



# A Blue-Eyed Daisy

*Cynthia Rylant*

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## **A Blue-Eyed Daisy** Cynthia Rylant **an amazing year**

Ellie Farley's father, Okey, drinks too much, mostly because he hasn't been able to work since he was injured in a mining accident. He hasn't been able to hunt, either, so it's strange when he brings home a hunting dog, a beagle named Bullet.

But Bullet is only the first odd thing that happens to Ellie the year she's eleven. She sees a favorite uncle go off to war; a boy in her class has a fit in the middle of geography and another is accidentally killed while target shooting; and Okey drives his Chevy pickup off the mountain, with near-tragic consequences. But still Ellie manages the ordinary pleasures of making a best friend and getting kissed for the first time -- it's no wonder she confides to Bullet on her twelfth birthday, "Some year."

## **A Blue-Eyed Daisy Details**

Date : Published June 1st 2001 by Atheneum Books for Young Readers (first published 1985)

ISBN : 9780689844959

Author : Cynthia Rylant

Format : Paperback 112 pages

Genre : Fiction, Young Adult

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## **From Reader Review A Blue-Eyed Daisy for online ebook**

### **Miriam says**

This book was about a girl named Ellie who had to deal with being the youngest of five girls and with her father losing his job in a mining accident which led him to the path of drinking and not having much to say or do. In this book she makes a best friend, gets her first kiss, see's a classmate have a fit and see's a boy named Lance get killed, and see's her uncle head off to the war. I liked this book because it shows the way people deal with their day to day conflicts and how everyone struggles to earn something and to survive. This book also showed how a family can unite after evrything that was happening around you could go wrong. I recommend this book to anybody who likes to learn about what struggleing as a family is about

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### **Matthew says**

Cynthia Rylant is rapidly becoming one of my favorite authors. As an adult who enjoys reading juvenile literature I sometimes find it hard to accept that there is not a specified plot or story to a book. Often I am suprised at the end of a novel when I discover a hidden truth that was plainly there all along. Blue Eyed Daisy is just such a book. When we read juvenile literature we have to imagine ourselves as a kid again, that way we can sympathize not only with the characters, but the intended audience as well. Perhaps that is the magic in reading what a child would! :-)

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### **Rose says**

JF Ryl

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### **Christina Nestor says**

#### **Rylant does it again**

Fantastic read for children by the wonderful Rylant! The relationship between Ellie and her father is one many kids can relate to these days.

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### **Celeste says**

Good story, but starts out kind of slow.

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### **Kristen says**

There's no central conflict or arc and the characters aren't clearly defined enough to sustain a book as a character study.

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### **Mary says**

Glad I read this 1985 story - a standard bearer for exemplary children's fiction. My recommendation? Read *A Blue-Eyed Daisy* and then read some current J Fiction.

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### **Angela says**

I love Cynthia Rylant! Writes from the heart!

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### **Jennie Vosen says**

One of my favorite authors.

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### **Story Revolution says**

In a boxed review, *Publishers Weekly* called this novel of 11-year-old Ellie Farley, living in a coal-mining town in West Virginia, "an exquisite novel, written with love." Ages 9-12 Ellie Farley's father, Okey, drinks too much, mostly because he hasn't been able to work since he was injured in a mining accident. He hasn't been able to hunt, either, so it's strange when he brings home a hunting dog, a beagle named Bullet. But Bullet is only the first odd thing that happens to Ellie the year she's eleven. She sees a favorite uncle go off to war; a boy in her class has a fit in the middle of geography and another is accidentally killed while target shooting; and Okey drives his Chevy pickup off the mountain, with near-tragic consequences. But still Ellie manages the ordinary pleasures of making a best friend and getting kissed for the first time -- it's no wonder she confides to Bullet on her twelfth birthday, "Some year."

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### **Eugene Goode says**

Eugene Goode

Always in memory, *A blue-eyed daisy*. By Rylant. The book is an Aladdin Fiction. The theme or central idea is inspirational. I believe if anyone would read this book will feel encourage. You have the ability to do anything you want. I know think I can save a life.

It's about this girl that try to live a normal life. Her father have a real problem, and she is just lonely. Nobody to talk to, or chill with. No boyfriend or friend. She turns things around, and slowly dad starts getting better. I find this book really interesting. Ellie tried helping her father. She made him bring her hunting on a daily basics, so he could stop thinking about drinking all the time. And it worked. The book was also very descriptive. I can see Ellie sitting by herself at lunch at school, because she doesn't have anyone to talk to.

One question that I have is why didn't okey tried to find himself another job? I felt like the book was almost similar to my life, because I also didn't have friends until I reached middle school. something happened to Ellie that I thought was wrong. "It was around Valentines the boys would sneak around and slide their Valentine under some girl's desk top. And Ellie would clean out her desk at the end of the day and come up empty-handed."

I would recommend this for kids mostly teenagers. It's not a good read-aloud for young ones. I think for mostly mature readers. Another book that I've read called Cage. You might like it to, because it is inspirational. And it give people a different vision on life, and make people want to change their ways. If this seems like the book you would read, then read it. I enjoyed every second of it. I wouldn't let you down. Boy, or girl you would have fun reading *A Blue-Eyed Daisy*. Go out, and get yourself a copy. Guarantee you would get your moneys worth.

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### **Josiah says**

Noticeably episodic in its telling, *A Blue-Eyed Daisy* is the type of novel for which Cynthia Rylant has become best known: plain, simple, and completely unpretentious in the way it is presented. It's a novel of real life, told without any shocking revelations or twists implemented to sell it to the reader. The pace of the events that unfold is quiet and generally reserved, not really changing even as the tone of the narrative changes from one of sadness to happiness, back and forth again and again.

The book is meted out in four segments: fall, winter, spring and summer. This is to be a transformative year for Ellie Farley, a year in which no one thing stands out as the catalyst for change on a massive scale, but with everything contributing to the approach of her adolescent phase. Ellie learns some things about her parents, both as a couple and as individuals; she learns about her four teenage siblings (all sisters), who each occupy their own particular place in the family. She learns about her family as a whole, which may not be as wonderful a group as she would have chosen, but which is far less broken than many of the families around her. Ellie even begins to feel the first warm stirrings of interest in boys, which had never previously inhabited her mind. Over the course of twelve months and a host of happenings, some related and others not really connected in any way, Ellie realizes that a year in the life of a human being always changes things, and it won't ever be exactly the same again.

Strength may come from within, but Ellie finds that there's no substitute for the presence of even a clearly imperfect family, which gives emotional support even when seemingly not being supportive at all. So while very little on the outside may be different from the beginning of the book to the end, so much has actually changed, in the ways that really matter.

Don't miss the compassionate understanding of Cynthia Rylant, which is the granite in which the words of this book are chiseled. She is a fine writer who has once again delivered a relevant, thoughtful piece of literature. I would give two and a half stars to *A Blue-Eyed Daisy*.

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### **Marilyn says**

Middle-gr-oade fiction. Eleven-year-old Ellie lives in a coal-mining town in West Virginia with a disabled

father who drinks too much, a distant mother and four older sisters. This short, easily-read book follows Ellie for a year---a year in which her father gets a hunting dog, she learns to shoot a gun, she gets her first kiss, she finds a friend, an uncle goes to war---and more. Beautifully written by Cynthia Rylant, but still, kind of depressing.

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### **Dianne White says**

I love Cynthia Rylant, and picked up this book in Portland when I was there recently. It was fair.

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### **Kate says**

A hard-drinking, soft-hearted father, long-suffering mother, and the hardscrabble West Virginia hill country, as seen through the eyes of the sensitive youngest daughter of five

gr. 4-8

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