



Title: Fighting Words

Author: Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Imprint: Dial Books

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers

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ISBN: 9781984815682 and 9781984815705

Format: Hardcover and Paperback

Age Range*: 14 and up
Grade Range: Gr 5 Up

BOOK RESUME: FIGHTING WORDS

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A candid and fierce middle grade novel about sisterhood and sexual abuse, by two-time Newbery Honor winner and #1 *New York Times* best seller Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, author of *The War that Saved My Life*

Ten-year-old Della has always had her older sister, Suki: When their mom went to prison, Della had Suki. When their mom's boyfriend took them in, Della had Suki. When that same boyfriend did something so awful they had to run *fast*, Della had Suki. Suki is Della's own wolf—her protector. But who has been protecting Suki? Della might get told off for swearing at school, but she has always known how to keep quiet where it counts. Then Suki tries to kill herself, and Della's world turns so far upside down, it feels like it's shaking her by the ankles. Maybe she's been quiet about the wrong things. Maybe it's time to be loud.

In this powerful novel that explodes the stigma around child sexual abuse and leavens an intense tale with compassion and humor, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley tells a story about two sisters, linked by love and trauma, who must find their own voices before they can find their way back to each other.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "At once heartbreaking and hopeful."—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "Honest [and] empowering...An important book for readers of all ages."—*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "Sensitive[,] deft, and vivid."—*BCCB*, starred review

★ "Prepare to read furiously."—*Booklist*, starred review

★ "An essential, powerful mirror and window for any reader."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "Enlightening, empowering and—yes—uplifting."—*BookPage*, starred review

★ "Unforgettable."—*The Horn Book*, starred review

"Della's matter-of-fact narration manages to be as funny and charming as it is devastatingly sad. . . . This is a novel about trauma [but] more than that, it's a book about resilience, strength and healing. For every young reader who decides to wait . . . there will be others for whom this is the exact book they need right now." —*New York Times Book Review*

Updated 10.31.2024

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A Newbery Honor Book
- A Golden Kit Award for Fiction Honor Book
- A *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Book Award Honor Book
- An ALSC Notable selection
- A California Young Reader Medal selection
- A Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award selection
- A Washington D.C. Capitol Choices selection
- A Georgia Children's Book Award selection
- An Illinois Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award selection
- An Indiana Young Hoosier Book Award selection
- An Iowa Teen Book Award selection
- A Kansas William Allen White Award selection
- A Kentucky Bluegrass Award selection
- A Maryland Black Eyed-Susan Book Award selection
- A Michigan Great Lakes, Great Books Award selection
- A Michigan MISelf in Books Award selection
- A Minnesota Maud Hart Lovelace Award selection
- A Missouri Truman Readers Award selection
- A Nebraska Golden Sower Award selection
- A New Hampshire Great Stone Face Book Award selection
- An Oklahoma Sequoyia Book Award selection
- A Rhode Island Middle School Book Award selection
- A South Carolina Junior Book Award selection
- A South Dakota Young Adult Reading Program selection
- A Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award selection
- A Utah Beehive Award selection
- A Vermont Golden Dome Book Award selection
- A Washington Evergreen Teen Book Award selection
- A Wisconsin Just One More Page selection
- A *Booklist* Editor's Choice selection
- A Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year selection
- A *Boston Globe* Best Book of the Year selection
- A Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices selection
- A *Horn Book* Fanfare selection
- A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of the Year selection
- A *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year selection

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Discussion Guide](#)
- [TeachingBooks.net resources](#)

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