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Maybe A Fox



Synopsis

Worlds collide in a spectacular way when Newbery and National Book Award finalist Kathi Appelt and Pulitzer Prize nominee and #1 New York Times bestseller Alison McGhee team up to create a fantastical, heartbreaking, and gorgeous tale about two sisters, a fox cub, and what happens when one of the sisters disappears forever. Sylvie and Jules, Jules and Sylvie. Better than just sisters, more than best friends, they *could* be identical twins if only they *could* be born in the same year. And if only Sylvie wasn't such a fast *—faster than fast—runner*. But Sylvie is too fast, and when she runs to the river they *are* not supposed to go anywhere near to throw a wish rock just before the school bus comes on a snowy morning, she runs so fast that no one sees what happens *—and* no one ever sees her again. Jules is devastated, but she refuses to believe what all the others believe, that *—like* their mother *—her* sister is gone forever. At the very same time, in the shadow world, a shadow fox is born *—half* of the spirit world, half of the animal world. She too is fast *—faster than fast—* and she senses danger. She *is* too young to know exactly what she senses, but she knows something is very wrong. And when Jules believes one last wish rock for Sylvie needs to be thrown into the river, the human and shadow worlds collide. Writing in alternate voices *—one* Jules *—*, the other the fox *—*, Kathi Appelt and Alison McGhee tell the searingly beautiful tale of one small family *—* moment of heartbreak, a moment that unfolds into one that is epic, mythic, shimmering, and most of all, hopeful.

Book Information

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Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

Customer Reviews

The Collaborative process behind *Maybe a Fox* by Alison McGhee and Kathi Appelt The Table Between the pillars, a place where the authors cooked up ideas together, at Vermont College of Fine Arts. Click here for a larger image

Gr 4-6 •Eleven-year-old Jules and her 12-year-old sister Sylvie are very close and dependent on each other, especially since their mother died when they were very young. So when Sylvie suddenly disappears and is presumed dead, Jules and her father are left to cope with her absence and their lives "after Sylvie." At the moment of Sylvie's death, an unborn fox receives her spirit and is born a "kennen," an animal who has been sent to help a human. In alternating chapters •Jules's point of view written by Appelt and Senna the fox's by McGhee •seemingly unrelated pieces of the plot, such as Jules's fascination with rocks, her neighbor Elk's grief over the loss of his best friend, and Sylvie's need to run faster, are woven together against a magnificent background of forest and river. This is a book of maybes, of what might be, of possible sightings of rare animals, of mysticism and dreams of what might have been. Although there is an underlying tone of tragedy, McGhee reads with great gentleness and warmth, enfolding listeners in the sadness, anger, hope, and strength of the characters. The result is a thought-provoking and moving book that captivates and tugs at the heartstrings. VERDICT Highly recommended for intermediate and middle school collections. ["Both raw and hopeful and [a book] that readers won't soon forget": SLJ 1/16 starred review of the S. & S./Atheneum book.] •MaryAnn Karre, Binghamton, NY --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

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