



2010

The Hard Kind of Promise

Ruth-Anne Brown

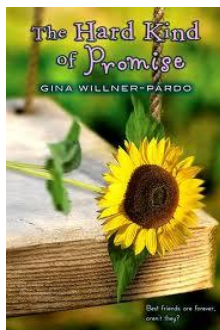
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Willner-Pardo, Gina. *The Hard Kind of Promise*. Clarion Books, 2010. ISBN 9780547243955. \$16.00. 200 p.

Reviewer: Ruth-Anne Brown

Reading level: Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fiction;

Subject: Best friends--Juvenile fiction; Friendship--Juvenile fiction; Popularity--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Sarah promises Majorie that they will be best friends forever, but they are only five years old. When Sarah starts her choral class and Majorie begins her film class, their interests and time veer them toward different paths. After hearing that she is a loser because of hanging out with Majorie, Sarah begins to wish her friend would blend in with everyone else. After making another friend named Lizzie, Sarah sees less and less of Majorie. Their friendship is strained when Sarah cannot play the alien in Majorie's film due to extra choir practice. Sarah battles with the decision of staying Majorie best friend. After some time apart, Sarah and Majorie both realize that they are different. They can still be friends, but it will never be the same.

The Hard Kind of Promise is a touching story of change. Leaving behind childhood brings many choices. Gina Willner-Pardo expertly explores the waters of adolescence by showing it through the voice of a loyal twelve-year-old girl. Readers are left with a sad, yet understanding feeling that nothing ever stays the same.

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