

Some of the many reviews for *Swallowed by a Secret*

A contemporary and realistic tale with a little dash of magical realism thrown in, this is a somewhat serious and emotive story that deals with grief, betrayal, secrets and other social issues for young people who have lost a parent. Author Risa Nyman has created a beautiful and heartfelt tale with a lot of emotional punch, and one from which both middle grade and young adult readers will be able to learn. The plot itself is well crafted to produce a kind of sleuth/mystery narrative as the tale progresses, but the real gems in this highly literary novel are its characters and their personal growth and development. I especially loved the relationship between Rocky and Olive; their support and understanding of one another lend a supportive hand right out of the novel and into the hearts of kids who could be going through the same issues.

~Reader's Favorite

"Nyman's engaging tale features two immensely likable characters in Rocky and Olive. With Rocky's goal established early, the story moves at a steady clip. Sensational tween characters propel this lighthearted but sentimental tale."

~Kirkus Reviews

I got very little sleep last night because of this book. I just wanted to start it so that when I got up this morning I could jump in having already begun. NOPE, I literally read the whole thing, I could not put it down. This is my first ever read by this author, and I think my first middle grade book ever, I'd have to double check that but I am telling you right now. Trust me on this, I don't care how old you are this was an outstanding book. The writing was phenomenal which is why I couldn't put it down. Then I fell asleep sniffing because I bawled at the end.

~ Kirchersmiles

Swallowed by a Secret is a fantastic novel that deals with a very heavy subject. I believe it could be helpful to millions of teens around the world to read about Rocky's adventure and what he discovers. Accepting things about those we love can be hard, but in the end, Rocky knows his father loved him and that he was great person. Full of teen angst over normal things like a new school, all the way up to adjusting to life without his father, Rocky is a wonderfully developed character. His friendship with Olive is fun, and shows what a true friend should be. I loved this story! 5/5 Stars!

~Kayla

Twelve-year-old Rocky has just lost his Dad and is starting over at a new school in a new home. He overhears his mom talking about his Dad's death and how she hasn't told him the truth about the details. Rocky makes it his mission to get to the truth. He enlists new friends to help him along the way and all these characters are amazing in their own right.

This one covers so many important topics with some great messages too. Did I cry? Yes, yes I did. I didn't see this coming at all but loved every page.

Rocky, Olive and Max stole my heart. It's a heartbreaking - feel good, sad, happy, amazing middle grade (tween) read. I recommend this one for everyone though. Really. This ticks all the boxes. ✓✓

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~ladybug_shirls Bookstagrammer