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THE HALF-ORPHAN'S HANDBOOK

A young adult contemporary novel
from debut author Joan F. Smith



macmillan
Publishers

Publisher: Imprint
Length: 336 pages
Reading age: 14+
ISBN: 978-1250624680
Discussion Questions
Author's Note with resources

Perfect for fans of John Green, Nina LaCour, and Emily X.R. Pan, this coming-of-age story offers an empathetic, authentic exploration of grief with a sharp sense of humor and a big heart, inspired by the author's own experiences.

PRAISE FOR THE HALF-ORPHAN'S HANDBOOK

"A tender, honest exploration of finding a way through the impossible." —*Kirkus*

"Set in a New England grief camp, this debut novel's believable characters make plain that suffering the loss of a loved one while young is difficult, and common." —*School Library Journal*

"A masterclass in prose and character. Laugh and cry along with Lila and Noah as they navigate the complex space between tragedy and hope. Moving. Important. Beautiful." —Laura Taylor Namey, *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Cuban Girl's Guide to Tea and Tomorrow*

"A beautifully written, funny, heart brimming story." —Francisco X. Stork, award-winning author of *The Memory of Light*

Joan F. Smith is a novelist, essayist, and dance instructor from Massachusetts. She is the 2021 Writer-in-Residence at the Milton Public Library. Her writing uses humor to explore the themes of unanswerable questions and the intersection between truth and lies. Joan does her best writing on airplanes, and her worst with no caffeine. She studied creative writing and social science at Providence College and received her MFA in Creative Writing from Emerson College. When she isn't writing, Joan teaches dance, travels, exercises, mentors writers, and wrangles her kids. She is the author of the young adult novel *The Half-Orphan's Handbook*, coming from Macmillan/Imprint in 2021. She lives in the Boston area with her husband and kids, where her daily requirement as a parent includes dance parties in the kitchen. You can find more about her at joanfsmithbooks.com, and follow her on Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, and Pinterest @jf_smit.

