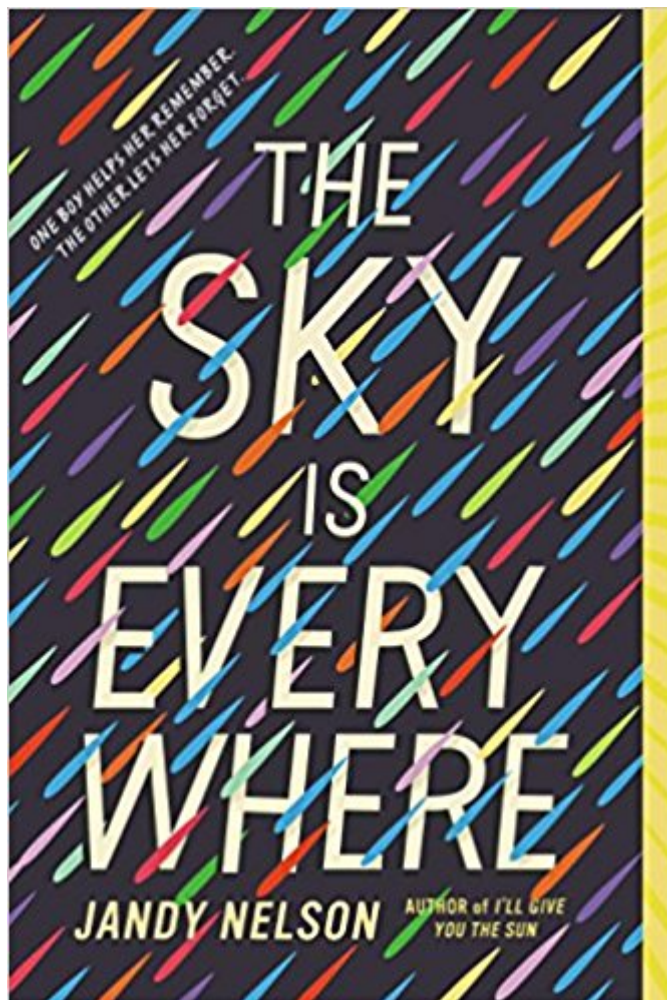


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# The Sky Is Everywhere



## Synopsis

Adrift after her sister Bailey's sudden death, Lennie finds herself torn between quiet, seductive Toby — Bailey's boyfriend who shares her grief — and Joe, the new boy in town who bursts with life and musical genius. Each offers Lennie something she desperately needs... though she knows if the two of them collide her whole world will explode. Join Lennie on this heartbreaking and hilarious journey of profound sorrow and mad love, as she makes colossal mistakes and colossal discoveries, as she traipses through band rooms and forest bedrooms and ultimately right into your heart. As much a celebration of love as a poignant portrait of loss, Lennie's struggle to sort her own melody out of the noise around her is always honest, often uproarious, and absolutely unforgettable.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 10 Up — When her older sister dies from an arrhythmia, 17-year-old Lennie finds that people are awkward around her, including her best friend. While dealing with her conflicted feelings toward her sister's boyfriend, her anguish over Bailey's unexpected death, and her sudden curiosity about sex, Lennie must also cope with her unresolved feelings about her mother, who left when Lennie was an infant. Debut author Nelson expertly and movingly chronicles the myriad, roller-coaster emotions that follow a tragedy, including Lennie's reluctance to box up her sister's belongings and her guilt over bursts of happiness. The portrayal of the teen's state of mind is believable, as are the romanticizing of her absent mother and the brief scenes of underage drinking

and sexual exploration. Chapters are typically anchored by brief snippets of Lennie's writings. This is a heartfelt and appealing tale. Girls who gobble up romantic and/or weep-over fiction will undoubtedly flock to this realistic, sometimes funny, and heartbreaking story. --Jennifer Schultz, Fauquier County Public Library, Warrenton, VA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Lennie has always been the companion pony to her sister Bailey's race horse. When Bailey dies suddenly while rehearsing the lead in Romeo and Juliet, Lennie is thrust into the spotlight. A normally reserved band geek who reads Wuthering Heights like a manifesto, Lennie is not prepared to deal with her grief. Nor is she equipped to confront the affection she feels for her dead sister's fiancé. Adding to her emotional roller coaster is the gorgeous, musically gifted new boy in town who is clearly in love with her. Lennie is sympathetic, believable, and complex. Readers will identify with her and root for her to finally make the first steps toward healing. Nelson incorporates poems, written by Lennie and left for the wind to carry away, that help readers delve deeper into her heart. Bonus: teens unfamiliar with Wuthering Heights will likely want to find out what all the fuss is about. A story of love, loss, and healing that will resonate with readers long after they have finished reading. Grades 8-11. --Shauna Yusko --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

I fell in love with this book. Lennie, also called John Lennon by her friend/boyfriend and family, is grieving for her sister Bailey who died a sudden death. They live/lived with their Gram and Uncle Big. I really loved Gram and Uncle Big, they are some crazy cool characters let me tell you. Through-out the book, Lennie writes notes, poems, thoughts on any piece of paper and lets them go, buries them, tapes them to things, throws them away in different places. Maybe someone will read them. I loved how the book was filled with these and underneath it would say where they were found. Lennie doesn't want to get rid of anything of Bailey's. She even keeps her dirty clothes in the hamper. Lennie is also having a strange attachment to Bailey's boyfriend, Toby. She learns secrets about Bailey that she couldn't image. The secrets hurt her because she thought they were the best of friends. They lived in the same room together and were very close. Then things start getting out of control with Toby. They are both looking for an outlet from the pain. At least one day that all settles itself because it almost cost her Joe. Almost cost her sanity. Joe is the new boy at school. He is beautiful and has beautiful brothers and everyone wants to be with them. But Lennie

and Joe have something different. They play music together, they found each other in the music class. But, can Lennie let everything go enough to find love with Joe? I'm guessing you need to read the book to find out the whole story, but there is always a way . . . I really enjoyed this book. It's about love and loss. It's about family and the people you meet. It's crazy and awesome. It's sad, not only because of the loss, but because Lennie and Bailey never knew their mother or their fathers. There are some revelations. There are tears of sadness and tears of joy. I'm glad I went on this journey with the characters in this book. It was magical in it's own way.

Rating: 4.25/5 PenguinsQuick Reasons: poetic, melodic, gorgeous prose; this novel tackles grief--and how differently everybody handles it--with aplomb; I admit, my heart might be just a little bit broken--but also taped back together; realistic, beautifully flawed characters; lots of great moral stuff going on throughoutOkay, okay, you can all get off my back--I finally did it. I FINALLY picked up--and read!--a Jandy Nelson novel. Aren't you proud of me? Huh, huh, aren't you?! Because you should be.---Years ago, I was crashed in Gram's garden and Big asked me what I was doing. I told him I was looking up at the sky. He said, "That's a misconception, Lennie, the sky is everywhere, it begins at your feet."---Now...I'm not going to say this was the most ground-shattering thing I've ever read, because let's be honest: it wasn't. There are, admittedly, many more grammatical issues than I expected--I mean, everybody raves and rants about this author, I figured I was stepping into something rather close to perfect. Except...there are mistakes. Quite a good number of them, which I of course paid attention to--in the midst of such poetic, gorgeously lyrical prose, it's hard NOT to notice when a mistake stutters into the mists of your reading. And each time, I had to stop, backtrack to the start of the sentence, and read it over again--just to make SURE the mistake existed. Sadly, this took a bit of the magic out of this book for me.---But what if I'm a shell-less turtle now, demented and devastated in equal measure, an unfreakingbelievable mess of a girl, who wants to turn the air into colors with her clarinet, and what if somewhere inside I prefer this?---BUT! This book? Really tackled grief, and the many different ways people handle it, with aplomb. The lyrical, musical quality of the prose only helped to bring atmosphere and mood to the story. The journey the characters are on--toward acceptance, toward each other--is beautifully rendered. There were several moments I had to stop and just THINK about what I'd read; moments I wanted so badly to step into this world, take the characters in my hands, and tell them everything would be okay; SO many moments I wanted nothing more than to shake sense into them. Of course, they're book characters--this isn't a possible thing to do. The desire was there, though, and so so strong. These characters are beautifully flawed, and in the midst of a journey that nobody should

have to handle...and yet everybody, at some point in their lives, DOES have to. Jandy Nelson took one of the most heart-shattering situations in the world...and made it relatable, made it beautiful, made it a lesson--not just for readers who've gone through, or are currently facing, such difficult times, but for everybody. There are morals to be learned in this read that are important, guys--perhaps not life-altering, but SO important in their own quiet, subtle way.---You'd think for all the reading I do, I would have thought about this before, but I haven't. I've never once thought about the interpretative, the storytelling aspect of life, of my life. I always felt like I was in a story, yes, but not like I was the author of it, or like I had any say in its telling whatsoever. You can tell your story any way you damn well please. It's your solo.---So no, this isn't the most heartbreaking thing I've ever read...but it's heartbreaking all the same, in a more subtle, poisonous way. The morals are so important, pertaining to grief, how okay it is to handle it in any way you need to--and pertaining to, if not necessarily moving on after a tragedy, at least figuring out how to pick up the pieces and, perhaps, find yourself in the process. Lennie's journey is one I think all readers can relate to...and need to read. I definitely recommend to lovers of contemporaries, romances, and novels with a wider-arc purpose. This is one read I'm glad I didn't pass up.

I am just as enamored with Jandy Nelson's as I am with Colleen Hoover. And that is saying a lot. She is quickly becoming one of my favorite authors and I'll read anything written by her. *The Sky is Everywhere*, literally. I cannot stop thinking about this phrase. Mainly because I have always pondered it. Where does the sky truly begin? Ms. Nelson has the answer, at your feet. Think about this for a while. When you say your dead loved ones are in the sky does that mean they are walking along side you, watching out for you, living your life with you? This whole book convinces me of that. I love Lennon. I love Bailey. I love that they are so close even in death. Dreams change, people change, this book highlights that perfectly. 2 halves of one heart trying to fix what is broken. One heart becoming full again. Read it give it a chance it's not just some love triangle. Think deeper about what is happening.

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