



2009

Anila's Journey

Pat Frade

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Finn, Mary. *Anila's journey*. Candlewick Press, 2008. ISBN 9780763639167. \$16.99. 320 p.

Reviewer: Pat Frade

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Historical fiction;

Subject: Self-reliance--Juvenile fiction; India--History--British occupation, 1765-1947--Juvenile fiction; Missing persons--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

In late eighteenth-century India, Anila Tandy's mother dies, leaving her alone. Her Irish father has been missing for many years, but Anila dreams of finding him. Anila has a talent for drawing and finds employment as an artist on a Ganges River birding expedition. Along the journey, she arrives at her mother's childhood village and finds a clue to her father. Anila travels back to Calcutta and is determined to go find her father in Madras until unexpected news arrives.

This is a well-written historical fiction novel of Indian culture. At times the book is dry and readers may find it difficult to keep interest. Overall, for a first book, the author did a great job at telling a story and describing Indian characters and the surroundings.

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