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Eagle Kite



Synopsis

A poignant tale traces a boy's difficult and painful struggle to come to terms with his father's homosexuality and AIDS, before it is too late. Reprint. AB. SLJ. H. PW.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Liam contends with a web of family secrets and lies when his father reveals he has AIDS. In a boxed review, PW said, "Fox's prose is fraught with perception.... Readers cannot help but be deeply affected." Ages 12-up. (Oct.) rCopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 8-12?Liam, a high school freshman, learns that his father is dying of AIDS. Suddenly, his comfortable family is in pieces, and his father has gone to live in a seashore cottage two hours from the family's city apartment. Distanced from both parents by secrets each of them seems compelled to keep, Liam remembers having seen his father embrace a young man years before?a friend, his father had said. In the remainder of the book, Liam and his parents wrestle with truths that encompass not just disappointment and betrayal, but intense love. This is far more than a problem novel. AIDS is integral to the plot, the issue is handled well, and the character who has AIDS is portayed sympathetically, but the book's scope is broader than that. It is a subtly textured exploration of the emotions of grief that will appeal to the same young people drawn to Mollie Hunter's *A Sound of Chariots* (HarperCollins, 1972) and Cynthia Rylant's *Missing May* (Orchard,

1992). Dramatic tension is palpable, sustained in part by a dazed, timeless quality in Liam's slow reckoning with loss. The characters are neither idealized nor demonized, and Fox's take on Liam as a confused, seethingly angry, tight-lipped, surreptitiously tender teenager has the ring of authenticity. Some in the target audience may find the action too slow or the mood too dark, but those who persevere will be rewarded by the novel's truthfulness. ?Claudia Morrow, Berkeley Public Library, CA Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

The Eagle Kite is a book that is about a boy who is about 10 but by the time the book is finished is a teenage. He lives with his mom and dad and is an only child. One day he learns that his dad is diagnosed with Aids. His Mom told him that his dad received the disease from a blood transfusion but Liam knows the real truth. In the book, he flashes back to the time when he witnessed his dad embracing another man, Geoff. Liam goes through years of keeping this a secret from everyone, even his own family. He doesn't want any of his friends to know about his dad. His dad moves away and leaves his mom and Liam to deal with many emotions. His dad's "friend" dies and Liam goes to visit his dad over Thanksgiving break. While he is visiting Liam realizes that his dad has put a lot of effort and research into planning a trip for them to Ireland. Liam knows that his dad is getting weaker and probably will never be able to make the trip. He finally opens up to his dad and tells him he knows the truth about his disease and how he got AIDS. His dad's sister, Mary, has never come to terms with her brother's illness and when the phone call comes that his dad is close to death, she fails to tell them. This book deals with a family relationship that has been pulled apart by secrets, mistrust and anger. You'll need to read the book to see if Liam makes it to the hospital before his dad dies and if his Aunt Mary ever faces up to the fact that her brother is dying from AIDS. I liked this book because it deals with a real life situation. I would probably feel the same way as Liam does about his dad having AIDS and not want my friends to know. I give this book a 4 star rating.

When I first heard of this book I was sincerely interested. But when I read it- it was everything, even more than what I hoped for. It was descriptive, honest, and completely heart wrenching. Liam's father had AIDs. Liam was told it came from bad Blood Tranfusions. Liam didn't agree with this. Liam remembered the day he saw his father on the beach. He was not alone. In fact, he was embracing someone. But yet, not just any someone. Liams father was embracing a man. Liam could not forget about this. It stayed inside him, and in my opinion was eating him alive, just like AIDs was eating his father. Liam found the courage to forgive his father. That really touched me. Because, I know the

exact feeling of having to have your family angry and hurt by you, but then to have them except and forgive you. The Eagle Kite was definitely a book all families should read. I also think it would be wonderful inspiration for families who are having problems that include a gay person in the family. The ending was ironic, but I shouldn't give it away for the people who haven't read it. Enjoy!

The only problem with this book is that it is too short. Paula Fox manages to paint a picture of our society within the microcosm of a family that reflects the good and bad attitudes many otherwise good people have regarding gays and AIDS. Don't be put off by any warnings. The people, both young and old, who have trouble with the book reflect more of their own personal problems in dealing with the subject matter. After speaking to several middle school students who found the book at a recent book fair, I discovered that they were able to empathize with Liam, the hero of the story. The only thing they couldn't understand is why Liam's mother and aunt behaved the way they did. They could see in the adults' attempts to protect the boy that they were hurting him more than helping him. This is a book that should be a welcome addition to any classroom library. It would even make an excellent text on which to base a series of lessons on tolerance and acceptance. "The Eagle Kite" soars.

Paula Fox has tackled a sensitive topic in *The Eagle Kite* and has handled it with much feeling and warmth. It is the story of Liam and his father who had secrets and now has AIDS. It could be their last chance to repair any damage done to their relationship. It is a short little book for teenagers but it packs quite an emotional wallop but in a sweetly subtle and quiet manner. This book will be a nice revelation for any teenager dealing with relationship issues with their parents. It is a look at dealing honestly with one's parents and one's children and building a relationship through that honesty whatever it reveals. It is a sad, touching story.

Eagle kite. By Paula Fox was about a ten year old boy named Liam. Liam smashed and buried his Eagle Kite that his father had given him. It was the day that he saw his father on the beach with someone else. Liam has kept that memory for three years. Now Liam's mother knows that his is sick from a blood transfusion. Liam knows the truth about what had happened to his father. He also knows how his father has betrayed them ever since. Liam and his mother know that there is nothing they can do and his father is soon to die.

A Review by Jon Clegg The story begins with a young boy named Liam. He is currently in school

and is living with his mother in a small apartment near a burned down church. One day he looks out his window to notice there is a bum outside with a sign saying he needs money he's got AIDS. The story goes into his father and how he's fighting Aids. I didn't enjoy reading this story at all and it's not common for me to say that because I am very picky when it comes to books I can not enjoy almost any of the books because they aren't on a topic I enjoy. It wasn't at all adventurous or outgoing it was extremely boring I caught myself sleeping while reading it at many points. The main character has some pretty dumb problems that everyone has but he can't deal with them. I think it was a waste of ink and paper! The first part of the book wasn't even necessary when he meets the homeless person with aids. It didn't really blend into the story that well. I would not recommend this book to anyone it wasn't even fun to read I should have never picked it up off the shelf it is a big waste of everything in the world that was put into it!

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