

THE GIRL WHO BECAME A TREE

is about a girl who is coming to terms with the death of her father whom she was very close to. The book explores her emotional journey and works through this extremely sad period of her life. The book opens in a library and then moves to a forest, where most of the book is set. Although at times I found myself confused by the narrative due to the fact it was written in poems, I found that the illustrations did help explain some of the things I may have missed. Even though I sometimes found the book hard to follow because of the poetry, I can understand why the author chose to write it in this style as it could convey the emotions felt throughout this book. The author is a very talented poet and when reading some of the poems in isolation you could really see the depth of feeling he was trying to convey. I found that a lot of the connected information in the book was often scattered throughout the chapters of the novel and this made it difficult to navigate the storyline. This led me to having a less than perfect understanding of the more complex aspects of the story. Overall, I feel that if the book had been written in more traditional style, it may have lost some of the emotional impact of the poems but may have helped the reader to gain a clearer understanding of this book. Neve

THE GIRL WHO BECAME A TREE

is a book about a girl called Daphne and her journey of grief after the loss of her dad. It is told through poems, which I thought worked very well to convey the emotion in the story. Although the story starts in a library, a lot of the story takes place in a fantasy setting, where Daphne finds herself lost in a forest. She then comes face to face with a monster, before she is turned into a tree. Whilst I felt slightly confused by the narrative, I thought the illustrations helped to explain and the things that happened in the forest were representative of Daphne's emotional journey. I felt that the techniques used in the poetry added to the richness and depth of the texture. Whilst I praise the author's skill in their poetry and the fact that they made each poem unique, certain parts of the book just didn't work for me. I also feel that the narrative was aimed at slightly younger children, whilst the poems and vocabulary used would only be understandable for older readers. As I read this book, I found that I was constantly thinking about the flaws of the book, which is why I feel that, overall, I did not enjoy this book. Kyriel

THE GIRL WHO BECAME A TREE

I really enjoyed this book: it was emotional, written in a poetic style. The main character Daphne is reflecting back on the death of her Father, trying to process her grief. In the end she ends up with a monster and is trapped. It makes it clear on how Daphne struggles by not living with her Father and the Greek Myth of Daphne and Apollo. I would rate this book at 10/10 and recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading poetry! Krishni

THE GIRL WHO BECAME A TREE

is very cleverly written. Composed of many different poems, it tells the story of Daphne, a girl who has become isolated from friends and family after losing her beloved father. Intertwined with this plot, the book also tells the story of the classical Daphne – a nymph who, fleeing from the lovestruck Apollo, begged for protection and was turned into a tree. The entire book is in poem format and the author occasionally changes things like font size or spacing between words to better convey the importance of a particular phrase. In my opinion, the format was not as engaging as that of a traditional novel, and I often felt that the book was aimed towards a younger audience. Jacob

THE GIRL WHO BECAME A TREE

is a heart wrenching story by Joseph Coelho. The main character is a girl called Daphne who is 14 years old. She is suffering from the loss of her father, so she shuts herself out from everybody else. As the story proceeds, she loses her phone and sees a tunnel in the library which she thinks will lead her to her phone. So, she enters the tunnel and finds that she is in a wood with an ever-changing monster. The monster tricks her into staying in a little hut made of electronics, and eventually she decides to stay. As she stays, time passes, and she carries on playing in the little hut. Eventually she wakes from her dream and she fights back. The monster then turns her into a tree, and feeds from her dreams. While she is in tree form, she talks to the other trees that were kids and decides she wants to go back to her mother and back to the world. She then escapes from her tree form and runs back to the tunnel and back to the library and back to her mother. This story is laid out in beautiful poems and makes you feel deeply for Daphne. I enjoyed reading this book and following Daphne in her adventure, I strongly recommend this to people who enjoy fantasy. Zoe

THE GIRL WHO BECAME A TREE

This book takes you through the main character, Daphne, becoming a tree. It includes bits from the Greek myth, in which Daphne becomes a tree. You go through Daphne's journey of becoming a tree, making friends with another boy who was turned into a tree. Daphne talks a lot about her father who loved trees. There are a few parts in the book where the author gives you small puzzles to solve, like bold letters to spell out a sentence. This book is really good and don't be put off by the fact that it is written as poems because they are really effective. Rachel