



Wish Girl

By Nikki Loftin

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Wish Girl By Nikki Loftin

A dying girl gives a boy the strength to live in this lyrical novel that will break your heart and lift your spirit

Peter Stone's parents and siblings are extroverts, musicians, and yellers—and the louder they get, the less Peter talks, or even moves, until he practically fits his last name. When his family moves to the Texas Hill Country, though, Peter finds a tranquil, natural valley where he can, at last, hear himself think.

There, he meets a girl his age: Annie Blythe. Annie tells Peter she's a "wish girl." But Annie isn't just any wish girl; she's a "Make-A-Wish Girl." And in two weeks she will begin a dangerous treatment to try and stop her cancer from spreading. Left alone, the disease will kill her. But the treatment may cause serious, lasting damage to her brain.

Annie and Peter hatch a plan to escape into the valley, which they begin to think is magical. But the pair soon discovers that the valley—and life—may have other plans for them. And sometimes wishes come true in ways they would never expect.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–7—In this companion to *Nightingale's Nest* (Razorbill, 2014), 12-year-old Peter Stone's new home in rural Texas is completely unlike his previous life in San Antonio. Even in the quiet of the country, his family is too loud. They never stop to understand sensitive, introverted Peter. The boy soon ventures into the valley and meets the infuriatingly fascinating Annie, a self-proclaimed "wish girl." He wonders if she might be magical, like the mysterious valley. However, what she really means is "Make-a-Wish girl": Annie has cancer. Weaving in elements of magical realism, this modern story combines light fantasy elements with the harsh reality of Peter's life, including some harrowing past experiences with bullies and a period of dark depression and thoughts of self-harm. The fears and dreams of the characters unfold as they make difficult, sometimes life-changing decisions. The valley is a character, too, mysteriously directing animals and plants to help friends or hinder foes. Peter's first-person perspective is outshined by descriptions of feisty Annie, who dreams of becoming a world famous artist. Through the creation of site-specific environmental pieces, Annie teaches Peter about the transformative power of art and ephemeral beauty. Other themes include bullying and the value of listening. Peter knows the names and habits of many geographically specific flora and fauna, though it's never fully explained why a city boy has such extensive knowledge of natural science. Nevertheless, this is an intensely compelling story. VERDICT This emotional story will be loved by fans of *Nightingale's Nest*, as the plot structure, atmosphere, and characters are similar.—Amy Seto Musser, Denver Public Library

Review

Praise for *Wish Girl*:

* "A moving, mesmerizing story of wishing, listening and hope." --*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"I found hope and magic tucked gently into every page of *Wish Girl*. I wish every reader could have a friend like Annie." --Natalie Lloyd, author of *A Snicker of Magic*

"*Wish Girl* is a book full of beauty and truth. Its pages are filled with the emotion of first love and the energy of suspense." --Francisco Stork, author of *Marcelo in the Real World*

"*Wish Girl* is a book that knows *real* magic exists-- that art, nature, and true friendship have the power to save lives and transform the world. It's at once earthly and ethereal, heartbreakingly and hopefully. It dazzles." -Laurel Synder, author of *Bigger Than a Breadbox*

Praise for Nikki Loftin's *Nightingale's Nest*:

"It was the writing, of course, that struck my attention first. Loftin gives the book beautiful sequences filled with equally beautiful sentences. . . . As for the characters, there wasn't a person here that I couldn't recognize as real. I was quite taken with the fact that Loftin continually sidesteps a lot of the usual middle grade tropes. . . . Smart and beautiful by turns, *Nightingale's Nest* does one thing that few will contest. Once you've read it, you'll have a hard time getting it out of your head." —Elizabeth Bird, *School Library Journal* blog

* "Unusual, finely crafted story of loss, betrayal, and healing." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

* "Magical realism meets coming of age in this sensitive and haunting novel Read this aloud and have both boys and girls alike utterly enraptured." —BCCB, starred review

"It is Loftin's skill in depicting both the human and the arboreal characters that will engage and inspire readers. The lyrical, descriptive prose and the hopeful ending will linger long after the final chapter."
—*School Library Journal*

"Riveting. . . . This is a book you'll long remember."—Lynda Mullaly Hunt, author of *One for the Murphys*

"An extraordinary read—I had to tear myself away from it."—Katherine Catmull, author of *Summer and Bird*

"Perfectly captures the challenges of growing up and dealing with loss. Get ready to have your heart touched."—Shannon Messenger, author of *Keeper of the Lost Cities*

"Tugs and tears at the reader's heart. . . . lovely and magical."—Bethany Hegedus, author of *Truth with a Capital T* and *Between Us Baxters*

"Loftin's eye for strange beauty in unexpected places often takes the reader's breath away."—Claire Legrand, author of *The Cavendish Home for Boys and Girls*

"Will haunt your soul—and lift your heart."—Kimberley Griffiths Little, author of *The Healing Spell* and *When the Butterflies Came*

"A haunting, beautifully told story!"—Bobbie Pyron, author of *The Dogs of Winter* and *A Dog's Way Home*

"The kind of book I wanted to read slowly."—Shelley Moore Thomas, author of *The Seven Tales of Trinket*

"This is a work of tremendous heart."—Anne Ursu, author of *Breadcrumbs*

Praise for Nikki Loftin's *The Sinister Sweetness of Splendid Academy*:

"A mesmerizing read."—*Publishers Weekly*

"An irresistible contemporary fairy tale."—*Kirkus Reviews*

About the Author

Nikki Loftin lives and writes just outside Austin, Texas, surrounded by dogs, chickens, and small, loud boys. She is also the author of the multiply starred-reviewed *Nightingale's Nest* and *The Sinister Sweetness of Splendid Academy*, which *Publishers Weekly* called "mesmerizing" and *Kirkus* called "irresistible." You can visit her online at www.nikkiloftin.com or on Twitter @NikkiLoftin.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Aaron Williams:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you

can add your knowledge by the guide entitled Wish Girl. Try to the actual book Wish Girl as your buddy. It means that it can for being your friend when you really feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortuned for yourself. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we should make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Nick Peoples:

The book untitled Wish Girl contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy technique. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read this. The book was authored by famous author. The author brings you in the new period of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice go through.

Patricia Hooper:

Is it an individual who having spare time after that spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Wish Girl can be the respond to, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this brand new era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

John Fouts:

Do you like reading a reserve? Confuse to looking for your selected book? Or your book ended up being rare? Why so many question for the book? But just about any people feel that they enjoy for reading. Some people likes examining, not only science book and also novel and Wish Girl as well as others sources were given knowledge for you. After you know how the good a book, you feel want to read more and more. Science guide was created for teacher or students especially. Those guides are helping them to increase their knowledge. In additional case, beside science book, any other book likes Wish Girl to make your spare time far more colorful. Many types of book like this.

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