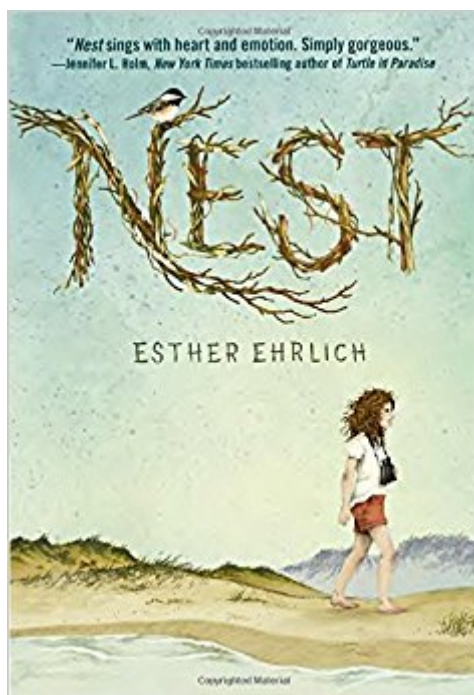


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# Nest



## Synopsis

For fans of Jennifer Holm (*Penny from Heaven*, *Turtle in Paradise*), a heartfelt and unforgettable middle-grade novel about an irresistible girl and her family, tragic change, and the healing power of love and friendship. In 1972 home is a cozy nest on Cape Cod for eleven-year-old Naomi Chirp Orenstein, her older sister, Rachel; her psychiatrist father; and her dancer mother. But then Chirp's mom develops symptoms of a serious disease, and everything changes. Naomi Chirp finds comfort in watching her beloved wild birds. She also finds a true friend in Joey, the mysterious boy who lives across the street. Together they create their own private world and come up with the perfect plan: Escape. Adventure. Discovery. Nest is Esther Ehrlich's stunning debut novel. Her lyrical writing is honest, humorous, and deeply affecting. Chirp and Joey will steal your heart. Long after you finish *Nest*, the spirit of Chirp and her loving family will stay with you. Praise for *Nest*: "A poignant, insightful story of family crisis and the healing power of friendship."--Kirkus Reviews, Starred "A stunning debut, with lyrical prose and superbly developed characters. . . . [Readers] will savor *Nest* and reflect on it long after its conclusion."--School Library Journal, Starred "Ehrlich's novel beautifully captures the fragile bond shared by Chirp and Joey and their growing trust for each other in a world filled with disappointments and misunderstandings."--Publishers Weekly, Starred "Chirp's first-person voice is believable; her poignant earnestness is truly heartrending. Ehrlich writes beautifully, constructing scenes with grace and layers of telling detail and insight."--The Horn Book What authors are saying about *Nest*: "Nest sings with heart and emotion. Simply gorgeous."--Jennifer L. Holm, New York Times bestselling author of *Turtle in Paradise* "Nest speaks to the heart. I wanted to put my arms around Chirp and never let go."--Holly Goldberg Sloan, author of *Counting by 7s* and *I'll Be There* "I loved the book! It's so tender and touching and real. Chirp is a marvelous character, and Joey's just plain lovable. I worry about him. Congratulations. The book is absolutely splendid and I hope everyone in the world notices."--Karen Cushman, author of the Newbery Medal, *The Midwife's Apprentice* and the Newbery Honor, *Catherine, Called Birdy* "A remarkable work. Esther Ehrlich's characters stand out so real and true: Chirp's friendship with Joey is tender and moving, and truly unforgettable. One can see Cape Cod and feel Chirp's love for the birds wheeling overhead. I wanted this story to go on and on. What a brilliant future this author has. I can't wait to read her next book."--Patricia Reilly Giff, two-time Newbery Honor-winning author

## Book Information

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Paperback: 336 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 7.6 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 143 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #252,038 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Multiple Sclerosis](#) #228 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness](#) #1537 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings](#)

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-6 • It's the dog days of the summer, 1972, and spirited 11-year-old Naomi "Chirp" Orenstein tries to enjoy them as best she can—but something is wrong with her mother's leg. Chirp's mother Hannah is a dancer and the prospect of permanent limited mobility is both heartbreaking and terrifying. A diagnosis of MS sends Hannah spiraling into a debilitating depression, and she is sent to a mental hospital. Chirp's father, a psychiatrist, is consumed with grief and tethered to work, leaving Chirp and her older sister Rachel alone much of the time. After several months of therapy, Hannah returns home. The reunion is short-lived as she slips deeper into depression and tragically decides to end her life, leaving Chirp, Rachel, and their father to navigate their transformed familial relationship. A stunning debut, with lyrical prose and superbly developed characters, this novel is an emotional roller coaster that effectively conveys a family's visceral tragedy. At times tear inducing, the narrative is also vibrantly alive, assisted in part by the Cape Cod setting and refreshingly unplugged 1970s. The focus on nature and the outdoors helps set the pace as the seasonal changes quietly indicate the passage of time. Sensitive readers should be aware of the tough issues that it addresses—suicide, depression, and personal loss. However, the story also offers a hopeful message. Strong readers who enjoy realistic fiction and the occasional

good cry will savor Nest and reflect on it long after its conclusion. — Juliet Morefield, Multnomah County Library, OR --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Kirkus starred review, May 15, 2014: "A poignant, insightful story of family crisis and the healing power of friendship. — School Library Journal — starred review, May 15, 2014: A stunning debut, with lyrical prose and superbly developed characters, this novel is an emotional roller coaster that effectively conveys a family's visceral tragedy. Publishers Weekly starred review, July 14, 2014: "Ehrlich's novel beautifully captures the fragile bond shared by Chirp and Joey and their growing trust for each other in a world filled with disappointments and misunderstandings."

This will be difficult for me to review without spoiling the story, so I will just say that this book is crazy good. I laughed. I cried. And, laughed and cried some more. Chirp is such a well rounded character whose emotions are so strong in all directions. I was most impressed with the relationship between her and Joey. I honestly don't know what to say about this book. Definitely had some concerns about adding it to my classroom library for my 5th graders. However, after finishing the book, I've decided to add it for my more mature readers. Definitely some great writing in this book.

Emotionally grabbing story told from the perspective of a pre-teen daughter who's mother is encased in clinical depression. I am giving four (not five) stars because I felt the maturity levels of the daughters inconsistent, and role-changes questionable to the point of a touch of impossibility. Nevertheless, the story brought great emotion and reality to the struggles of the family. Chirp is delightful! Her character made me want to have a do-over of my childhood. Keep tissues handy!

Nest is poignant storytelling that moves and delights. It also draws characters that live with you long after the last page is reluctantly folded over. The voices of the young characters are so true, natural and unique that one wishes like hell to be able to dive into the book to hold their hands, or stroke their hair. Many difficult issues including death and illness are managed with a clarity and sensitivity that allows the reader, whatever age, to come to terms with these inevitable life dramas. I highly recommend this book for young adults or old adults. It's just a really great book. Kudos to author Esther Ehrlich.

Funny, tender, extremely poignant story of a girl who had the good luck of having been deeply loved

and the emotional challenge of having to deal with much sadness. As realistic of a portrait of a young person's inner life as I have encountered. In a day and age where relationships are often given a superficial and distant consideration, Esther Ehrlich moves really close and brings her characters and their relationships to us in all their depth and humanity.

Its okay

Nest is a wonderfully written and rare novel. It made me remember what it was like to be a kid - the complex thoughts and the enormous, unstoppable emotions that I had to feel and deal with in my own way. Chirp and Joey are as real, funny and powerfully drawn as any characters I've read - the author brings them to exuberant life. I really fell for Chirp! Highly recommended for both kids and adults.

Very satisfied

Just not what I expected.

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