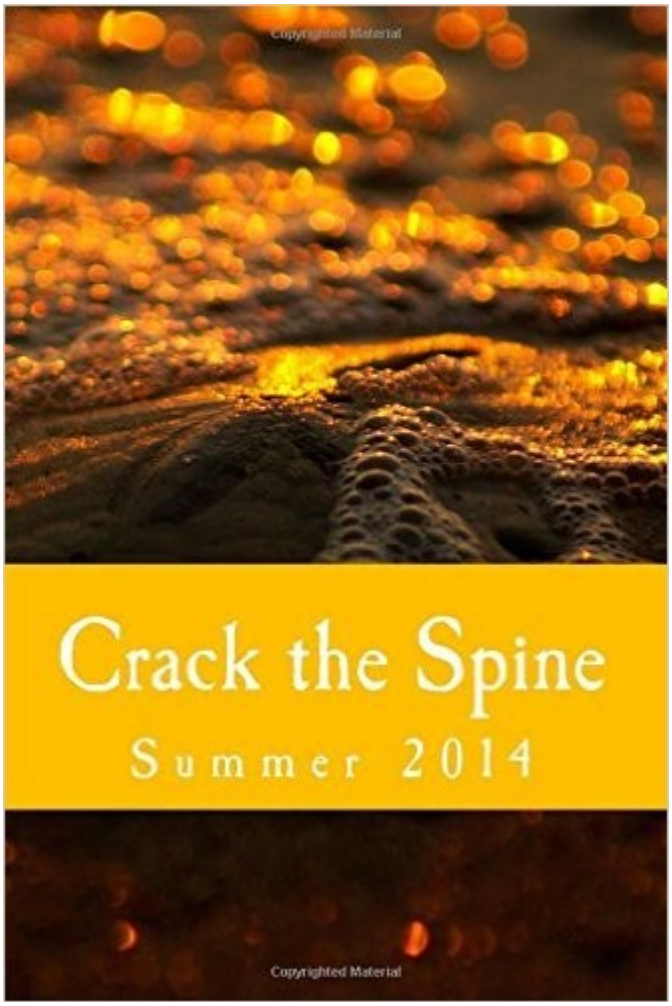
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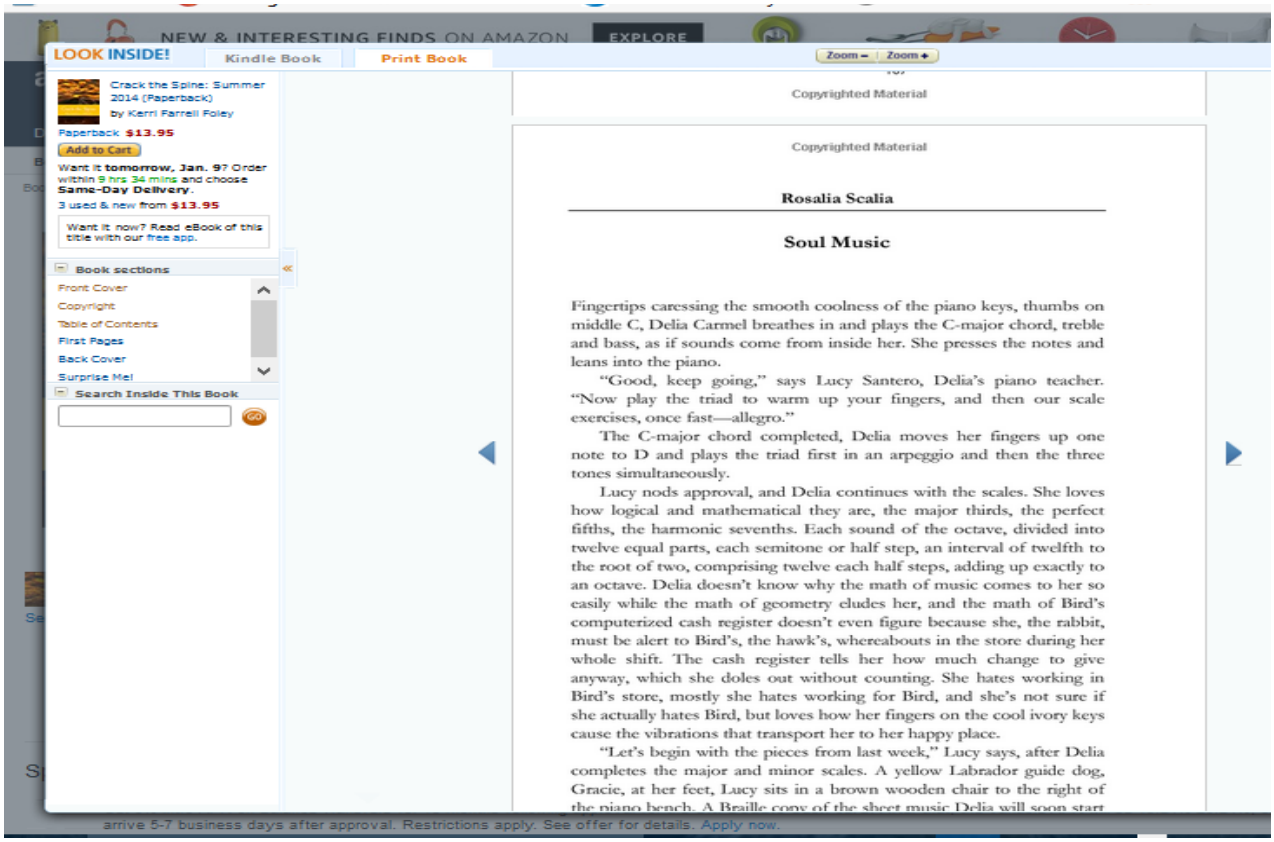
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Rosalia Scalia
Soul Music
Fingertips caressing the smooth coolness of the piano keys, thumbs on middle C, Delia Carmel breathes in and plays the C-major chord, treble and bass, as if sounds come from inside her. She presses the notes and leans into the piano.
"Good, keep going," says Lucy Santero, Delia's piano teacher. "Now play the triad to warm up your fingers, and then our scale exercises, once fast—allegro."
The C-major chord completed, Delia moves her fingers up one note to D and plays the triad first in an arpeggio and then the three tones simultaneously.
Lucy nods approval, and Delia continues with the scales. She loves how logical and mathematical they are, the major thirds, the perfect fifths, the harmonic sevenths. Each sound of the octave, divided into twelve equal parts, each semitone or half step, an interval of twelfth to the root of two, comprising twelve each half steps, adding up exactly to an octave. Delia doesn't know why the math of music comes to her so easily while the math of geometry eludes her, and the math of Bird's computerized cash register doesn't even figure because she, the rabbit, must be alert to Bird's, the hawk's, whereabouts in the store during her whole shift. The cash register tells her how much change to give anyway, which she doles out without counting. She hates working in Bird's store, mostly she hates working for Bird, and she's not sure if she actually hates Bird, but loves how her fingers on the cool ivory keys cause the vibrations that transport her to her happy place.
"Let's begin with the pieces from last week," Lucy says, after Delia completes the major and minor scales. A yellow Labrador guide dog, Gracie, at her feet, Lucy sits in a brown wooden chair to the right of
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