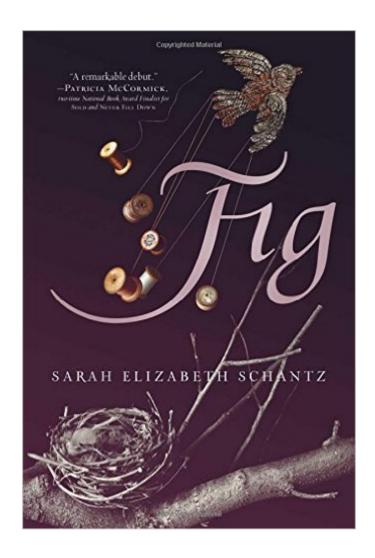
The book was found

Fig





Synopsis

An NPR Best Book of 2015 Love and sacrifice intertwine in this brilliant debut of rare beauty about a girl dealing with her motherâ ™s schizophrenia and her own mental illness.Figâ ™s world lies somewhere between reality and fantasy. But as she watches Mama slowly come undone, it becomes hard to tell what is real and what is not, what is fun and what is frightening. To save Mama, Fig begins a fierce battle to bring her back. She knows that her daily sacrifices, like not touching metal one day or avoiding water the next, are the only way to cure Mama. The problem is that in the process of a daily sacrifice, Fig begins to lose herself as well, increasingly isolating herself from her classmates and engaging in self-destructive behavior that only further sets her apart. Spanning the course of Figâ ™s childhood from age six to nineteen, this deeply provocative novel is more than a portrait of a mother, a daughter, and the struggle that comes with all-consuming love. It is an acutely honest and often painful portrayal of life with mental illness and the lengths to which a young woman must go to handle the ordealsâ "real or imaginaryâ "thrown her way.

Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Margaret K. McElderry Books; Reprint edition (March 29, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481423592

ISBN-13: 978-1481423595

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (39 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #168,126 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #107 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Depression & Mental Illness #157 in Books >

Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Parents #542 in Books > Teens

> Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Being a Teen

Customer Reviews

Figâ ÂTMs life starts to fall apart when she is six years old. Her mother --- a beautiful, fierce and independent woman --- has a schizophrenic episode and attempts to kill herself. After this, nothing is the same. Already an outsider at school, word about her mother and Figâ ÂTMs own actions prevent her from gaining any close friends. Figâ ÂTMs relationships at home also begin to

disintegrate. Unable to understand his own daughter, FigA¢Â ÂTMs father slowly becomes estranged from her, and Figâ Â™s overbearing grandmother cares only about turning her into a respectable young lady. Only Sissy Baxter, a girl in her class that works at a flower shop, and her uncle, Billy, provide Fig with any support as she watches the mother she once knew disappear. Over the next 11 years, Fig is determined to save her mother. At first, Fig believes that her mother will be cured if she can complete a list of ordeals. As Fig completes one ordeal after another, she begins to further distance herself from others around her. When her mother grows worse, Fig becomes self-destructive. The only thing that makes Fig feel like she is in control is picking --- tearing away old scabs and creating fresh wounds. After an accident with her grandmother, picking gives way to something much more dangerous. With the help of her uncle, Fig begins to attempt to heal herself, along with her mother. Thoughtful and moving, FIG is a dynamic novel that will have readers completely hooked from page one. Debut author Sarah Elizabeth Schantz does a great job providing an honest portrayal into life with mental illnesses and the lengths some will go for the ones they love. Told over FigA¢Â ÂTMs life from ages 6 to 19, the novel details FigA¢Â ÂTMs physical and emotional journey and the sacrifices she makes for her mother. The story is beautifully told with vivid and poetic language, and the reader feels pulled into Figâ Â™s world and her quest to cure her mother. Schantz does an excellent job of shaping the relationship between Fig and her mother and making the audience care deeply about them. FigA¢Â ÂTMs unwavering love for her mother is awe-inspiring and, at times, heartbreaking. Even when she is just a child, Fig is willing to give up anything to have her mom be better again. The other characters are also a strong point for FIG. Billy, Figâ Â™s uncle, is a point of hope throughout the novel, always willing to support Fig. Sissy Baxter is also an interesting character, as her friendship with Fig consists entirely of the two girls sending each other messages through flowers. Completely human, the characters of FIG will have readers invested in the novel until the last page. While I loved both the story and the characters, I felt that the novel ended too soon. I wanted to know what happened to Fig and her family and the rest of the characters. Hopefully, however, this means that we will be seeing more from Schantz soon.Reviewed by Chevenne C.

 \mathring{A} ¢ \mathring{A} \mathring{A} eFig \mathring{A} ¢ \mathring{A} is an extraordinarily sensitive and perceptive novel. Sarah Elizabeth Schrantz treats the impact of mental illness on an entire family, their relationships and their resulting coping mechanisms realistically, without rendering judgment and without making excuses. \mathring{A} ¢ \mathring{A} \mathring{A} eFig \mathring{A} ¢ \mathring{A} is a character who will make an immediate impression on you and on your emotions. "Fig" is a novel that may be unforgettable. At the age of six, Fiona Johnson -

 \tilde{A} ¢ \hat{A} \hat{A} \hat{A} Fig \tilde{A} ¢ \hat{A} \hat{A} with â ÂœÃ¢Â Â| an incredibly high IQ â Â|â Â•, â ÂœFigâ Â• is still a child; her level of maturity does not always match her intellectual level. Figâ ÂTMs mother Annie suffers from schizophrenia; the condition seems to be hereditary, having symptoms that first manifest during the individualâ Â™s nineteenth year. Even at the tender age of six, â ÂœFigâ Â• understands her mother is not like other mothers. In one passage as she talks about sounding out words she does so â ÂœÃ¢Â Â|because â Â|doing this will make Mama be a mother â Â|Ā¢Â Â• Mamaâ Â™s response to many of Figâ Â™s requests is often â ÂœÃ¢Â Â|Maybe tomorrow â Â|â Â• To a child, this becomes a promise of â Âœnormalâ Â•, but it is only a promise. Her father, a sensible, responsible man, continues to care for Annie and to share the household responsibilities with â ÂœFigâ Â• without recognizing that â ÂœFigĀ¢Â Â• has no traditional childhood. Her Gran is a cold, distant woman who is more concerned with social graces and the neighbors $\tilde{A}\phi\hat{A}$ \hat{A}^{TM} perception of Annie $\tilde{A}\phi\hat{A}$ \hat{A}^{TM} s behavior than with Fig $\tilde{A}\phi\hat{A}$ \hat{A}^{TM} s well being. Only her Uncle Billy, the Johnson familyâ Â™s one-time black sheep, understands how different Figâ Â™s life is from her peers and tries to provide some balance in her life. The first person narrative strengthens â ÂœFigâ Â• immeasurably. Through the tone and concerns she expresses, the reader begins to understand the desperation of a child whose life is not normal, but who longs for a life that is. As â ÂœFigâ Â• matures â Â" her story covers the ages from six to nineteen â Â" her narrative becomes more adult and more pragmatic. Yet, the bewildered child continues to express her fears and concerns, acting out and at times, hurting herself. â ÂœFigâ Â• imagines Little Red Riding Hood asking her â ÂœÃ¢Â Â| Why did you cut me out â Â| I didnâ ÂTMt want to be saved â Â|â Â• To which â ÂœFigâ Â• wants to tell her â ÂœÃ¢Â Â|l didnâ Â™t ask to be born â Â|â Â• Mama believes rituals are important; this will affect \$\tilde{A}\varphi\tilde{A}\tilde{A}\tilde{\tilde{C}}\tilde{A}\varphi\tilde{A}\t ritualize various behaviors in order to exert control over the chaos that is her life. When â ÂœFigâ Â• constructs her â ÂœCalendar of Ordealsâ Â•, acts of contrition that she must perform in order to help Mama, she is unconsciously mimicking medieval Europeâ Â™s trial by ordeal in which God performs a miracle on behalf of the accused, thus proving their innocence. For "Fig", the miracle would be Mama recovering and becoming the mother â ÂœFigâ Â• dreams of having. This miracle would proclaim her innocence for and absolve her of the guilt she feels as she blames her own birth for Mama's problems. Realizing that some of her behaviors mirror her motherâ ÂTMs bizarre actions, â ÂœFigâ Â• subtly expresses her fear of schizophrenia affecting her â ÂœÃ¢Â Â|I am semi-Mama â Â|â Â•In addition to the

carefully drawn portraits of the mentally ill and their affected family members, Sarah Elizabeth Schrantz paints exquisite word pictures of the landscape and household settings. Contrasts and comparisons are vivid; one can effortlessly visualize each scene. The use of a dictionary-style definition at the beginning of each chapter emphasizes Figâ ÂTMs intellect and curiosity; this is also a means of reminding the reader that â ÂœFigâ Â• and Annie shared a special connection through the beauty of words.â ÂœFigâ Â• is a moving, emotion-laden novel that addresses the effect of mental illness on the family as well as on the affected individual. Categorized as â ÂœTeen & Young Adultâ Â•, this novel does contain some scenes and details of some of the charactersâ ÂTM actions that may be more intense than younger teens are ready to handle. Discerning adult readers who value fine writing and a relevant basis for a novelâ ÂTMs theme will find this book a worthwhile read. Sarah Elizabeth Schrantz has written a novel that is unforgettable and created a character that will haunt you long after you reach the last page of â ÂœFigâ Â•.

Download to continue reading...

Sweet Middle East: Classic Recipes, from Baklava to Fig Ice Cream the girl & the fig cookbook: More than 100 Recipes from the Acclaimed California Wine Country Restaurant Fig

Dmca