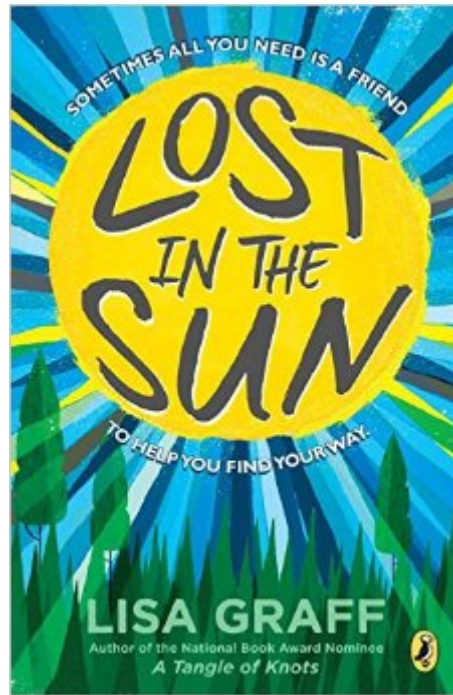


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# Lost In The Sun



## Synopsis

From the author of *A Tangle of Knots* and *Absolutely Almost*, a touching story about a boy who won't let one tragic accident define him. Everyone says that middle school is awful, but Trent knows nothing could be worse than the year he had in fifth grade, when a freak accident on Cedar Lake left one kid dead, and Trent with a brain full of terrible thoughts he can't get rid of. Trent's pretty positive the entire disaster was his fault, so for him middle school feels like a fresh start, a chance to prove to everyone that he's not the horrible screw-up they seem to think he is. If only Trent could make that fresh start happen. It isn't until Trent gets caught up in the whirlwind that is Fallon Little—the girl with the mysterious scar across her face—that things begin to change. Because fresh starts aren't always easy. Even in baseball, when a fly ball gets lost in the sun, you have to remember to shift your position to find it. Praise for *Lost in the Sun*: *AA Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year! "Graff writes with stunning insight [and] consistently demonstrates why character-driven novels can live from generation to generation."--Kirkus Reviews **STARRED** "Graff creates layered, vulnerable characters that are worth getting to know."--Booklist **STARRED** "[A]n ambitious and gracefully executed story."--Publishers Weekly **STARRED** "Weighty matters deftly handled with humor and grace will give this book wide appeal."--School Library Journal **STARRED** "Characterization is thoughtful."--BCCB **STARRED** In *Lost in the Sun*, Trent decides that he will speak the truth: that pain and anger and loss are not the final words, that goodness can find us after all—even when we hide from it. This is a novel that speaks powerfully, honestly, almost shockingly about our human pain and our human redemption. This book will change you. "Gary Schmidt, two-time Newbery Honor-winning author of *The Wednesday Wars* and *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* Lisa Graff crafts a compelling story about a boy touched with tragedy and the world of people he cares about. And like all the best stories, it ends at a new beginning." Richard Peck, Newbery Award-winning author of *A Year Down Yonder* and *A Long Way From Chicago* Lisa Graff's Awards and Reviews: Lisa Graff's books have been named to 30 state award lists, and *A Tangle of Knots* was long-listed for the National Book Award. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

LOST IN THE SUN by Lisa Graff is a powerful work of realistic fiction focusing on a boy's struggle to move on after a traumatic experience. Trent is tormented by a death for which he feels responsible. His emotional agony causes him to rebel and angrily lash out at his family and friends. Although his parents, teachers, and a special friend try to help, it takes time for Trent to slowly learn to love others again and ultimately himself. Graff's complex characters are at the core of this authentic story. Trent's anguish is skillfully played out in everyday situations that spiral out of control. From his caring teacher to his steadfast friend, Graff does an outstanding job inventing compassion characters who support Trent in his darkest moments. Librarians will find this heart wrenching book to be popular with youth who enjoy character-driven stories. Although written for the middle grades, young adults will be drawn to the themes and complex emotions. It's rare to find an emotionally charged book written from a boy's perspective, so use this novel to engage young men in realistic fiction. Learn more about the author at <http://www.lisagraff.com/>. Published by Philomel Books, Penguin Young Readers in May 26, 2015.

Thoughts: [another Sweet Sixteen book, by the way. I have to remember to add a Category for that :)]. The first book people started actually, thoroughly talking about at our school was Lost in the Sun. It's SO sad! • my classmates would say. It's such an amazing, sweet story! • I cried! • some kids would even announce. Lost in the Sun seemed all the rage, I thought, so I felt like I should pick it up and see what all the buzz was about. Lost in the Sun was sad. I didn't cry, though. I was hoping I would cry. Fish in a Tree, of all things, made me cry, so I was surprised that I didn't shed at least one tear in this book. When I thought about it, I realized the story didn't feel that special, or different, to me. I honestly sometimes forgot about the trauma Trent, the main character,

had gone through (abusive father, divorced parents, accidentally killing a boy with a hockey puck in a freak accident). This book felt like just another realistic fiction about going through Middle School to me - a heavy one, nonetheless, but still a pretty generic one. I realized that this was because it wasn't impactful or deep or heart wrenching - at least to me. I didn't really connect with it, and the writing felt slow. I did actually like Fallon Little, who ends up being Trent's sort-of friend, but her story didn't really feel that important, even though it ended up being the climax, if there even was one. That was another problem. THERE WAS NO CLIMAX! The book just went on and on, almost like a personal narrative of every second of your life, without any ups or downs. Now, don't get me wrong, none of these things make the book bad. I just didn't like it as much as I thought I would. In fact, it pretty much just came down to having high expectations, and being disappointed. I would still recommend it, but I think it might appeal a little more to boys, versus *The Thing About Jellyfish*, which is a similar story, except with a female protagonist.

In the winter of his fifth grade year Trent Zimmerman accidentally hit Jared Richards in the chest with a hockey puck. On anyone else it would have left a bruise, but Jared had a heart defect, and the blow was fatal. Now it's fall and Trent is entering sixth grade with a load of guilt and a chip on his shoulder. He's pretty sure everyone hates him, but no one could possibly hate him as much as he hates himself. He takes his anger out on everyone: his teachers, dad and stepmom, and his former best friend. When Fallon Little, the girl whose mysterious scar bisects her face, insists on hanging out with him, Trent begins to change for the better. Lisa Graff does a fantastic job of capturing the thoughts and actions of a boy consumed by guilt and anger. For me, she did her job too well. Maybe it's because I'm a former teacher, but Trent irritated the heck out of me for nearly three quarters of the novel. He's rude, obnoxious, and mean. By far the most likable character is Fallon who relentlessly ignores teasing and unkind comments and helps Trent become the decent human being he was meant to be.

I really enjoyed this book, I love a book that can appeal to students and adults. I am a teacher, and this book reminded me how important my job is. It is always said that the kids who don't deserve our love need it the most. I loved seeing the teachers in this book apply that idea with such grace. This summer as I read through tons of books for my classroom I am looking for read alouds that can teach some social emotion skills and learning. This is such a book, I can't wait to share it with my students.

Trent was part of a terrible accident that ended tragically, and has changed him. Then a mysterious classmate, Fallon, who has her own demons to deal with, befriends him, and together, they begin a journey of healing. The characters are believable and likeable, and you find yourself rooting for them throughout their story. A wonderful read for grades 5 and up.

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