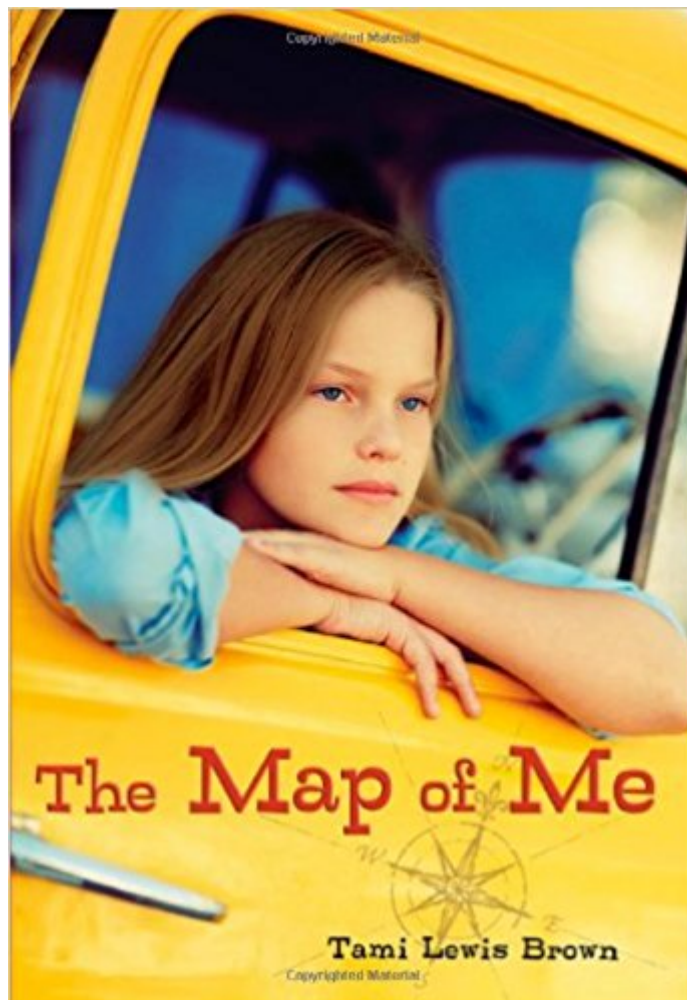


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The Map Of Me



Synopsis

The note Momma left on the fridge says only: "I HAVE TO GO." But go where? Twelve-year-old Margie is convinced that Momma's gone to the Rooster Romp at the International Poultry Hall of Fame, in search of additions to her precious flock of chicken memorabilia. And it's up to Margie to bring her home. So she commandeers her daddy's Faithful Ford, kidnaps her nine-year-old sister, Peep, and takes to the open road. As she navigates the back roads of Kentucky with smarty-pants Peep criticizing her every move, Margie also travels along the highways and byways of her heart, mapping a course to help understand Momma and herself.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 670L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR); 1 edition (August 30, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374356556

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Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.7 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #956,246 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #110 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways #2350 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect #2975 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

Brown's first novel, following her picture book debut, *Soar, Elinor!* (2010), combines pathos and humor for an emotionally resonant story. Publishers Weekly Character development is the strongest element in this short novel. Clever, annoying Peep, who is so smart she was 'shoved' to Margie's grade, works well as a foil to her stalwart, determined sister. The dialogue rings true and carries the story along. School Library Journal Slim gem of a novel...Brown's straightforward prose, short chapters, and engaging narrator are perfect for reluctant readers ages 9

to 12.â • â •Ingram

Tami Lewis Brown is the author of the picture book *Soar, Elinor!*, illustrated by François Roca. She holds an M.F.A. in writing for children from Vermont College and lives in Washington, D.C. *The Map of Me* is her first novel.

This book is great! The story has such a good message for my daughter (I read the book too, on her advice - and really loved it). It's a book everyone who's an older sibling can relate to and, for those who grew up in the country, it takes you back to your childhood. For those who don't know what a country life is like, this book describes it all - the quirkiness, the quaintness - and has a great lesson for kids and even adults, to top it off. I would highly recommend this book to any parent.

Margie drags her genius little sister, Peep, off to the International Poultry Hall of Fame in their dad's Faithful Ford in the hopes of bringing their Momma home. This quiet book is a sweet, well-written story of love and acceptance. A quick and enjoyable read.

When everyone in the world seems to misunderstand you and life is harder than it should how do you handle the abandonment of one of the only ones who supported you. Margie goes after her. One afternoon after a particularly hard day at school, that includes her little sister teasing her relentlessly, Margie comes home to a note on their chicken decorated fridge "I HAVE TO GO". Without the support of her father and with her sister tagging behind her she borrows her dad's prized truck and begins to search. What she discovers makes her own "The Map of Me" come to life. How many times can I say this? Middle school and that in between time is hard. It's one of those time periods I'm not looking forward to for my own kiddos. I yearn for them to have every bit the opposite experience as Margie did in *The Map of Me*. Hopefully with any luck they will feel that I'm someone they can depend on to support them and make home a place a refuge for them. In the very best outcome I'd hope they know how very proud I am and how much I value them for what they contribute to everyone they know. Unfortunately for Margie, she just didn't have that or so she believed. Can you even imagine having a genius nine year old sister join you during that time? A sister who points out every fault and mishap hoping that it will only make her look better, because she is obviously still only a nine year old emotionally speaking. In addition to this it's obvious from the few pages you see Margie's parents interact that there's obviously something not quite right. Her entire world is wrapped up in three people who she believes wish that she didn't exist or at least that

she'd be better or different. Who hasn't felt like that to a certain extent, especially during that age in life? It's this reason above all others that I feel young readers will connect with Margie instantly, because she "gets" them. Margie's mission to find the mother that abandoned her is nothing short of an adventure filled with page after page of self-realization. With every turn and place they encounter she questions who she is and why she's doing it. Her journey to discover who she is makes Margie's character so real. It's not a typical story where she goes from point A to point C and suddenly she's discovered who she is, but it's timed perfectly. Life is hard enough as a sixth grader to not have to deal with a genius sister and parents who don't seem to need each other any longer. When Margie's mom disappears one day her journey to find her leads her to her own personal discoveries about who she is and just what she wants her own "Map of Me" to be made up of. Tami Lewis Brown tells a perfectly timed fast past read that middle grade readers everywhere will connect with instantly. The Map of Me is a story about a girl who fades into the background until she has to take action and what happens from then on out is nothing short of an adventure. My original review was posted at [There's A Book](#).

When 12-year old Margie and her younger sister Peep come home from school one day to find their mom has left them, Margie decides that she must bring her back. She steals her father's car (after all, she'd driven before--in her daddy's lap, but still--driving is no harder than riding a bike) and heads for the place she's sure her mother is waiting and then everything can be as it was. I can't believe how much I loved this book. I could totally relate to Margie's feelings of being invisible and that her Dad only had time for the brilliant and adorable Peep. And while I cringed at the thought of a 12-year-old taking her little sister on a road trip, I loved Margie's courage and determination to take charge and not just roll over and take what life handed her. But even while you don't agree with her choices, Margie is a heroine you'll fall in love with and root for. Highly recommended for ages 8 and up.

Yearning to find her place in the world, sassy, twelve-year old Margie gets her chance when she and her little sister Peep come home to find their Momma's gone off. So starts a road trip where Margie not only comes to a new understanding of her family, but also to a new understanding of her place within that family. This novel is full of the kind of bravery and heart (and let's not forget chickens!) that will appeal to all readers and, as the language is fast-paced and the action faster, it will keep young readers turning pages to the satisfying ending.

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