



**Title:** Dancing at the Pity Party

**Author/Illustrator:** Tyler Feder

**Imprint:** Rocky Pond

**Publisher:** Penguin Young Readers

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**Format:** Hardcover and Paperback

**Age Range\*:** 12 Up

**Grade Range:** Gr 8 Up  
(Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

# BOOK RESUME: DANCING AT THE PITY PARTY

## **BOOK SYNOPSIS**

Tyler Feder had just white-knuckled her way through her first year of college when her super cool mom was diagnosed with late-stage cancer. Now, with a decade of grief and nervous laughter under her belt, Tyler shares the story of that gut-wrenching, heart-pounding, extremely awkward time in her life—from her mom's first oncology appointment to her funeral through the beginning of facing reality as a motherless daughter. She shares the sting of loss that never goes away, the uncomfortable post-death firsts, and the deep-down, hard-to-talk-about feelings of the grieving process.

*Dancing at the Pity Party* is a frank and refreshingly funny look at what it's like to grieve—for anyone struggling with loss who just wants someone to *get it*.

## **REVIEWS AND PRAISE**

★ "Feder's simple art features light pink backgrounds, a diverse cast of supporting characters, and details that make the story feel real . . . this book offers a wealth of perspective about coping with grief." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "Equal parts celebration, reflection, and mourning, this graphic memoir touches on the unpredictable path of grief . . . Grieving teens will find incredible solace in Feder's story; all readers will be stirred by this wrenching yet uplifting musing." —*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "Feder takes readers along on the nightmare road trip that nobody wants to make in a frank and funny, intimate and poignant graphic novel . . . The narrative, in peppily solid panel art, is exceptionally articulate and accessible." —*BCCB*, starred review

★ "Grief can be crushing, but this heartfelt memoir will comfort those who have known it and gently show those who haven't how to help and what to expect." —*Booklist*, starred review

"The pastel-toned illustrations effectively convey Feder's youth and the intensity of her emotions while emphasizing the ultimate message of survival and resilience in the face of life-changing grief. Cathartic and uplifting." —*Kirkus Reviews*

**Updated 3.30.2026**

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"Sincere but not sappy, this bittersweet and affecting meditation on the author's experiences also serves as a heartfelt celebration of her mother's life."

—*Horn Book*

#### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- A Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner
- A YALSA Great Graphic Novels for Teens selection
- A Junior Library Guild selection
- A Washington D.C. Capitol Choices selection
- An Illinois Abraham Lincoln High School Award selection
- A Missouri Dogwood Nonfiction Reading List selection
- A South Carolina Young Adult Book Award selection
- A Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award selection
- A Texas Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List selection
- A Texas TAYSHAS Reading List selection
- A Texas Topaz Nonfiction Reading List selection
- A Utah Beehive Award selection

#### **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- [TeachingBooks.net resources](#)
- [We Are Teachers 20 Favorite Graphic Novels for Middle and High School](#)

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