

THE HUNT FOR THE NIGHTINGALE

Sarah Ann Juckes * Sharon King-Chai

Fiction | 978-1-68464-947-1 | Ages 9+ | Paperback | 5 x 7.75 | 272 pp | \$8.99 | LOC: 2023950967

Missing both the absent nightingale and his adored sister, Rosie, Jasper sets out alone on a walk to find them both—discovering nature, friendship ... and healing.



BEST BOOKS LIST, 2024
Kirkus Reviews

- Poignant and heartfelt with action, adventure, bits of mystery, and flashes of humor.
- Gently balances themes of grief and loss with those of the natural world, kindness, acceptance, hope, and love.
- Sensitive depiction of anxiety disorder.
- Memorable, realistic characters.
- Encourages empathy and engagement with nature.
- Springboard for lessons on birds, maps.

Working out where I am right now is easy, because I'm in the tree in the field behind our house. It's tall, but has branches laddering up it so we can climb really high. And there's a flat branch in the middle like a bench hanging in midair.

Every spring, since always, Rosie and I have sat here together. And we've closed our eyes, held on tight and listened to the nightingale sing in the inky dusk – its *chatter-chatter* splattering against the dark sky like it's a page in an art book.

But the sun is all the way down now. And there's no Rosie next to me. There's no nightingale to listen to. All I can hear is silence.



BIRD FACT #2

A group of nightingales is called a "watch"

"Mum? Where's Rosie?"

I call to Mum through the door of the study, and she comes out of the dark, squinting. She looks at me and rubs her eyes. "Jasper? What are you still doing up? Go to bed, honey – your dad and I are a little busy at the moment."

I step back, because I know I'm not supposed to

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to find Rosie, the stomach-aching all this week feels like it's going to be a long one. I go and fetch the pot of money that I go food shopping, and take ten or taking money, because only last night money was tight and we might be, which is why they work all the day – nut bars for adventurers – so to stay here. But maybe if I use it with it for Rosie and me when I'll make it okay.

ool books and my pencil case out. I'll fill it up with everything I think I'm gonna use. I'm prepared, I make a list:

Wilderness survival tools

18

dy-nut bars. A banana. (I bar).

18

A microfibre towel because Dad says you always need a towel.

Money

My phone

Clean socks

A wind-up flashlight

A whistle for emergencies

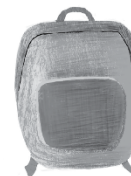
My walking boots, which are the shoes

that are okay to get muddy.

A coat, even though it's quite sunny.

Sunscreen

A sun hat



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Kane Miller
EDC PUBLISHING

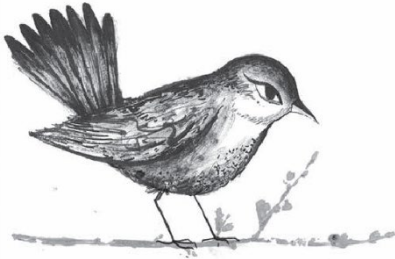
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Additional Information

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Physical journey as a metaphor for Jasper's emotional one.

Offers realistic examples of positive responses to loss.

Diversity depicted in characters' ethnicities, ages, abilities.

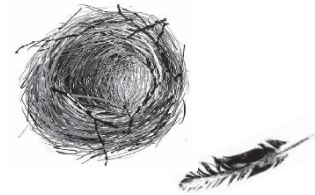
Suffused with love and respect for nature.

Explores family dynamics, communication.

Starred reviews from Kirkus and School Library Journal!

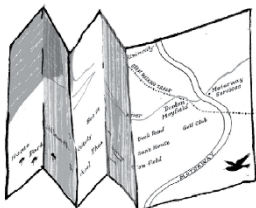
- **Rich with topics for discussion and homeschool/classroom activities:**

- Discuss personal experiences with loss
- Address the nature of anxiety and panic attacks
- Examine Jasper's decision-making throughout the story
- Assess how the various characters help Jasper
- Discuss metaphor and its use in this book
- Consider what effect the natural world may have on human emotional well-being
- Explore the birds in your own environment by field study and/or research



- **For the customer who likes:**

- *The Night Animals*
Sarah Ann Jukes * Sharon King-Chai * 64-948-8
- *Epic Historic Adventures:*
A Great Escape
Felice Arena * 64-539-8
- *How to Make a Movie in 12 Days*
Fiona Hardy * 64-630-2



Review Praise

"A beautifully written novel, pervaded with bittersweet and complex internal conflict." – *Kirkus Reviews*, **STARRED**

"Filled with beautiful illustrations and bird facts, this moving book addresses the complexities of sudden death for middle grade readers who will be drawn to the heartfelt characters and adventure plot." – *School Library Journal*, **STARRED**

"Jukes writes perceptively about mental health and the grieving process. Interspersed bird facts ... and frequent black-line drawings will appeal to readers..." – *Booklist*