documents and accompanied by a bid bond executed in favor of the Owner in an amount equal to no less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid. Should the successful bidder fail to enter into such contract and furnish satisfactory performance bond within the time stated in the specifications, the bid proposal deposit shall be forfeited to the City of Washougal.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive all informalities. No bidder may withdraw or modify his bid after the hour set for the opening and thereafter until the lapse of thirty (30) days from the bid opening.

This project is financed by the Community Development Block Grant Program with funds obtained from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Contract is subject to the regulations of the Department of Labor, and Housing and Urban Development.

Attention is called to the minimum wages as set forth in the contract documents. Minimum wages shall be as required by the state wage rates.

The City of Washougal in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, nondiscrimination in federally assisted programs of the department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

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