

What Happened on Fox Street

Tricia Springstubb

Reviewed by: Ryan Lee

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Fox Street is the epitome of a cozy suburban neighborhood. Everyone knows everyone else, and the children who live there might as well have a dozen parents instead of just two. Or one, as it happens. Mo Wren is a ten-year old girl living with her father and her sister on Fox Street. Their house is the focus of all activity on Fox Street, and Mo considers it the heart of the street, as it happens to be dead in the middle of the block. A whole variety of characters live on the street, including a piano player, a hair-cutter, and a mean, reclusive old lady, so that the street is basically a town all by itself. The atmosphere is warm and friendly, and Mo very much enjoys her life here. Summers are her favorite, when her old friend Mercedes comes back to visit for the break. But Mo values Fox Street for more than just that. It is the only place that has memories of her mother, and like all children she cannot imagine change. Unfortunately for her, that change arrives very abruptly in the form of a letter addressed to her father looking to buy the property on Fox Street, as part of a plan to gain the entire area for a development project. Mo watches with dismay as her father seems to give in to the plan and, along with Mercedes, who is experiencing her own problems, attempts to stop him and prevent the selling of her childhood paradise. Along the way, revelations about matters that have long been put away and forgotten about come to light and help to complicate the already rather-tangled web that Mo has found herself in.

Though *What Happened On Fox Street* is a little more sedate than my usual reading, it manages to draw the reader in with carefully-developed plot twists that show more than they originally seem to herald. Though there is no real sense of urgency to begin with, Mo's frantic desire to keep her childhood home and the world that has been built around her infects the story and make the reader care about the eventual outcome.

This book is probably suited for girls ages 12-14. Its appeal might not extend to boys whose tastes run more to books about action and such. Aside from the age and gender demographic, I would recommend it to those who enjoy reading 'slice-of-life' type novels and like taking looks into character interaction and development.

Recommended Titles:

Eunice (The Egg Salad) Gottlieb, by Tricia Springstubb

Which Way To The Nearest Wilderness, by Tricia Springstubb

The Magic Guinea Pig, by Tricia Springstubb

Saving Sky, by Diane Stanley

Clara Lee and the Apple Pie Dream, by Jenny Han