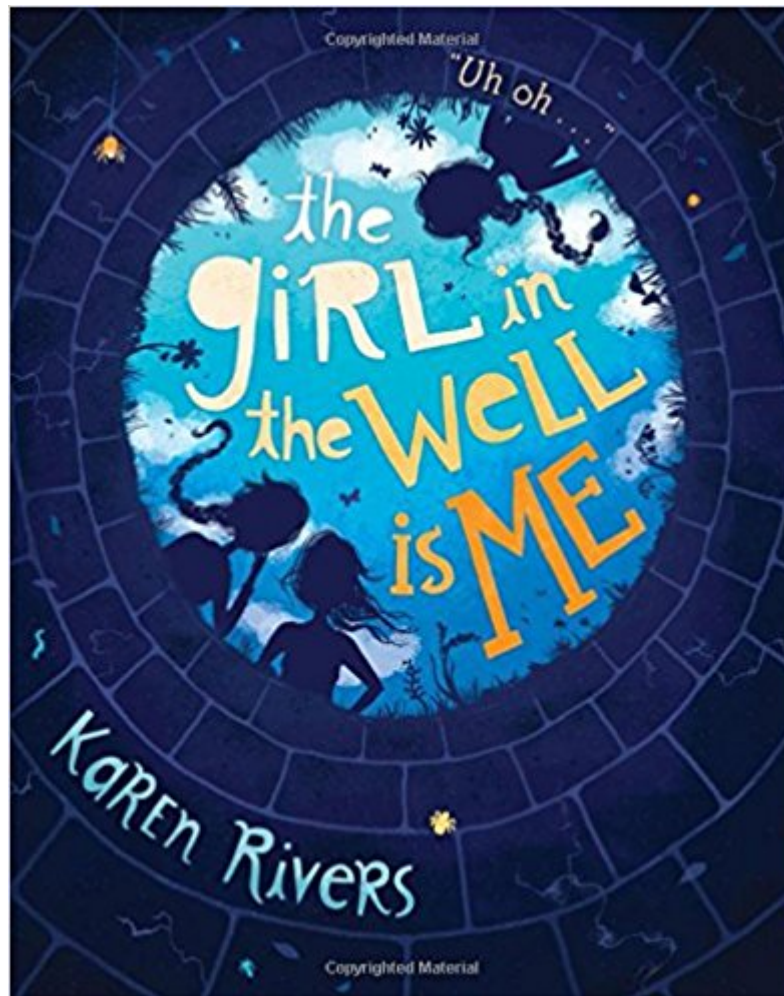




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# The Girl In The Well Is Me



## Synopsis

When you move somewhere new, you get to be someone new. I was ready. Sixth-grader Kammie Summers's plan to be one of the popular girls at school hasn't gone the way she hoped. She's fallen into a well during a (fake) initiation into the Girls' club. Now she's trapped in the dark, counting the hours, hoping to be rescued. (The Girls have gone for help, haven't they?) As the hours go by, Kammie's real-life trouble mixes with memories of the best and worst moments of her life so far, including the awful reasons her family moved to this new town in the first place. And as she begins to feel hungry and thirsty and dizzy, Kammie discovers she does have visitors, including a French-speaking coyote and goats that just might be zombies. But they can't get her out of the well. (Those Girls are coming back, aren't they?) Moving, suspenseful, and impossible to put down.

• Kirkus Reviews, starred review "Darkly humorous . . . Honest and forthcoming."

• The New York Times Book Review "I dare you to pick up this riveting novel without reading straight through to its heart-stopping conclusion."

• Katherine Applegate, Newbery Medal-winning author of *The One and Only Ivan*

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 - 8

## Customer Reviews

A Top 10 Spring 2016 Kids *Indie Next Pick* “Darkly humorous . . . honest and forthcoming . . . [Kammie’s] reflections in the heart of darkness (both literally and figuratively) are where the story hits its stride . . . It’s in the quiet moments when Kammie is along with her thoughts—which become surreal hallucinations—that the book comes alive . . . original and truthful.” *New York Times Book Review* “A brilliantly revealed, sometimes even funny, exploration of courage, the will to live, and the importance of being true to oneself. The catastrophe draws readers in, and the universality of spunky Kammie’s life-affirming journey will engage a wide audience. Moving, suspenseful, and impossible to put down.” *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review “The inimitable voice of 11-year-old Kammie Summers is not one you will soon forget—in turns wise, sad, hopeful, frightened, hilarious. Rivers does a masterful job...” *Buffalo News* “A hypnotic, utterly original novel . . . Guilt and forgiveness, truth and lies, family and self, friendship and social hierarchy--The Girl in the Well Is Me doesn’t so much tackle these subjects as absorb them into its natural fiber. Young readers will take in tough-and-tender Kammie as their own . . . and the suspense and anxiety of her situation will leave every reader breathless until the final page.” *Shelf Awareness* “I dare you to pick up this riveting novel without reading straight through to its heart-stopping conclusion. Karen Rivers has penned a dazzling voice, at once hilarious, heartbreaking, and searingly honest. The Girl in the Well Is Me is a triumph.” *Katherine Applegate*, Newbery Medal-winning author of *The One and Only Ivan* “A gripping story that doesn’t shy away from the dark places but explores them with heart, humor, and light.” *Kate Messner*, author of *All The Answers* “Funny, surreal, occasionally heartbreaking—a compulsively readable story.” *School Library Journal* “The danger will grab readers quickly, and their inevitable investment in Kammie will keep them breathlessly engaged through to the conclusion, perhaps even in one sitting if they can get away with it.” *The Bulletin for the Center of Children’s Books* “This is a fascinatingly well told story that strongly reminded me of Libba Bray’s *Going Bovine*, but with a completely believable middle grade flavor.” *Teen Librarian Toolbox / School Library Journal* “Superb . . . acrobatic . . . Karen Rivers is able to dive so seamlessly into the darker themes of growing up . . . Because of the tone and persistence of [protagonist] Kammie, the reader never loses faith that, although times may seem impossibly tough, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel.” *Cleaver Magazine* “It should strike a chord with its tween audience.” *Booklist* “Interesting and well-written.” *San*

## Francisco Book Review

The first thing everyone says to do in emergencies--earthquakes or house fires or if, say, you fall down an abandoned well out in the wasteland behind town--is to stay calm. "Stay calm, Kammie," I tell myself. My voice echoes up the dusty tunnel to where The Girls are, safe on high ground. "HELP!" I scream. "MANDY KANDY SANDY!" No one answers me, but I know they are there. Unless they went to get help. That's it. They went for help. Meanwhile, I am thoroughly wedged between the damp, rough walls of this stinky old well. I try to breathe slow, in and out. In and out. In and out. My heart beats. Nothing is broken, at least I don't think so. So I guess I'm OK. I am OK. I will be OK. OK? --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I love how author Karen Rivers starts this book off with a bang. Kammie falls into a well after trying to impress her "new" friends. Kammie was desperate to make friends after moving to Texas. The friends told her she had to pass an initiation to be a part of their club. Now Kammie is stuck in a well as three girls she barely even knows stare at her from above. And they are not taking the situation very seriously. Karen does an excellent job pulling the reader in. Making you enraged at the three girls who caused this to happen. The whole story is told from Kammie's perspective as she is trapped, hurt, and losing oxygen. As Kammie waits to be rescued, the reader finds out about Kammie, why she moved to Texas, and much, much more. A great read for grades 4 and up.

I loved this book and this is not the kind of books I usually read. I usually like fast-paced stories where one thing happens after the next and a lot of things happen in the book. This book the girl is in the well the whole time and you feel sad, suspense, anxious, but what I love most is it makes you ponder on the important things in life, what really matters, and how life can always be worse when you think it's already bad so we should learn to appreciate before we lose everything. She switches back and forth between the reality and whatever is in her head (her past, her imagination, her regrets, her feelings). It is very clearly written, I definitely recommend. But as a 30+ year old adult, I would not recommend for 10 year old kids. I say 15+ young adults to be able to fully understand her deep thoughts, besides, it talks about suicide at one point.

I stayed up WAY past my bedtime to finish this novel that I had started only hours earlier. It is an

absolutely captivating story about a girl who finds herself, surprisingly, in a well. Told from her viewpoint, it's an anxiety-filled, laugh-inducing, heartwarming story of a tween finding her way in, and (hopefully - no spoilers) out, of a tight space. Karen Rivers has done an excellent job making the story's dark parts find light again. A must-read for YA and adults as well.

This book was so gripping from the very start. So much suspense from page one. We learn the story of how Kammie came to be stuck in a well through beautiful prose and heart-wrenching storytelling. Loved it!

Because it was too confusing and not much happened in the story besides her staying in a well and talking about her life.

This was like listening to someone with ADHD tell a story... they know what they want to say, and remember some of the funny parts, but not necessarily in a good order. (Disclaimer, I have ADHD and teach children who struggle with the same. ) This spun through several periods, in and out of reality, and had many opportunities for a great story or characters that never materialized.

Quick read. Entertaining and amusing. Good lesson on the fact that we don't have to be bothered or embarrassed about things, and we can rebuild our lives and move past tragedy and uncertainty.

I liked this book because it was very descriptive about what was happening in each scene. I wish there was more to the book.

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