



Wenny Has Wings

By Janet Lee Carey

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In the fight with the truck barreling toward them, Wenny and Will lost big. Wenny lost her life. Will lost a sister -- and lost faith in himself.

But then Will starts writing letters to Wenny. He tells her all about the secret of his near-death experience, and the troubles he's having at home. Some letters are funny. Some letters are harsh. And when read together, they tell the story of a boy who finds a way to move past death and learns how to live again....

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Wenny Has Wings By Janet Lee Carey Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Carey (*Molly's Fire*) brings a new approach to a familiar story line in this often heartrending novel, conveyed as a series of letters written by 11-year-old Will to his younger sister, who was killed in an accident that Will only barely survived. Will begins by relating his near-death experience and the peace he felt when he and Wenny were zooming around up there in that bright light. But Will's attempts to talk about that experience are waylaid by misunderstandings with his parents and by his father's deepening depression. As he tries to deal with the loss, grief and guilt with being stuck down here... on the outside of heaven Will also feels comforted by his certainty of Wenny's happy afterlife. While Carey sometimes strikes an overly sentimental chord, her characterizations are generally precise and poignant in their accuracy. For example, Will teams up with a classmate to try contacting Wenny via séances and helium balloons; elsewhere, he doesn't understand why his mother gets so upset when he bakes a cake for Wenny's birthday. The unusual trim size (5" x 6.5") may help attract readers attention, and the intriguing and well-developed premise will likely sustain it. Ages 8-12.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 4-6 Will North, 11, is in the hospital recuperating from an accident in which his little sister was killed. While still in the emergency room, he sees her flying free and happy in the sky, but returns to his body after seeing his parents' grief. He cannot speak to them about his survivor's guilt, his anger at his sister for dying, or his near-death experience. His father in particular has great difficulty in coping with his loss, eventually leaving the family in order to sort things out. Mr. James, a church youth leader, gives Will a notebook in which to write his feelings and the boy decides to write letters to Wenny, telling her what is going on. Through friendship with his good-natured hospital roommate and the patient, nonjudgmental Mr. James, Will works through the stages of grief and begins healing. The ending is hopeful, with the entire family enrolled in counseling. This book is a useful meditation on death and guilt, particularly for letting children know that adults may have difficulty in dealing with their emotions. Although Will can be a bit disingenuous and the other characters are not fully fleshed out, this novel's unusual focus on near-death experiences should appeal to some readers. -B. Allison Gray, South Country Library, Bellport, NY

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-7. Will North and his seven-year-old sister, Wenny, were crossing the street when a truck's brakes failed. Both of them died, but the doctor brought Will back. Now he must deal with the loss of his sister and his drastically changed parents, who barely acknowledge one another and find it difficult to deal with his survival. Will is sure he knows the reason why, but readers won't find out until the conclusion, which is intriguing but rushed. Until then, Carey provides an interesting take on a fresh topic--children who have had near-death experiences. Will tells his story in a series of letters to Wenny. He blames himself for not being able to protect her, and he's angry with her for leaving him alone. There are some problems with the narrative: Will can sound both older and younger than his 11 years, and obvious information, like the name of their dog, is sometimes tucked awkwardly into the text. Yet despite the many books on death, this one stands apart--for its particularly good job of illuminating the sibling relationship and its unique capturing of the phenomenon of heading into the light. *Ilene Cooper*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Theresa Walker:

Hey guys, do you would like to finds a new book to read? May be the book with the subject Wenny Has Wings suitable to you? Typically the book was written by renowned writer in this era. Often the book untitled Wenny Has Wings is a single of several books which everyone read now. This specific book was inspired many men and women in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new dimension that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their strategy in the simple way, consequently all of people can easily to be aware of the core of this book. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world on this book.

Patricia Hooper:

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Dwight McBride:

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