



2018

A Smidgen of Sky

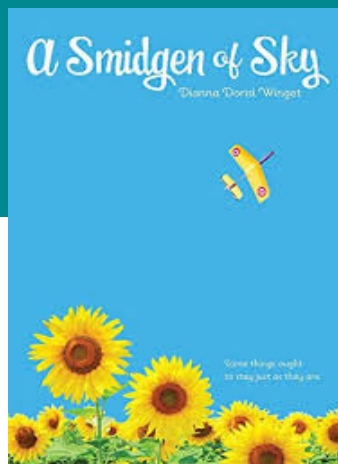
Emily Loveless

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Book Review

A Smidgen of Sky

Author

Dianna Dorisi Winget

Illustrator

Reviewer

Emily Loveless

Rating

Excellent

Level

Intermediate

Pages

208

Year

2012

Publisher

HMH Books for Young

ISBN

9780547807980

Piper Lee DeLuna's momma is about to get married again, four years after Piper's daddy's plane went missing. Piper Lee needs a plan to stop this wedding, and fast. She puts her story out on the internet where people might have information about her daddy. Then she contacts Ginger's momma so Ben will realize how much he misses her and leave Piper Lee's momma alone. The fun of seeing Ginger's happiness at hearing from a mother she's never known sours when her momma fails to keep promises, and the exciting anticipation of news about Piper Lee's daddy turns to disappointment and fear when she has a brush with an internet predator. Piper Lee just wants her family back the way it was, but now she's not sure she remembers it right. When a crisis at Ben's job dredges up the same fears and anxiety surrounding her daddy's initial disappearance, Piper Lee realizes that there might be room in her family, and her heart, for two new people.

A Smidgen of Sky explores the complications of family when tragedy and choices bring loss and pain. Piper Lee learns that reconnecting with a parent that walked out is a very different experience from her dream of seeing a deceased parent again, and that selfish motives masked as good intentions still do more harm than good. Piper Lee's growth throughout the story highlights how clinging to memories of an incomplete or edited past can smother our future. Change is never easy, especially in the face of blending two families together, but growing up means learning not only to let go of your own pain, but to look outside yourself and see the pain and needs of others. A Smidgen of Sky reminds us that, while we cannot control everything that happens in our lives, we can often reach out to those around us, and in so doing, heal and fill the holes in our own hearts.