



Awake and Dreaming

By Kit Pearson

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Theo and her young, irresponsible mother seem trapped in their miserable, poverty-stricken life. Theo dreams of belonging to a “real” family, and her dream seems to come true when she is mysteriously adopted by the large, warm Kaldor family.

But as time passes, the magic of Theo’s new life begins to fade, and soon she finds herself back with her mother. Were the Kaldors real or just a dream? And who is the shadowy figure who haunts Theo’s thoughts?

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The combination of her own desperate wishes and a dead writer's fantasy propel the nine-year-old heroine into a dream world. Ages 8-12.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7. Wishes can come true, temporarily at least. Nine-year-old Theo desperately wants to be out of her gray, loveless existence and into the middle of a large and happy family like the ones she reads about in her wonderful library books. Often neglected by her young and immature mother, she is still reluctant to leave their Vancouver apartment and go to live with her aunt in Victoria. On the ferry trip, Theo makes a wish on the new moon and is amazed when it comes true. She wakes up as part of the perfect family, with nurturing and always happy parents and four caring siblings. Now she doesn't have to dance for money on the street or worry that her mother doesn't want her. But of course, it is too good to be true, and the magic doesn't last. While her real life isn't perfect like when she was "awake and dreaming," things are changing for the better and Theo is learning to be happy. Pearson deftly weaves fantasy and reality together into a charming novel much like Sylvia Cassedy did in *Behind the Attic Wall* (HarperCollins, 1983). Even minor characters are well developed, and this story is intriguing from start to finish. A mysterious ghost is carefully woven into the plot and into the resolution, but the focus of the book remains on Theo's very real concerns and emotions. As readers cheer for the child's happiness, they may also learn from her determination. *?Leigh Ann Jones, Carroll Middle School, Southlake, TX*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4-7. Nine-year-old Theo Caffrey lives life on the edge, mostly because her unwed mother neglects and mistreats her. She copes by losing herself in books and dreams of belonging to a real family. One morning she awakens to find her fantasy has come true--though all too soon it fades, leaving her more bereft than ever. Through sheer will and determination Theo conspires to meet the family of her dream (and the mysterious ghost/writer who unwittingly created Theo's vision) and works to turn her fantasy into reality. Pearson's unusual novel shifts smoothly from Theo's miserable existence to the romantic idealism she craves and finally back to the difficult but ultimately satisfying new actuality that she creates. Strong, believable characters, the hint of the supernatural, and Pearson's poignant commentary on the writer's craft all add up to a compelling and memorable read. *Kay Weisman*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Brier:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each book has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They may be reading whatever they have because their hobby is actually reading a book. Why not the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book after they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you'll have this *Awake and Dreaming*.

David Waymire:

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Thomas Morgan:

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