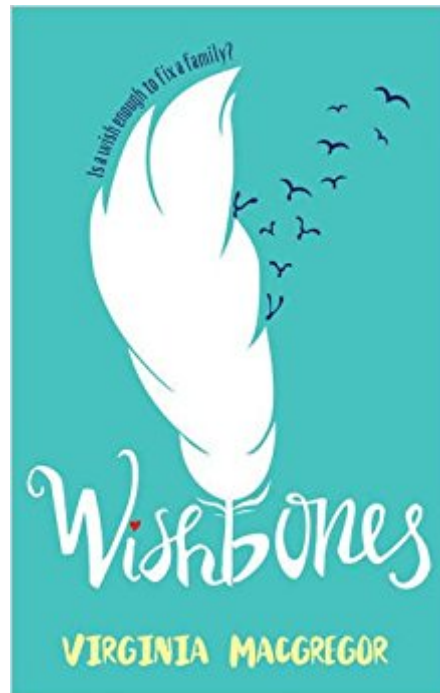




The book was found

Wishbones (Harlequin Teen)



Synopsis

Feather Tucker has two wishes: 1) To get her mum healthy again 2) To win the Junior UK swimming championships. When Feather comes home on New Year's Eve to find her mother – one of Britain's most obese women – in a diabetic coma, she realises something has to be done to save her mum's life. But when her Mum refuses to co-operate Feather realises that the problems run deeper than just her mum's unhealthy appetite. Over time, Feather's mission to help her Mum becomes an investigation. With the help of friends old and new, and the hindrance of runaway pet goat Houdini, Feather's starting to uncover when her mum's life began to spiral out of control and why. But can Feather fix it in time for her mum to watch her swim to victory? And can she save her family for good?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for *What Milo Saw*: "Undoubtedly a future classic" (Clare Mackintosh, author of Sunday Times Top Ten bestselling *I Let You Go*) "A life-affirming read . . . Warm, wise and insightful" (Good Housekeeping) "Sharp, funny and hugely moving, this is a must read" (Fabulous) "It is impossible not to fall in love with nine-year-old Milo in this touching novel" (Stylist) "The characterisation and dialogue make it easy to feel empathy for the family and readers will cheer Milo on to achieve his goal" (Sun) "[An] understated and likeable tale that just might restore your faith in human nature" (Bella)

Virginia Macgregor is currently Head of Creative Writing at Wellington College. Her debut novel *WHAT MILO SAW* was published by Sphere in hardback in July 2014 to rave reviews. Sphere have just signed a deal for two further adult novels from Virginia, to be published in 2017 and 2018.

Feather worries about her mother. She's morbidly obese and lapsed into a diabetic coma. If she doesn't change her eating habits she'll only have a few more months left to live. Feather wants to save her mother and comes up with a plan to look after her and make her lose weight. However, both her mother and her father aren't cooperative at all. Feather wants to know why. They're keeping something from her and she's made it her sole purpose to find out what it is. Feather lives in a small village called Willingdon. Her best friend Jake is the only other teenager in the village, but that changes when Clay arrives. Clay is struggling with his weight as well, he's dangerously skinny. While Feather is trying to deal with her family problems Jake is slowly starting to spend more time with Clay. Will his friendship with Feather survive and will Feather eventually find out her family's secret? Feather is a sweet girl. She's a bit naïve, she's a talented swimmer, she loves with all her heart and she gives everything of herself to the people who are important to her. She fights for what she believes in and her determination knows no bounds. Feather is a special person and she's a wonderful main character. She never tires, she keeps trying new things and she's coming up with plan after plan. Feather never gives up. My heart ached for her sometimes, because she doesn't get as much appreciation as she should. I couldn't turn the pages fast enough to find out what people were keeping from her and hoped she'd be able to sort things out, so her wishes would come true. *Wishbones* is an original story about a complex topic, weight issues. A lot of people are struggling with eating disorders and Virginia MacGregor has written an impressive story about this. There's more behind it than just the problems with food itself and she explains this in a fantastic empathic way. She's honest and direct and she knows what she's writing about. I greatly admired the important subject she's chosen for her story and the amazing way she describes it. Fear and hope are the main emotions Feather has to deal with and she keeps looking for the silver linings, which made me feel bittersweet. *Wishbones* is a heartwarming story filled with depth, energy and complicated situations. It has plenty of interesting twists and turns and a beautiful ending. I highly recommend this unique book.

Going into Virginia Macgregor's *Wishbones*, I wasn't sure if I was going to love it or hate it. It wasn't exactly my normal read but the subject matter as well as Feather's name caught my attention. As it

turns out, *Wishbones* is the type of book that I love to come across but rarely do: a book that truly takes me by surprise in the best way possible. Equal parts heartbreaking and heartwarming, *Wishbones* had me hooked from the first word until the very last. My favorite aspect of *Wishbones*? Feather, the main character. At the start of the story, Feather is slightly timid, simply focused on taking care of her mother, hanging out with her best friend, and improving her swimming technique. After the scare of New Year's Eve, however, Feather decides that things need to change for her mother, and with that, the rebirth of Feather occurs. Over the course of this book, Feather becomes determined, fearless, and relentless, starting a series of plans to help her mother become healthy again and to find out what exactly triggered her all those years ago. While some of Feather's plans were abrasive and rash, it was easy to see that Feather meant well, that she truly just loved her mother and wanted her to have a long, healthy life. I admired that about her. I know from personal experience - as I'm sure many people do - that it's incredibly hard to see someone close to you health deteriorate, you want to help them so badly but at the same time there's only so much you can do and say...it's basically the expression of "you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink." I thought Virginia did a fantastic job of capturing this frustration as well as hope through the voice of Feather. In addition to Feather, Virginia introduces a whole cast of other characters. I loved seeing the different personalities of Feather's small town. From the glamorous yet mysterious Mrs. Zas to the stern, seemingly angry Rev. Cootes to the mysterious newcomer, all were well developed and really brought the town and book to life. I enjoyed seeing how each of these characters added to Feather's story as well as added their own subplots in as well. The plot of this book focused on two very different types of eating disorders - anorexia and obesity. Both are hard topics but I thought Virginia did a great job of approaching them. She didn't make this an "after-school special" type of book nor did she act like there was this ultimate cure-all to these characters' problems. Instead, she made it true-life, believable....she showed the ups and downs to weight loss and weight gain...and most importantly, she showed that there is no one solution or cure-all. Instead, dealing with these issues means different things to different people, and that sometimes truly helping doesn't mean coming up with a 10-step plan but offering a listening ear as well as love and kindness. Also, surprising to me, there was a mystery in this as well. I don't want to say much about it in fear of spoiling anything, but it really brought some good suspense towards the end, as I tried to figure out what exactly Feather's mom was hiding. In all, *Wishbones* is a book that is perfect for young adults and adults alike. Ultimately a coming-of-age tale at its heart, Virginia Macgregor's *Wishbones* perfectly captures one girl's transformative year. Grade: B+

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