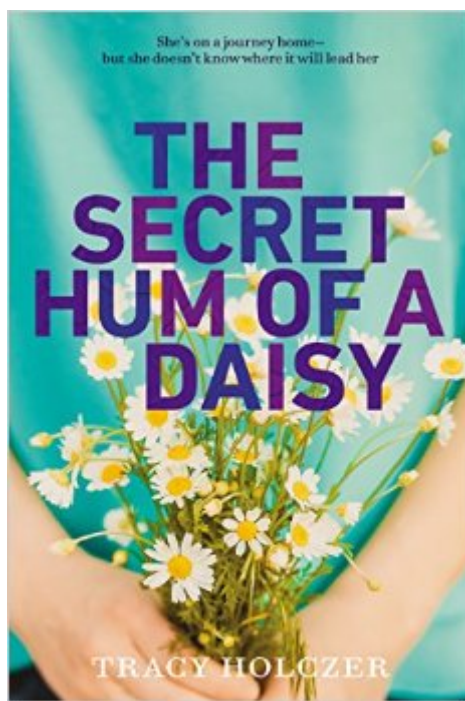


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# The Secret Hum Of A Daisy



## Synopsis

Twelve-year-old Grace and her mother have always been their own family, traveling from place to place like gypsies. But Grace wants to finally have a home all their own. Just when she thinks she's found it her mother says it's time to move again. Grace summons the courage to tell her mother how she really feels and will always regret that her last words to her were angry ones. After her mother's sudden death, Grace is forced to live with a grandmother she's never met. She can't imagine her mother would want her to stay with this stranger. Then Grace finds clues in a mysterious treasure hunt, just like the ones her mother used to send her on. Maybe it is her mother, showing her the way to her true home. Lyrical, poignant and fresh, *The Secret Hum of a Daisy* is a beautifully told middle grade tale with a great deal of heart.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0820 (What's this?)

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (May 5, 2015)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (51 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #57,223 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving #85 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #182 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

That statement - from the ARC - aptly summarizes the lesson several characters in "The Secret Hum of a Daisy" will learn. Tracy Holczer has given readers a novel that is heartbreaking; beautiful; and finally, joyous. Grace, a twelve-year old girl, is the daughter of an itinerant artist - a young woman who creates and sells birds made from "found" objects. Anna's sudden death tears Grace's life and her world into pieces. Her description of what she feels tells all one needs to know about the

devastating impact of her mother's death - "... I was certain ... they'd find stuff missing ... some deep down place that knew how to love and smile and feel as light as feathers on sunshiney days. That part was clean gone ..." Tracy Holczer has done an outstanding job of describing the emotions and raw pain that a child feels when facing life after the death of a parent. She has accomplished this using simple phrasing and vivid imagery without creating maudlin or hysterical characters. Grace goes to live with only living relative, her grandmother Miranda, a woman she had been led to believe forced Anna to leave when her teen pregnancy was known. As the Grace come to terms with her situation and learns more about Miranda, Grace says "...It was an effort to squeeze her back down to the right size and shape..." "...The person I'd made Grandma up to be, someone hard and cruel, just didn't match this woman ..." Miranda, too, is haunted by her past actions and must come to terms with the consequences of those actions. At one point, Grace tells her "...You owe Mama things you can't give me..." To which Miranda replies "I know I do ..." Miranda tends the grounds daily in the public park she designed and in which a fountain Anna designed stands as the centerpiece.

What if you lost the only home you ever had? How far would you go to find it again? Grace and her mother are each other's family. Going place to place, they never call one place home for long. A terrible accident happens and Grace loses her mother to a fall in the river. For the first time, Grace has to navigate a life that is very different from the one her mother had carved out for them. Her writing, once so precious to her is bottled up inside, just like her feelings. Grace's grandmother claims her and she struggles to adjust to "The After." How can she live without her mother? How can she find her place in a world where she doesn't belong? She wants to return to her friend and live with her-a place her mother would have approved of. Only the plans we make are not always the ones laid out for us. Grace begins to find this out as she follows clues that lead her to find her new life. There is new friendship, family issues, loss, exploration and just a little bit of romance to be found. This book was a journey into the mind of a child who has lost everything. Grace's mother was her world. The small origami paper cranes she folded and the little birds her mother made out of spoons become stars to travel by in this uncharted voyage to find the center of grief and move beyond it. Grace wants no part of her grandmother-the woman who turned her back on her very pregnant mother. She can't stand the sounds of the river so she stays in the shed, keeping her distance from everyone and everything. The thaw is slow. Once it comes it unfolds like the petals of a flower in the garden Grace's grandmother so lovingly tends. We are all a part of each other's lives.

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