



Keeper of the Night

Kimberly Willis Holt

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Keeper of the Night

Kimberly Willis Holt

Keeper of the Night Kimberly Willis Holt

Isabel's mother died peacefully. At least that's what Isabel likes to think since no one in her family will talk about the truth. But in spite of their avoidance, in spite of their brave faces, the truth has a way of revealing itself at night, in her family's behavior. Her father sleeps curled up on the floor right where Mama's body was found. Olivia wets her bed and wakes repeatedly from nightmares, and Frank has started carving his anger into his bedroom wall. It's up to Isabel to help her family get beyond the pain and loss--to be the keeper of the night. But who will help Isabel?

Keeper of the Night Details

Date : Published March 8th 2005 by Laurel Leaf (first published April 8th 2003)

ISBN : 9780553494419

Author : Kimberly Willis Holt

Format : Paperback 336 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Realistic Fiction, Fiction, Teen, Cultural

 [Download Keeper of the Night ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Keeper of the Night ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Keeper of the Night Kimberly Willis Holt

From Reader Review Keeper of the Night for online ebook

Crystal says

This was a short, almost slight book that nevertheless skillfully conveyed a strong sense of place and strong, complex characters. Despite a difference in talents, interests, and family dynamics, not to mention culture and geographical location, I identified very strongly with Isabel. We even shared our favorite novel! There were other characters I loved, and ones I wanted to shake or slap (sometimes the same ones). I didn't know much about Guam before I read this novel, and I'm not sure I know a lot even now. But I have a stronger sense of it as a place than ever before. (and a definite lack of interest in trying sour fruit dipped in salt and hot sauce. yikes!) The tiny sections in each book were distracting at first, swift and often abruptly ended. But as the book went on, I fell more into the rhythm, and began to follow more closely. I desperately wanted to know what happened next--how Teracita (sp? I listened to the audio version.) fared, and what happened to Frank. I loved seeing the growth in Isabel's life, and the gentle reminder that children are not responsible for things beyond their control, like raising siblings or caring for parents. This was a sympathetic look at suicide and depression (or bi-polar...the book is not clear about that.) and cutting and the stages of grief, at family dynamics, and of growing up. No, I didn't care for the somewhat sympathetic portrayal of cockfighting, and I did wish the narrator for the audio edition had been able to inject some accents into the telling, so that words like "kaduka" (sp?) and "haole" (sp?) didn't stand out so jarringly, and so that the Americans seemed as distinct vocally as they were culturally. but these are small gripes. I enjoyed the book, and would recommend it to anyone who wants a short but insightful, gentle book on a delicate subject.

Sophia Buhrow says

Personal Response: It was nice to read about a different culture. The people of Guam have their own language, but mostly speak English, and was hard to pronounce these few words and figure out what they mean. Either way it was a wonderful story.

Plot: What happens before the story really starts is that Isabel's mother killed herself, and left the rest of her family grieving. Isabel and her family went to live with one of their aunts for a while and stayed for about 6 months. When they finally come back bad things start to happen at night. Tata, Isabel's dad, has begun sleeping on the floor where his wife's body was found. Olivia wets the bed and has nightmares, and Frank carves the words "I hate you" into his bedroom wall over and over again. As things start to get better Frank is found in his room with blood everywhere. He had begun to cut "I hate" into his arm but only got to "I hat...". Luckily he was taken to the hospital and survived. After that Frank seemed to be back to his normal self. And La De Da cliché happy ending.

Characterization: Isabel is a Chamorro girl from Guam. She used to be a happy girl with few problems, but after her mother died she was left with the task of taking care of the entire family. She becomes irritable and easily aggravated. But as the story goes on and she finds something for herself, she returns to the girl she once was and remembers how to smile.

Recommendation: I recommend this book to girls of all ages, and to people who might have also lost someone. Maybe they can learn to accept their loss and make the most of it, too.

J. says

Slow at some parts but over all it was interesting. Has a journal like style with short chapters at time only a page long. Might appeal to readers who like novels in verse. Deals with deep and complex issues including suicide, coping, family. Audience is Middle grade and older.

Debrarian says

A poem of a book told in small, gem-like chapters with revealing titles, in the voice of Isabel, whose mother recently killed herself. Set on Guam, it's the story of a family stunned with grief (& guilt & anger) trying to put itself back together somehow. Father "Tata" vanishes into grief and fishing; brother Frank cuts the walls and himself; little sister Olivia wets the bed but dances in the daytime; Aunt Bernadette is wise and steady; responsible Isabel tries to be the glue to keep everyone together. Lovely, clean lines, against the lush backdrop of Guam. Sad but full of the messy strength of family and life too.

Sarah Crawford says

Isabel is a young girl with a younger Olivia, her sister, and her brother, Frank, living on Guam. Her mother ends up committing suicide and she has to deal with the consequences of that death.

The book is written in sort of a diary-type style; not exact dates, but relatively short sections. It covers how she has to help with her sister's reaction, her father's distance, reactions of friends and relatives and especially her brother who ends up becoming a "cutter," a person who cuts themselves on purpose to try and deal with emotional pain.

Isabel has to try and help her entire family plus keep going with her regular daily life. Fortunately, there are friends and relatives who are willing to give her that help and, eventually, she is directed towards some professional help.

It's an interesting book and hopeful in that it shows how Isabel was able to keep going despite great personal loss and ultimately keep on living her own life.

Amanda Kramers says

The story that this book held was really good. I enjoyed it but the ending wasn't what I thought it was going to be.

Sophie Grantham says

This book review is for Mrs.Orona's 2A english class. My book is Keeper of the night by Kimberly willis holt. This book is published by Henry holt and company and it has 308 pages. I decided to read this book because it had an interesting cover to it and caught my attention.

The main character of this book is Isabel, she runs the household and make sure everything goes smoothly after her mother's passing. Other important characters include TaTa her father who is in charge but is also suffering mentally after the passing of his wife. Frank Isabel's younger brother who is always up to no good. Olivia Isabel younger sister who wets the bed every night and must be taken care of and, Aunt Bernadette who is always in there business abut takes care of them too.

This is a realistic-fiction book set in Guam. This book is set in present time period. important locations in this book are there house in which a lot happens the beach, there store and there aunt's house on a different island. This book is slow at times but the ending is worth is. it does become somewhat graphic but it is worth it. The main character Isabelle is just trying tot live her life and make sure her family stays together though it all. The outcome of this book is very cliché and happy everything turns out fine for the family after several heart breaks.

My final thoughts on this book is that it was very slow at times but worth the read in the end. I liked the characters of this book and how they developed throughout it but i didn't like the chapter set up very much. this book taught me to always appreciate my family and never take them for granted. I would recommend this book to others.

Monica Cheng says

[I care. GOD THAT NOTE I sighed in happiness, sadness, grief and relief when I read that and closed my eyes to drink up those two words (hide spoiler)]

Sarah says

I had read another book by this author ("When Zachary Beaver Came to Town") and I remember liking it. I had a harder time liking this book. It's a story about a girl whose mother committed suicide, and tries to cope with a grieving father and two younger siblings that she's forced to take care of. Oh, and a cabana she has to run. The story is set in Guam, and I found that a little annoying. Sometimes it worked with the plot (the aunt being this medicine worker) but sometimes it seemed the author threw in foreign words/foods/etc just to seem more cultured.

I think what I didn't like was that the book seemed like such a stereotype for grief: the oldest daughter tries to be the woman of the house, the father retreats and distances himself, the boy cuts himself, the little girl wets the bed. All classic responses to grief but what's the chance every person in a family would embody a different one? And yet have it all turn out OK by the end of the book? Not likely.

Allison says

In all honesty, the book wasn't the worst at all. But clearly not the best in my option. It's eye catching but simple. The way the author had shown a dark and sensitive matter, into short and simple chapters is what impressed me the most. The chapters were quite short and to the point. It's clear and the way each chapter is formatted is, like I said before short and incomplex in total. The story was based in Guam, and it did show you through a different path of a new culture and place. As the characters, they were all different in their own way. The story is probably to have where you feel sympathetic for the characters or in this case just Isabel. The reason why I personally would give it three stars would be the plot and characters. The ending wasn't

what I thought it would be, but it was good enough for my liking as the book in all wasn't that bad. The characters in all honesty did bother me a little, but I did like how the author had shown the after effects of the mother's death. But what we did get to know about the characters before, were only shown through Isabel's memory. In all its a good book, it's fiction and has given a new experience to a different culture.

Heidi Burkhart says

Though I really like Holt's writing the cover of this book put me off reading it for years. I finally decided to give it a try and was happy that I did. Shown here is a newer cover for the book - a far better choice.

This book fascinated me because it was set in Guam. I lived on Saipan, close by, for two years and it was a pleasure to read the references to Chamorro culture. Though the story was sad, I recommend it highly. It describes a little known culture, and family crisis though wonderful characters in a unique setting.

Sarah says

Isabel, a thirteen-year-old girl living on the island of Guam, and her family try to cope with the death of Isabel's mother who committed suicide.

Sophie dirringer says

In beau livre sur in deuil impossible... comment vivre apres in suicide. C'est la maman dans ce cas qui est partie laissant ses 3 enfants et sa famille dans la douleur, l'incomprehesion et la colere.

Ce court livre est vraiment bien ecrit et on y retrouve des reactions assez authentiques chez les differents personnages.

Heureusement il termine sur une note positive.

Siejohn Ouattara says

i like it because it has a scary touch.

what is scary is that her mom was preying.

but im not going to spoil things go read the book to find out.

Danna says

If you like sad,depressing but quite enjoyable books,this one is for you. This book is realistic-fiction.Believe me, it will most likely make you cry.

The book that I have recently finished is titled" Keeper of the Night". It is about a girl called Isabel and her mother has just passed away and she has to maintain a good image on her siblings. The problem is she can't control all her difficulties inside and she has to explode them to someone. That's were the counselor comes into place. Of course she doesn't tell him very much but she does let herself out a little more. The importance

of this book is how the pressure on a 13 year old girl can change her whole life. This type of conflict that forms into the story is person vs him/her self because she is trying to do well in her health , her school, her brother and sister, and her life.

Overall, this book was amazing. I would very much like to support this book with the greatest intention. I couldn't and I can't figure out why Isabel's mother killed herself. It surprised me at the end when the father gets closer emotionally to Isabel since he never got close to her when the mother committed suicide. The reason I love this book is because, well , from the text, it said : "Some can cry, he can only bleed, every drop of blood , is a tear shed, he wears his scars like bandages,for his eyes alone, I'd wish he scream,I wish he'd cry but he just bleeds.". This text is about Isabel's brother, Frank, and how he suffers mentally the loss of his mother.

I also like the way the author expresses her thoughts and words. She makes everything seem so realistic and that is one thing I like about books. In the text, it states " "One morning at Disneyland, we had breakfast with Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, and Goofy. The pancakes were shaped like Mickey's face. My mother took out her ukulele from it's case and Donald Duck begged her to play while my father did the cha-cha with Minnie. Everyone clapped for my talented parents. They were the stars of the show. I will remember our trip to Disneyland for the rest of my life." Sister Rachel reads my essay and gives me an A+. At home that night I wad up the paper and throw away the only A+ I have received in four years. Because my mother is dead."

I proudly rate this book 5 stars because it gave very good detail and because the author gave a very moving and touching message. I wish that many people who like these kinds of quiet from the outside and loud from the inside books, read this fascinating book and understand the difficulties that life can bring. This world can bring many difficulties and they can tear you down but its up to you if you will let it do so.
