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The Missing Pieces Of Me



Synopsis

More than anything, ten-year-old Weezie wants to please her momma. She babysits her spoiled half-sister, Ruth Ann, and little Jackson. She makes tea for Momma in Gramma Emmeline's beautiful teapot. She even tries to cook dinner. But nothing turns out quite right. And Momma is never pleased. Hard times and a daddy who ran off before she was born seem to have stolen all of Momma's love. If only Weezie could find her daddy, she's sure her life would be happier. Tired of making up stories about a parent she knows nothing about, Weezie teams up with her bike-riding buddy, Calvin, and new friend, Louella, to find her mysterious father. Does he drive a truck? Sing country and western songs? Why, her real daddy might even be better than the made-up father she's been telling lies about at school! Now, all she has to do is find him. Jean Van Leeuwen's poignant, powerful novel introduces a feisty heroine whose brave search proves that even a life that's missing important pieces can be chock full of things that matter.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (40 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

The first sentence of "The Missing Pieces of Me" will rip your heart in two. With those six simple words, Jean Van Leeuwen has poignantly captured the anguish and broken-heart of any

child who believes their mother does not love them. Grace Louise Dawson's "Weezie" is one such child; this novel beautifully captures Weezie's emotions, her triumphs, and her growth. It gives voice to those whom a parent cruelly "sometimes unknowingly" abused through words and inattentiveness, but who do survive and triumph. The text and vocabulary are clean and simple to read, the subject matter may be more difficult for some. Weezie seems to have everything going against her. The daughter of a single mother, she has never known the father. She has two half-siblings for whom she is often required to care; each of the children has a different father. She lives in a trailer park. Her mother works as a server in a small town Oklahoma diner; she always seems angry, especially at Weezie. Weezie's mother blames her for everything that goes wrong and Weezie somehow believes everything that goes wrong may be her fault. Her beloved Gramma Emmeline, a diabetic and the only adult Weezie felt truly loved her, has died. Weezie, however, is stronger and more resilient than one would think. She is determined to find her father. With the help of her friends Louella and Calvin, she sets out to discover the truth about her father. She discovers a passion for art and with the encouragement of Louella's parents and Ms Martinelli, her art teacher, begins to blossom. As she becomes more self-confident, other aspects of her life improve and she begins to understand her mother's attitude and reactions.

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