



Raymie Nightingale

By Kate DiCamillo

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A 2016 National Book Award Finalist!

Two-time Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo returns to her roots with a moving, masterful story of an unforgettable summer friendship.

Raymie Clarke has come to realize that everything, absolutely everything, depends on her. And she has a plan. If Raymie can win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, then her father, who left town two days ago with a dental hygienist, will see Raymie's picture in the paper and (maybe) come home. To win, not only does Raymie have to do good deeds and learn how to twirl a baton; she also has to contend with the wispy, frequently fainting Louisiana Elefante, who has a show-business background, and the fiery, stubborn Beverly Tapinski, who's determined to sabotage the contest. But as the competition approaches, loneliness, loss, and unanswerable questions draw the three girls into an unlikely friendship — and challenge each of them to come to the rescue in unexpected ways.

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Raymie Nightingale By Kate DiCamillo Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4-7-Raymie Clarke has a plan. Her father has run off with a dental hygienist without a word, but Raymie is certain that if she wins the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, her father will see her picture in the newspaper and return. To this end, she begins baton-twirling classes with two other girls, Louisiana Elefante and Beverly Tapinski. Both girls have their own reasons for entering the competition: Louisiana needs the prize money, and Beverly wants to sabotage the event. While they never actually learn to twirl, the classes are nevertheless invaluable because of the unlikely friendship the girls form. All three have lost people close to them, and each girl deals with her loss in different ways. With each small adventure, whether it's finding a lost book or rescuing a beloved pet, their friendship grows into an undeniable bond. In short, precisely crafted chapters, DiCamillo once again demonstrates her ability to create unique characters that touch readers' hearts. Raymie, in particular, is observant, thoughtful, and sensitive as she struggles to make sense of the world around her. Her story unfolds in uncomplicated prose, even as the themes explored are complex. Surrounded by the fully realized Louisiana and Beverly, not to mention the adults in her town, Raymie searches for meaning, a search that will resonate with readers. VERDICT Poignant, insightful, and ultimately uplifting.-Amanda Raklovits, Champaign Public Library, ILα(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Review

With its short, vibrant chapters and clear, gentle prose, this triumphant and necessary book conjures the enchantments of childhood without shying away from the fraught realities of abandonment, abuse and neglect...Twirling a baton requires flair and confidence, in addition to an understanding that the baton is always balanced just a tiny bit off-center. There is something wonderfully off-balance, too, about DiCamillo's storytelling. It allows her characters to sparkle and soar. DiCamillo has called this novel, based partly on her own fatherless Florida childhood, "the absolutely true story of my heart." What a beautiful and generous heart it is.

—The New York Times Book Review

As in her previous award-winning books, DiCamillo once again shows that life's underlying sadnesses can also be studded with hope and humor, and does it in a way so true that children will understand it in their bones. And that's why she's Kate the Great.

—Booklist (starred review)

DiCamillo's third-person narrative is written in simple words, few exceeding three syllables, yet somehow such modest prose carries the weight of deep meditations on life, death, the soul, friendship, and the meaning of life without ever seeming heavy, and there's even a miracle to boot. Readers will approach the tense and dramatic conclusion and realize how much each word matters. Raymie may not find answers to why the world exists or how the world works, but she can hold onto friends and begin to see more clearly the world as it is...Once again, DiCamillo demonstrates the power of simple words in a beautiful and wise tale.

—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

With extraordinary skill, two-time Newbery Medalist DiCamillo traces the girls' growing trust in each other while using understated confessionals and subtly expressed yearnings to show how tragedies have affected each of them. The book culminates with a daring cat-rescue mission: fraught with adventure, danger, and a miracle or two, the escapade reveals how love and compassion can overcome even the highest hurdles.

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

The girls don't form an immediate bond, but their initial association of convenience eventually turns into a friendship of understanding and fierce loyalty. After christening the trio the Three Rancheros, Louisiana delivers these prescient words: "We'll rescue each other." And in a beautifully layered set of adventures, they do. The limited third-person narration gives Raymie her distinctive voice and spot-on pre-adolescent perspective of a young girl trying to make sense of the world around her. Here DiCamillo returns—triumphantly—to her *Winn-Dixie* roots.

—The Horn Book (starred review)

In short, precisely crafted chapters, DiCamillo once again demonstrates her ability to create unique characters that touch readers' hearts. Raymie, in particular, is observant, thoughtful, and sensitive as she struggles to make sense of the world around her. Her story unfolds in uncomplicated prose, even as the themes explored are complex. Surrounded by the fully realized Louisiana and Beverly, not to mention the adults in her town, Raymie searches for meaning, a search that will resonate with readers. Poignant, insightful, and ultimately uplifting.

—School Library Journal (starred review)

From start to finish, Raymie feels her soul alternately shrinking and expanding like an indecisive balloon as she and her new entourage navigate the waters of friendship and heartbreak, love and loss, life and death. Most of the characters in this fine, funny, meticulously crafted novel live life "wishing for things that are gone," but there's certainly no chance that Raymie's lovely and large soul will ever completely shrivel with a "Phhhhtttt."

—Shelf Awareness (starred review)

Although this story is fictional, DiCamillo describes it as the true story of her heart...DiCamillo does a wonderful job of allowing readers into the depths of Raymie's feelings and even into her soul. By the end of the book, readers feel like Raymie, Beverly, and Louisiana are true and lasting friends of their own. It is truly a heart-filled and heartfelt book.

—VOYA

Fans will recognize DiCamillo's unique wry voice as it gives readers vivid images, dizzying ideas, humor, heart-wrenching emotions, and gorgeous, gorgeous language. You all have something to look forward to this April, I promise.

—Huffington Post

DiCamillo writes with her usual easygoing delicacy; the portray- als of the girls are swift, telling, and gentle, with elliptical hints at Beverly's and especially Louisiana's homelife challenges (lack of money clearly limits Louisiana's diet)...While DiCamillo fans will certainly enjoy reading this on their own, it's also excellent classroom material, encouraging kids to stretch their decoding—and also to realize that even if you don't get the outcome you want, it's still possible to find closure.

—Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

It's an inspired choice, for surely this coming-of-age story is a fairy tale for our times. The young damsels in distress test their courage and rescue one another; and the book closes not with a conventional "happily ever after" but with a shared vision of the world as vast and yet intimately connected.

—Washington Post

DiCamillo, who has just ended her tenure as the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, understands that children can handle the tough stuff in fiction—after all, they have to handle problems like divorce, grief, abuse and poverty in real life. And a book like this can help. As Raymie's neighbor told her

before dying, "If you were in a hole that was deep enough and if it was daylight and you looked up at the sky from the very deep hole, you could see stars even though it was the middle of the day." For children looking up from their own deep holes, the Three Rancheros could be those stars.

—TIME Magazine

Kate DiCamillo seems always to write with an understanding heart and a gentle archness of tone...As the summer progresses, the girls find poignant points of commonality and a surprising comradeship in this wistful, tender, funny novel for readers ages 10 and older.

—The Wall Street Journal

Raymie Nightingale is filled with humor, poignancy, and life-sized lessons. It is predictably unpredictable: a hallmark of DiCamillo's brilliant writing.

—New York Journal of Books

...though this book is awash in personal tragedies, it's not a downer. It's tightly written and full of droll lines and, yes I admit it. It's meaningful. But the meaning you cull from this book is going to be different for every single reader. Whip smart and infinitely readable, this is DiCamillo at her best.

—A Fuse #8 Production (blog)

"Raymie" is fast and fleet — a crystalline ode to childhood friendship that shines as brightly as anything that DiCamillo has written.

—Chicago Tribune

DiCamillo...wryly captures the adventure and confusion of childhood with a gut-wrenching lack of sentimentality and a razor-sharp wit.

—Star Tribune

Kate DiCamillo shines once again with her latest somewhat autobiographical children's novel...Their adventures are fraught with conflict and humor, as they try to do good deeds, rescue animals, and even participate in some breaking and entering. Through their zany antics they realize some things are more important than winning a contest, and Raymie discovers happiness and friendship can exist despite unpleasant realities of life.

—School Library Connection

Kate DiCamillo is the author whose books I anticipate with the most delight. I read them over and over. In simple but elegant prose, with grace and great humor, she writes truthfully about the human experience but always with hope. *Raymie Nightingale is beautiful, a celebration of life, as are all her books.*

—Dean Koontz, bestselling author

Newbery winner DiCamillo at her best.

—People

"Modest" and "tour de force" don't usually go together, but they perfectly describe this quirky but melancholy coming-of-age novel.

—San Francisco Chronicle

"Raymie Nightingale" is striking for its portrait of 10-year-old Raymie Clarke, who hopes to win the contest and push her father, who has abandoned the family, to come home.

—Orlando Sentinel

While Raymie Nightingale is written for a middle-grade audience, it is a moving novel that can be enjoyed by readers of all ages.

—*Providence Journal*

It is an expertly layered and beautifully crafted story with not a wasted word or moment. The characters are living, breathing humans in whose struggles the reader becomes invested. And it's a novel that shimmers with hope at its close, even if that absent father never actually pulls through.

—*Kirkus Reviews (blog)*

Readers will once again be treated with a novel that is rich and important on multiple levels by the exceptional writer Kate DiCamillo.

—*Books to Borrow...Books to Buy (Kendal A. Rautzhan column)*

Everyone should read Raymie Nightingale by Kate DiCamillo. It's a classic tale of friendship, which we can all relate to.

—*On Our Minds (Scholastic blog)*

DiCamillo's original, loveable characters bring with them a hint of magic and an abundance of humanity and humor.

—*News-Gazette*

Two-time Newbery Award-winning author Kate DiCamillo has crafted a unique and deeply appealing character in Raymie, and young readers will love watching her finally find a degree of peace.

—*A Mighty Girl (blog)*

Kate DiCamillo featured promoting summer reading

—*Panorama Magazine*

About the Author

Kate DiCamillo is one of America's most beloved storytellers. She is the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and a two-time Newbery Medalist. Born in Philadelphia, she grew up in Florida and now lives in Minneapolis, where she faithfully writes two pages a day, five days a week.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Heather Snyder:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day every day to reading a book. The book Raymie Nightingale it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book possesses high quality.

Hilda Szymanski:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book specifically book entitled Raymie Nightingale your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a guide then become one application form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get prior to. The Raymie Nightingale giving you one more experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful info for your better life on this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Margaret Boyer:

Many people spending their time period by playing outside together with friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV the whole day. You can have new activity to spend your whole day by studying a book. Ugh, you think reading a book can definitely hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It all right you can have the e-book, taking everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like Raymie Nightingale which is getting the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's see.

Michael Vines:

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got students? We believe that that issue was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, All people has different hobby. So you know that little person such as reading or as reading become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important and book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update with regards to something by book. A substantial number of sorts of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is this Raymie Nightingale.

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