



# Death Is Stupid

*Anastasia Higginbotham*

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## **Death Is Stupid** Anastasia Higginbotham

"What an incredible gift this book will be for countless children. Having it fifty-plus years ago would have been a kind of salvation for me and would have helped me grow into a healthier and infinitely less frightened person."—Anne Lamott

"She's in a better place now," adults say again and again. But it doesn't seem better, it seems stupid.

This forthright exploration of grief and mourning recognizes the anger, confusion, and fear that we feel about death—but refuses to succumb to banalities when talking about it. Necessary and beautiful, *Death Is Stupid* is an invaluable tool for talking about death, but also the possibilities for celebrating life and love.

**Anastasia Higginbotham's** books about ordinary, terrible things tell stories of children who navigate trouble with their senses on alert and their souls intact. The books take on divorce, death, bullying, illness, confusion about sex, and sexual abuse—for starters. Her essays have appeared in *Ms.*, *Bitch*, *Glamour*, and in anthologies like *Listen Up* and *Yes Means Yes*.

## **Death Is Stupid Details**

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Anastasia Higginbotham

Format :

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Death, Nonfiction

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## From Reader Review Death Is Stupid for online ebook

### Cassandra Gelvin says

#### **Death is stupid. This book is not.**

As the title suggests, it's a book about death. It addresses the reader frequently. There's a child who kind of represents the reader, or listener, and it talks about how people say things when someone you love dies that don't make a lot of sense. Sometimes they say the wrong things. It gives suggestions on how to start coming to terms with going on living when someone you love dies. It's completely open to any kind of beliefs about afterlife and it kind of skips over that, which is nice, and talks about having a conversation "in your imagination" with them. The child character has a conversation with a grandmother who just passed away. One page I'm not too keen on is page 44, where it says that if you ask them questions, you might get a reply in a dream or in a sign. That's a little spiritual or superstitious for me. At the end, the child goes outside with the father and starts taking care of the grandmother's garden. At the very end, it has suggestions of things that you can do to both continue living and to celebrate the person who has died. Like playing games that they played or wearing the clothes that they wore. And it mentions that sometimes when a pet dies, some people may try to discount your feelings, but not to listen to them. It reinforces that it's okay to move on and still remember your loved ones.

The art style is collage with mixed-media, and the characters in the book have their skin made with brown paper bags, so they're ambiguously multicultural, which is nice. I'd have absolutely no problem reading this to my child if they were dealing with death. I probably wouldn't spring it on them out of nowhere, but I think it would be very helpful to children who had a loved one pass away, and help the parents open up conversation with the child about it. There's definitely some times when you need to be by yourself and be introspective about death, but there are also definitely times when you need to talk and to make sure that you and your children are not suppressing your feelings, and that everyone is getting their needs met.

Message: Death is stupid, and here are some ways of dealing with it.

For more children's book reviews, see my website at <http://www.drmtmk.com>.

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### Morgan says

This book is a gift. Smart, honest, gorgeously rendered. All the other books for kids dealing with death can go home. (thanks to my dear CC for pointing this one out)

"It takes courage to go on living when the one you love has died, and to accept that death cannot be changed. Everyone eventually has an experience of someone who died. A member of their family, a good friend, someone they thought would live a lot longer. Your pain is not less than theirs. It's not more. It's not the same. [...] We don't get to keep everyone we love who has ever lived. But we do get to remember them long after their lives have ended. Remembering lasts."

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### Dana says

A lovely, realistic book about death for children that isn't full of platitudes and fluffy clouds.

Real talk about real issues and explanations about what kind of language to use with kids. The best part is a useful, practical list of ideas for remembering and mourning a loved one.

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### **Laura says**

Spot-on content, gorgeous art. What a little treasure of a book!

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### **Ryan M. Hanna says**

I had a young family member lose their mother and I was looking for THIS book and I am so happy I found it. I lost my father at a young age, and this book does a great job of addressing some of the many unhelpful things people say when someone close passes away. There's not a lot someone can do to make a loss like this hurt less, but this book is a small gesture that will help...even if only a little bit.

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### **Ms. B says**

Author/illustrator Anastasia Higginbotham does not talk down to children. This is an honest and upfront book about death. Not only will children appreciate it, counselors, psychologists and teachers will too.

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### **Rebecca says**

One of the best books about death for kids (or anyone) that I've read. Provides comfort and coping mechanisms while pulling no punches.

"Everyone eventually has an experience of someone who died. A member of their family, a good friend, someone they thought would live a lot longer. Your pain is not less than theirs. It's not more. It's not the same."

Anastasia Higginbotham's collage illustrations are expressive and invite discussion. Also in her "Ordinary Terrible Things" series: Divorce Is the Worst.

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### **Evan says**

This book should be required reading for kids, and adults, that are grieving the loss of a loved one.

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### **Emily Stueven says**

This beautiful picture book about loss gives me wonderful Lynda Barry vibes, both in its design and in its emotional honesty and humanity. It's one of the best books on the subject I've read, and, even as an adult, I

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found it soothing and helpful.

When I was a kid and people I loved died, we just didn't talk about it; instead, I just lived with my fears bottled up, and struggled alone in my sadness and anger, developing private little coping rituals that were maybe more isolating than healthy. I wish I'd had a generous, kid-centric book like this that acknowledges how confusing death can be and the conflicting feelings losing a loved one engenders, while also offering some practical tips for channeling those emotions in constructive and reverent ways.

Lovely!

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### **C.E. G says**

I remember reading and rereading this FAQ style Christian(?) book about death (and dogs?) when I was growing up. This book probably would have been a better resource.

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### **Kris Dersch says**

Great book! Ticks all the boxes: it's not didactic, but it makes room for beliefs. It's practical and still readable and even fun. Must read for grieving kids and those who love them.

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### **Karen A. says**

There are a few books about death for children - but none that address it head on like this one. Death is stupid and no one really knows how to deal with those who are experiencing a recent loss - awkward doesn't quite cover it. This book with whimsical drawings, paper collage, and gentle but honest words gives young people something substantial to guide them through the grieving process. Recommended for adults as well.

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### **Christie Angleton says**

What a completely wonderful and straightforward way to discuss death with kids. And the gorgeous artwork is so well suited. Love this one.

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### **Kris says**

I am so very happy that there are more and more books for children that address death realistically and truthfully and honestly. This is a frank portrayal of grief, and it is beautifully done. I'm glad it exists, even though, and because, death is stupid.

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**Racheal says**

SO BEAUTIFUL

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