



# Up in the Air

*Ann Marie Meyers*

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Ever since she can remember, ten-year-old Melody has always wanted to fly.?

And when she leaps off a swing in the park one day and lands in the mystical realm of Chimeroan, her dream finally comes true. She is given a pair of wings. She can fly! Life cannot be any better.?

Yet, dreams do come with a price. Even with wings, Melody realizes she cannot outfly the memories of her past. The car accident that has left her father paralyzed, and her unscarred, still plagues her with guilt—she believes that it was entirely her fault.?

In Chimeroan, Melody is forced to come to terms with her part in her father's accident. She must choose between the two things that have become the world to her: keeping her wings or healing her father.

## Up in the Air Details

Date : Published July 6th 2013 by Jolly Fish Press (first published January 1st 2013)

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Author : Ann Marie Meyers

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## From Reader Review Up in the Air for online ebook

### JenniferJ says

Up in the Air is not only a wonderful middle grade book but also shares a few valuable life lessons for everybody like....sometimes you just have to let something you really want go and everybody has to follow their own destiny. It sure helped me put alot of things in my own life into perspective.

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### Fiona Titchenell says

First, it should be noted that I was granted an Advance Reading Copy of Up in the Air for reasons that do not include my currently being a child, a parent, a teacher, or any other form of expert on current children's literature ("current" meaning more recent than Beverly Cleary and "children's" meaning for a younger audience than J.K. Rowling). What follows is the humble impression of a YA Horror/Sci-Fi author who has been a bookish child in the less distant past than some people.

#### The Basics:

Like many ten-year-olds, Melody dreams of being able to fly. Like (hopefully) fewer ten-year-olds, she also dreams of undoing the car accident that crippled her father. When an extra long flying jump off the park swings sends her to Chimeroan, where dreams come true, she's given a pair of wings, but in order to keep them, she'll have to solve three riddles, which will require her to trust herself and other people, and play by the game's rules, which may conflict with her plan to use Chimeroan's magic to make her second dream come true as well.

#### The Downside:

The characters are a little less colorful than they could be in a children's fantasy book. Of course, the story itself isn't a lighthearted adventure; it's about a kid dealing with serious survivor's guilt. That's no downside at all to a disturbingly desensitized grownup like me, but if lighthearted is what you're looking for, or if you're shopping on behalf of a kid who still gets nightmares from Roald Dahl (and who hasn't had at least one of those), be aware, Up in the Air has some very serious moments and some pretty graphic car accident flashbacks.

#### The Upside:

It's a beautiful exploration of serious grief, guilt, and healing for a young audience. The simplified, didactic dialogue common in children's literature is present, but it doesn't feel forced, given the therapeutic role of the Chimeroan guides, and it never diminishes the depth of the subject matter. Chimeroan itself is a vivid and appropriately dreamlike manifestation of the mind, and Melody's journey to accept herself and mend her relationship with her family is perfectly, tear-jerkingly relatable at any age.

(This review and others originally posted on [www.fjrtitchenell.weebly.com](http://www.fjrtitchenell.weebly.com))

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### Rebekah says

My Review: I was given an ARC copy by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

I initially wanted to read this book at night with my two daughters. We started and my almost 4-year old got to a point where she wanted to just hear when Melody was flying. I knew then I just had to read it by myself and then tell them the stories afterwards.

Ann Marie Meyers is brilliant! Her story brought me back to my own days in grade school. Like Melody I also loved to swing and I would go as high as I could and jump off--pretending I was flying. What kid didn't pretend they could fly at some point during their childhood?!

The land of Chimeroan is a magical and wonderful place for Melody. All of her dreams seem to be coming true until she has to confront her fears and the accident. I laughed and cried with her. I cheered for the other children as they made their discoveries. I cheered for Melody to conquer her fears. You cannot help but read this novel and see yourself or other kids you grew up with.

This book is a must for any child to read who has a dream or has a fear and wants to get over it. Parents, I recommend reading this with your children. You'll re-discover your hopes and dreams as a child and come to know that of your children. I will definitely be buying this book for all my nieces and nephews.

Meyers has a passion to her writing that I rarely see. Each page drips with emotion. It's been over a week now since I finished the book and I am still living in her world. As an adult I want to go to Chimeroan and overcome the fears I have. I will be watching and waiting for any book from this new and wonderful author. I am reminded of the wonder I felt reading Madeline L'Engle when I was in third grade.

Up In The Air is a very personal book full of love, hope and forgiveness of not only others but of ourselves. It teaches us to trust. Great qualities for any of us to learn and develop.

5 big stars for me is: I COULD NOT PUT IT DOWN. I had to keep going until I was finished. When I finished I felt very emotional. The characters felt like my best friends. It was so real I felt like I was a character in the novel. I will directly purchase this book in some format.

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## **Lehua Parker says**

10-year-old Melody wants to fly, to soar like an eagle far above the troubles in her earth-bound life. She knows if she can just swing high enough her wings will unfurl and she'll finally be happy. Until then there's always her patented zombie face guaranteed to frighten away the most tenacious bully or possible friend, keeping Melody safe in her self-imposed cocoon of isolation. When Melody leaps off a swing and into the mystical realm of Chimeroan where dreams come true, she begins a journey to not only earn her wings, but to face her past, conquer her fears, and to discover that the things that hold us back—even the things we want most desperately or fear with all our heart—are not always what they seem.

Up in the Air by Ann Marie Meyers is one of those rare books for children that accurately portrays the reality of being a child without making adults look like stumbling idiots or children seem uber-smart, successful, lucky, or treacle-y sweet versions of grown-ups. On the surface Melody's story is an adventure quest complete with magical beasts, puzzles, and inscrutable Guides. It's easy to get caught up in the world of unicorns, elves, dragons, and leprechauns as most middle grade readers will. But Melody's story is much deeper, a parable for all ages that explores the complicated reasons for self-abusive behavior and a hit-first-before-they-hurt-you view of the world. As Melody progresses in her quest, she has to face and understand how her perceptions of herself and past events are limiting herself and preventing those she loves from true

happiness.

Like flying, it's a view that will leave you breathless.

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### **Sara B. says**

A beautiful story. I'm not usually a middle grade fan, but this book had a depth that I don't often see in middle grade books.

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### **Janet Jensen says**

Beneath the story of Melody, who wants to fly so desperately she is summoned to the land of Chimeroan to earn her wings, there is a backstory of a child seeking to escape unbearable pain and guilt. In *Up in the Air* author Ann Marie Meyers paints a vivid world populated by such creatures as giants, elves, dragons, witches, leprechauns, snakes, wolves, and evil hoarders called Jibber Jabbers. This fascinating world of Chimeroan also spans forests, oceans, deserts, hills and canyons.

In this new environment Melody is faced with new challenges as she embarks on a puzzling and dangerous treasure hunt, and she finally realizes she can't solve the mystery alone. Though Melody yearns to fly away from her regular life, where she feels responsible for a family tragedy, in the unpredictable world of wings she must face new fears as well as old ones. In the process she learns to question what she's always thought of others, as well as herself.

Graced with scenes from classic fairytales, Ann Marie Meyers' *Up in the Air* is a charming, imaginative read for all ages. Loaded with rich sensory images, quirky characters and unpredictable plot twists, in *Up in the Air*, Melody learns she cannot escape the pain of either world. In the end, it's about learning compassion, empathy, friendship and trust, attributes she hasn't allowed herself to develop in her earthly life. Perhaps the most important lesson she learns is that "to get the things you want you have to let them go." In the letting go, Melody achieves heights she never imagined were possible.

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### **Jeri Baird says**

I enjoyed the Chimeroan world and the way Melody had to confront her fears to keep her wings! *UP IN THE AIR* is an imaginative and rich story perfect for middle graders and the child in all of us.

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### **Andreea says**

*Disclaimer: The e-book version of this book was sent to me in exchange for an honest review.*

I have to admit that in the beginning I wasn't too into it. The tone of the book is way too mature for a children's book and it put me off for a moment, but afterwards the story finds its voice.

Not necessarily my type of children's book - neither now as an adult, nor when I was a kid, but there is enough to keep one entertained. Knowing myself, as a kid I wouldn't have been satisfied and would have loved to learn more about the magical land of Chimeroan where dreams come true and kids learn to fly or become dragons.

I did want more of the characters - for a children's book (especially middle age), story is important, but so are characters and getting a good idea about other persons, not just the lead. For such a complex story I was have expected more on the character development side.

But in the end, the themes in Up in the Air are important and they are presented in a simple, yet quite effective work. Personally, I would have preferred the ending to focus more on teaching the lesson that we have more important wishes and dreams than the childish ones and use that as an opportunity that even if not all dreams come true, it is not the end of the world. But, alas, some can have their cake and eat it. Despite my previous complaint, Up in the Air does offer a good lesson about forgiveness - especially forgiving yourself.

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### **Daniela Zekotic says**

Where was this book when I was little?? It's a children's (and adult's) dream come true. You have fairies, dragons, elves and even wings to fly! Basically everything you ever dreamed of. Ann Marie Meyers style of writing pulls you straight into the story. The book is fun, light-hearted, includes family values, friendship and character development. And you get the travel to a new world - Chimeroan - where your dreams come true.

All the characters were fantastic. Melody, the main character though... I couldn't get myself to like her in the beginning. it took me a while to understand her way of thinking, and grew to like her towards the end of the story. I loved how you get to see Melody's character grew throughout the whole book.

I recommend it for any child who has a dream or a fear he/she wants to get over. The story takes you through handling your own fears, and shows you how important it is to keep dreaming and believe in yourself. The story also reminds you how important family and friendship is. You can't go through his world alone, and there's no need of being embarrassed of your family, ever. I guess you could say the moral of the story is: believing in yourself, not bottling up problems and fears and most importantly - be honest and nice to people and they'll return the favour (especially children). It is a children's book, but adults can enjoy it just as much. I did anyways. It takes you back to your own childhood and reminds you of all the fun dreams you ever had.

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### **Mary says**

**I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.**

Review On Blog: [Tumbling In Books](#)

Have you guys ever read a book that contains everything from your childhood dreams? Robots, Wizards, Fairies, Elves and... flying? I did and it was the best experience I've ever had! This book is amazing and I love it! One of the best middle grade book I've read in a very long time.. I'm trying to save some money to buy the physical copy of this book. Yes, that's how much I love this one.

First of all, the cover.. It's amazing how the blue compliments the gold and the illustrations are simply stunning! It's weird because the way I choose to describe the cover is "well organize". For me everything is just right. Everything works for me. It's a simple cover but I am absolutely in love with it!

Now about the book, It was so fun and exciting! Everything you would want in your childhood are everywhere in Chimeroan. It's a world where dreams come true after all. They also have dragons! I repeat, dragons!! It's a very fast pace read. You just can't stop reading it! Definitely a page-turner.

Also the adventures that they (Melody and her friends) had were fun and interesting since their own adventures are related to their problems in their lives. The best thing about this book is that Chimeroan isn't built to just make children dreams come true, it also teaches them valuable life lessons that they actually really needed which we rarely see in middle grade books. What they were taught in Chimeroan? Well, I guess you just have to read the book to find out. This book taught me so much and I cried when it ended.

The ending was also very solid and very touching for me. It's a very well put together kind of ending. One of the best conclusion for a book I've ever read. I'm not going to say anything more to avoid spoilers but usually this kind of book would probably ended as a dream or the world that they had gone through didn't exist at all which really pisses me off! Imagine everything that you read was just the main character's dream? I would totally flip the table for that. Thank goodness it was different for this one and I just have to say it again, I absolutely love the ending and of course the whole book!!

I know it sounded like I'm exaggerating but I really did enjoyed reading this book and I would very well recommend this book to people from all ages even though it's a middle grade book.

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### **Teri Harman says**

Another winner from Jolly Fish Press! Author Ann Marie Meyers has written a lovely story, loaded with imagination, tender moments and sweet sentiments. I loved her writing voice - so perfectly a ten year old girl. Although the story is full of well known fantastical elements, like dragons, leprechauns, witches and unicorns, it's not at all fluffy or trite. Melody coming to terms with her father's disability and her part in the car accident that caused it feels so real and often tugs at the heart.

This book is perfect for young girls 8-12 and would make a fabulous read aloud choice for mom and daughter.

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### **Joyce Sweeney says**

Ann Marie Meyers has built a beautiful, magical world where beauty and terror mix together, where children find wings to fly, but also ways to heal. Melody has always felt she was destined to fly, but she's been grounded by tragic memories and buried guilt. But when she lands in a special place called Chimeroan, she is guided from one magical challenge to another...until she finally battles the real enemy...her own mind. The imagery in this book is so beautiful it will make you cry. And Melody's journey is a deep and thoughtful quest to reclaim her self esteem.

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### **Jodi says**

I received a copy of "Up in the Air" through a giveaway, and was pleasantly surprised at how good it turned out to be. It's a great overcoming adversity story where Melody must learn to trust herself and those around her. I loved the flying elements, a truly unique and creative way of propelling the story along. This is a great read, especially for pre teen girls. Great job!

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### **Casey says**

I received this book free from Goodreads First Reads!

I really enjoyed this book. It was easy to read and held a wonderful message for young readers and adults alike. Follow Melody on an adventure through Chimeroan and into her own struggles. In just a short time she is able to grow and fulfill her dream while capturing others that she had hidden away. Full of adventure and fun characters I would recommend this to anyone wanting to fulfill their dreams. Or even to those who wish to guide someone on their way. A great all around book. So glad I got the opportunity to read it!

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### **Paula Gorgas says**

What an amazing book, a modern fairy tale, beautifully written for today's young readers--and older ones, too. Like the fairy tales of old, UP IN THE AIR connects readers to their real world and teaches a lesson while winging its way to "happily ever after."

Even before her dad's accident, Melody, the narrator, dreams of flying. After he is paralyzed in a car wreck, this dream takes on a life of its own and consumes her, hiding her fears and her big dark secret. And her dream becomes the gateway to the magical world of Chimeroan, where young "Guideds" find out about themselves, especially the part they are hiding from.

This book is a delightful quest, filled with magic and magical creatures at every turn. Highly recommended for children of all ages.

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