



2005

Each Little Bird that Sings

Patricia Castelli

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Wiles, Deborah. *Each Little Bird that Sings*. Harcourt Brace, 2005. ISBN 0152051139. \$16.00. 247 p.

Reviewer: Patricia Castelli

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Funeral homes--Juvenile fiction; Death--Juvenile fiction; Family life, Southern States--Juvenile fiction;

Comfort Snowberger lives in the family's funeral home with her parents, a dog named Dismay, and an elderly great aunt and uncle. When her great uncle dies peacefully, Comfort is furious with her young cousin Peach, a sniveling little boy who carries on in a manner most inappropriate for funerals. Now her beloved great aunt has died, and Comfort has to put up with Peach again.

This is a story with heart and humor, and also a heart-thumping disaster. Comfort has trouble with her former best friend Declaration and pressure from her parents to be Peach's friend. To the end she remains a sympathetic character with the courage to do what is right despite high personal costs.