



Miracle

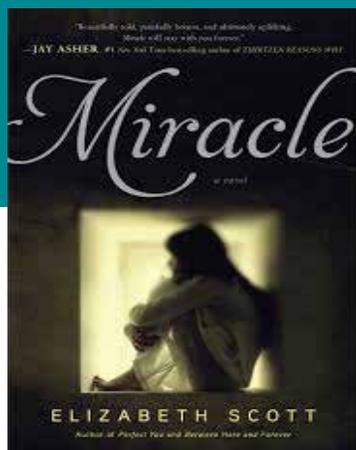
Jennifer Padgett

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Padgett, Jennifer () "Miracle," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 39 : Iss. 1 , Article 64.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol39/iss1/64>

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Book Review

Miracle

Author

Elizabeth Scott

Illustrator

Reviewer

Jennifer Padgett

Rating

Dependable

Level

Intermediate

Pages

240

Year

2013

Publisher

Simon Pulse

ISBN

9781624021527

A young girl's life is changed forever after she becomes the lone survivor of a devastating plane crash. She is marked by sadness, guilt, and a sense of nothingness. To Meggie, nothing matters anymore, not even Jess and Lissa, who used to be her very best friends. She leaves school early as often as she stays. She desperately tries to avoid the soccer coach for whom she once performed her best at the sport she loved. She is stuck in a bliss of nothingness and doesn't know what to do about it. Her parents refuse to admit anything is wrong with her, that she's anything short of a miracle who survived against disparaging odds. She is left to untangle the mess in her mind and set herself free of the visions that haunt her. There are a few who cross her path that may be of some assistance. But it is only she who can decide whether or not she will let them in long enough to help her heal.

Elizabeth Scott has an impressive ability of connecting young readers to the characters in this novel by weaving many common experiences among adolescents into the plot. Megan's parents have unrealistic expectations of her, seeing her through a prism of their own reality. Her friends are hurt by the distance she places between them. Joe, her attractive neighbor, has a father who suffers from alcoholism. Her soccer coach is devastated by her lack of commitment and careless attitude and wants to reach out and save her. The feelings of grief, inadequacy, and survivors' guilt that are so evidently experienced by Meggie are analogous to those felt by other known survivors of tragedies. The story line is predictable at times and progresses at a relatively slow pace. The author, however, does an artful job of adding in a few, fun twists and turns at the end of the story, leaving the reader feeling satisfied.

*Contains mild language.