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Tiger Eyes



Synopsis

What does it take to recover from tragedy? This masterful Judy Blume novel has a fresh new look. Davey Wexler has never felt so alone. Her father has just been killed—shot in a holdup at the 7-Eleven near their home. And now her mother has transplanted her and her little brother, Jason, to Los Alamos, New Mexico, to stay with family and recover. But Davey is withdrawn, full of rage and fear and loneliness. Then one day, while exploring a canyon, she meets an older boy who calls himself Wolf. Wolf is the only one who understands her—the only one who can read her sad eyes. And he is the one who helps her realize that she must find a way to move forward with her life. Davey is one of Judy Blume's most hauntingly true human beings, capturing the deep ways a person can change that can't be seen—only felt. Her story has been felt, deeply, by readers for decades.

Book Information

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Paperback: 256 pages

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

After Davey's father is killed in a hold-up, she and her mother and younger brother visit relatives in New Mexico. Here Davey is befriended by a young man who helps her find the strength to carry on and conquer her fears. "This is a masterly novel."--Jean Fritz, *The New York Times Book Review*.
Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award, An ALA Best Book for Young Adults. --This text refers to an out of

print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Grade: B-After Davey's father is murdered in his store in Atlantic City, she, her mother and brother move to Los Alamos to with her aunt and uncle. Despite her anger and grief, her mother's depression and her aunt and uncle's strict overprotectiveness, she makes friends and begins to heal. TIGER EYES is the 5th Judy Blume book I've read this week, revisiting some of her works from my childhood in the seventies, when she wrote many of her middle grade and teen books. Due to the lack of technology, TIGER EYES is dated (do teenagers still know what looking up a book in a card catalogue is?). Everybody grieves differently, though many people experience similar feelings and paths toward healing. A lot of Davey's healing steps seem to be described, without any later mention. For instance, she tells the therapist something traumatic about the night her father died, seems to have a breakthrough then nothing else. Similarly, other subplots didn't feel finished. Still, I'd recommend TIGER EYES to teens experiencing grief and those who enjoy realistic fiction. THEMES: death, grief, substance abuse, moving, school, family

Tiger Eyes is a complex story about the healing process and the complications of adolescence. Davey Wexler is a 15 year-old girl, consumed with her crush, Hugh, just beginning high school, and to pull it all together, dealing with the grief from losing her father unexpectedly in a shooting at their family-owned store. For a change of scenery recommended by the doctor, Davey, her mother, and brother, Jason, retreat to Albuquerque, New Mexico to stay with her aunt and uncle there. Davey finds herself changing schools, meeting new people, dealing with her estranged mother and over-protective aunt and uncle. This story reveals the emotions of a adolescent girl going through the dealing process, as well as trying to find herself as a high school aged girl amongst older boys and peer pressure. I felt as though this book was like an onion with so many different layers to the story, unfolding with each turn of the page. Judy Blume uncovers the hidden secrets of teenage girls by revealing Davey's love interests, inner desires and daydreams, and exposing the sometimes harsh realities of high school life such as peer pressure with alcoholism and sex.

Davey's mom, Gwen, supports this idea empathetically when she says, "It's hard to be fifteen," after Davey engages in a fight with her Uncle Walter and Aunt Bitsy for their overprotectiveness (161). Davey expresses desires to talk about her father's death and shows signs of wanting to be loved and understood by the way she starts fights with her family members and then often says internally that she doesn't mean to do it, and she doesn't know why she does it (114). She says about her brother, Jason, "It's just that I have this need to talk about my father, with someone who knew him and loved him the way I did" (114). This book is beautifully written and is a great read for teenage girls to connect with.

I rated this book a 5/5 stars because it is not only a good read, but it captivates your attention and you want to keep reading. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes stories about growing after a big event in life. It was inspirational. I do wish, however, that we could learn of what happens with Davey and Wolf. Does he come and visit her? Does he find the letters in the caves when he returns to Los Alamos? Lots of unanswered questions there but I guess we just leave it to our imaginations. Overall, this was a very well written story and kept your attention. I loved it.

After reading *Forever* I went on a bit of a Judy Blume kick, trying to find all the ones I missed that are aimed at teenagers or up (I'm not sure I'm up for an MG novel). I'm determined to figure out how to write normal life scenes this engaging. It almost seems like she could have the characters do anything and make it a fascinating read. They shower, they change their sneakers, trim toenails -- all stuff that is generally forbidden in writing guides -- and yet it works. *Tiger Eyes* could have been like an after school special. In fact, it probably was made into one. It's about a 15 year-old girl whose father is killed in a hold up, and she has to learn how to deal. It's not preachy. The people are just real, the friendships real, the family dynamics real. The early 80's Los Alamos setting is even interesting. There's no sex, no violence (other than the retroactively occurring murder), but there is a lot of excellent dialog.

Good Read

A touching and thought provoking story about loss of a loved one. Each character grieves in a different way, and finds different ways to move on

It wasn't my favorite book of all time and I doubt I will re-read it in the future, but it held my attention and was interesting to read. I finished it in a night.

I found the movie on Netflix and decided to watch it, but it seemed like it wasn't quite right, so I decided I had to read the book over again. I loved this book as a kid. And I'm now 40 years old, so yeah, felt a little silly buying it again, but it was worth it. The movie was pretty good, but it does stray from the book. Anyways, the book is still great after all these years. I can relate to it even more now, having lost a parent. I would definitely pass it on to future generations!!

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