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Lucky Little Things

Karen Abbott

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Book Review

Lucky Little Things



Author

Janice Erlbaum

Illustrator

Reviewer

Karen Abbott

Rating

Dependable

Level

Intermediate, Young
Adult

Pages

288

Year

2018

Publisher

Macmillan

ISBN

9780374306526

Emma is struggling with the death of her mother's best friend, who was a second mother to her and a bringer of magic into her life. This particular morning, however, there is a letter waiting under the door with Emma's name on it. The letter holds a magical promise: ten small wishes that Emma writes down will come true as long as she doesn't tell another living human. The letter starts Emma on a road of adventure as she wonders who it came from and what luck really is. When Emma finds out who sent the first letter and the subsequent two, she receives her answer and realizes how lucky all of us are to be alive.

This book drips with heavy content but does not become heavy itself. The story deals with sexting, peer pressure, cancer, death, bullying, gay parents and single parenthood--all unexpected things that the book endeavors to help a young girl deal with and resolve. It does so in a surprisingly age-appropriate way. For readers who are dealing with these or similar issues, this book could be very beneficial and a marginally insightful read. What holds the book away from greatness is that it fails to capture any of the very real anguish of these things. This makes it unrealistic in an off-putting way when it comes to the main character. The maturity of her response to these situations is admirable but devoid of the typical emotions and emotional intensity of a young tween girl.

*Contains moderate sexual content.