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The Missing Pieces Of Me



Synopsis

More than anything, ten-year-old Weezie wants to please her momma. She babysits her spoiled half-sister, Ruth Ann, and little Jackson. She makes tea for Momma in Gramma Emmeline's beautiful teapot. She even tries to cook dinner. But nothing turns out quite right. And Momma is never pleased. Hard times and a daddy who ran off before she was born seem to have stolen all of Momma's love. If only Weezie could find her daddy, she's sure her life would be happier. Tired of making up stories about a parent she knows nothing about, Weezie teams up with her bike-riding buddy, Calvin, and new friend, Louella, to find her mysterious father. Does he drive a truck? Sing country and western songs? Why, her real daddy might even be better than the made-up father she's been telling lies about at school! Now, all she has to do is find him. Jean Van Leeuwen's poignant, powerful novel introduces a feisty heroine whose brave search proves that even a life that's missing important pieces can be chock full of things that matter.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I loved this book and its main character Weezie. Fifth grader Weezie lives in a trailer park with her mother, sister and brother. All of the children have different fathers but this is handled well as just a fact of life. Weezie is the oldest and her mother seems to be distant and very hard on her. Weezie wants to know about her dad but her mother just tells her that he was a bad man and she doesn't want Weezie to turn out like him. Weezie is a strong character. Her search for her Dad takes her through many situations which are handled well and seem quite possible for a girl her age. In the end, Weezie learns some hard truths, but she also finds goodness all-around her. She is such a great character that I would like to meet her in real life. I feel that many middle grade readers would relate to Weezie and her approach to her life.

Ten year old Weezie just can't seem to please her Momma. She babysits her half-sister and brother every night and all day Saturday, cleans the trailer even though Momma never notices, even cooks dinner. Momma never even says thank you. More than anything, Weezie wants to find her Daddy, but she doesn't even know his name and Momma isn't telling. Ruth Ann's father died a war (well in training camp) and baby Jackson's knows who his Daddy I'd, why won't Momma tell her? With the help of her best friend from the trailer park, and her new friend who lives in one of the big houses on the other side of town. Weezie just may find her Daddy. Weezie is a creative, bright, optimistic, determined young girl, strong and kind with a bad habit of lying to stay out of trouble and so no one will know she doesn't have Daddy. Her persistence, kindness and sense of morality make her a likable role model both boys and girls will enjoy. I love that Weezie is poor, lives in a trailer park with a single-mom, and has siblings with different fathers, a reality for many kids in not in their own lives, then among their peers. Weezie's voice is strong, unique and authentic. Depending on reading level kids between the ages of 7-11 will enjoy THE MISSING PIECES OF ME, older children may also enjoy this delightful book and relate to the themes of non traditional families, poverty, friendship, emotional abuse/neglect, frienemies, and growing up.

Wrenchingly beautiful, carefully-crafted, this is a book that will keep you turning its pages as you root for Weezie to root for herself, despite all the negativity in her life. Inspirational to children whose lives are not easy ones. A window into a harsher world for children who are more privileged. Wise and gentle, this is a story that is pitch-perfect for middle-grade readers (a rarity, these days). Written by a master storyteller. A moving, lovely book for middle-graders to share with their friends and even their parents!

Wow. This book is a little more than 200 pages. I finished it in 2 days! It is about a girl in fifth grade and her mom is really strict and her parents are divorced and her mom has no clue what happened to him after tons of years. Her mom won't tell her anything about him so she finds out herself. I am not going to spoil the best part for you, but just know this. Best book ever! Great for all ages!

This book brought back a lot of childhood memories! I gave this book five stars because it is well written. And the story focuses on some of the things children have to deal with every day of their lives.

Great buy. Book came in perfect condition other than the library markings. That is no big deal though... Thanks

Fantastic story that tugged at my heart. I was always rooting for Weezie. This story was easy to read and very appropriate for elementary.

"The Missing Pieces of Me" is a wonderful novel that will especially appeal to kids, parents, and teachers who love art. I'm going to give a copy to an excellent elementary & middle school art teacher/friend who also wears jangly bracelets!

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