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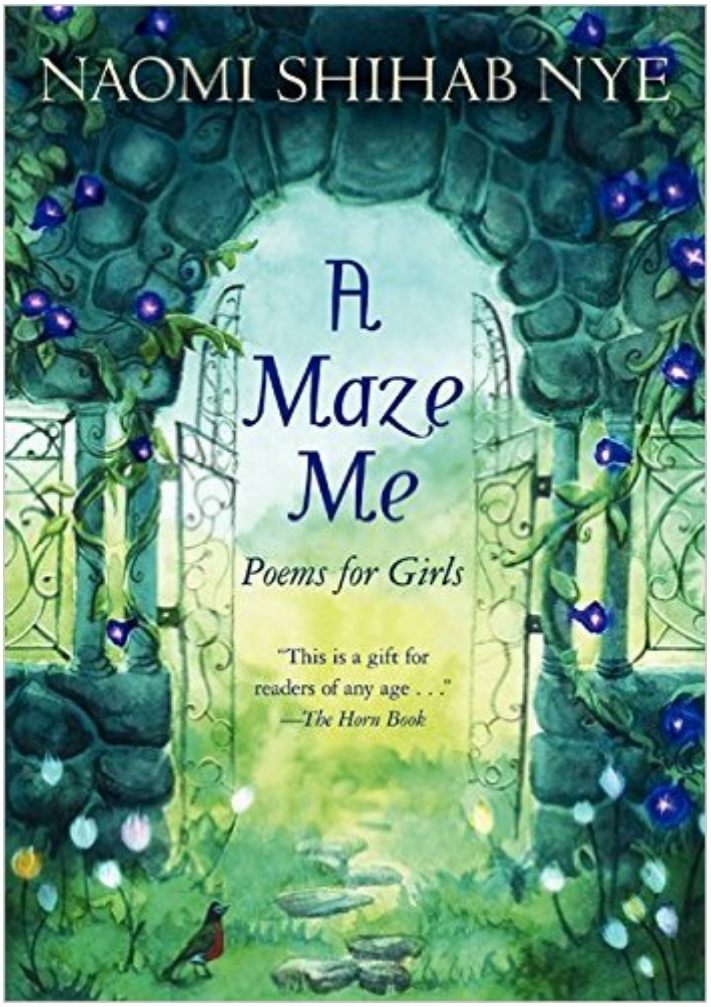
A Maze Me: Poems For Girls



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Synopsis

A collection of seventy-two poems written especially for girls ages twelve and up by the much-honored and beloved poet Naomi Shihab Nye. "A lovely, rich collection that promises to be a lasting companion for young writers."â ”School Library Journal (starred review)First love, friendship, school, family, community, having a crush, loving your mother and hating your mother, sense of self, body image, hopes and dreams . . . these seventy-two poems by Naomi Shihab Nyeâ ”written expressly for this collectionâ ”will speak to girls of all ages. An honest, insightful, inspirational, and amazing collection. "A wide age range will respond to these deeply felt poems about everyday experiences, which encourage readers to lean eagerly into their lives and delight in its passages."â ”ALA Booklist (starred review). An introduction by the author is included.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"RingingA baby, I stood in my crib to hearthe dingy-ding of a vegetable truck approaching.When I was bigger, my mom took me out to the streetto meet the man who rang the bell and he tossed mea tangerine.....the first thing I ever caught. I thought he wasa magic man.My mom said there used to be milk trucks too. She said,Look hard, he’ll be gone soon. And she was right.He disappeared.Now when I hear an ice-cream truck chiming its bells, I fly.Even if I’m not hungry--just to watch it pass.Mailmen with their chime of dogs barkingup and down the street are magic too.They are all bringers.I want to be a bringer.I want to drive a truck full of eggplants down the smallest street.I want to be someone making musicwith my coming."And so she is. And so she does.A great joy that accompanies a new book of poems by Naomi Shihab Nye is the expectation that she will begin

reappearing at national conferences and conventions, reading aloud from her latest collection. The good feeling I've taken away with me from her past workshops is about as close as I get to church these days.A MAZE ME contains seventy-two of Naomi's latest poems. Younger teens will find these pieces easy to read and relate to. Hopefully, many will be intrigued and inspired by Naomi's ability to create poetry from such sources as a car manual, a newspaper article, a taco sign, "the hair on the head of the girl in front of me in school," Julia Child's patting potatoes, or a vapor trail "X" that a pair of planes have inadvertently left in the sky.Being a book of "Poems for Girls" there are also the requisite handful of "longing" poems:"High HopesIt wasn't that they were sohigh, exactly,they were morelow-down,close-to-the-ground,I could rub themthe way you touch a catthat rubs against your ankleseven if he isn't yours.So yes I feel lonely without them.Now that I know the truth,that I only dreamed someone liked me,the cat has curled up in a bed of leavesagainst the house and I still have to doeverything I had to do beforewithout a secret huminside."Despite being a guy, I really enjoyed the images and memories conjured up by these poems. Whether reading "Visiting My Old Kindergarten Teacher, Last Day of School," "Turtle" (about the persistent creature that had walked for twenty years), or "Across the Aisle" (about the little girl who coughed "every 30 seconds for seven whole hours" on a transatlantic flight), I've repeatedly interrupted Rosemary's reading on the couch and Shari's grading papers at the kitchen table in order to have an audience with whom to share the poems aloud."Big Head, Big Face(what my brother said to me)If your head had been smallermaybe you woulda had less thoughts in it,maybe you wouldn't have so many troubles.This is just a guess but seems to melike a little drawer only hold a few spoonsand you can always find the one you needwhile a big drawer jammed with tongsstrings corks junky stuff receipts birthday cardsyou never gonna look atscrambled and mixed so one day you open that drawerpoke your hand in and big knife go through your palmyou didn't even know a knife was IN there,well, that's why I thinkit might not be so bad to have a little headwith just a few thoughts few memories few hopesmaybe if only one little one came truethat be enough for you."Luckily for us, Naomi Shihab Nye has carefully sifted through that drawer to provide an entertaining assortment of poetic images, thoughts, stories, and yoga poses.

This book by the sublime Naomi Shihab Nye is subtitled "Poems for Girls," but I don't think that this charming book should be restricted to one gender. I certainly chuckled, oohed, and aahed a number of times as I read through it. (Still, it WOULD make a great gift for the young girl in your life.)Shihab Nye has a generosity of spirit that shines through her poetry like a twinkle in a kindly aunt's eye. Here is a little somethin'-somethin' to whet your appetite (excerpted from "Ringing"):"Now, when I

hear an ice-cream truck chiming its bells, I flyEven if I’m not hungry -- just to watch it pass.Mailmen with their chime of dogs barkingup and down the street are magic too.They are all bringers.I want to be a bringer.I want to drive a truck full of eggplants down the smallest street. I want to be someone making music with my coming."

Once I read Naomi Shihab Nye’s introduction, I felt I was about to turn the pages of something very special. I was right. This unique collection of poems gives the reader a chance to look at familiar life in a new way. Full of nostalgia, intimate and humorous, tender and tearful, this is a book I would love to underline and memorize. I look forward to writing in my own notebook, trying to find the poet in me.

Naomi Shihab Nye has a relationship with words and Emotions that few people achieve in their life, regardless of their age. She is my favorite poet as well as my favorite author and I have never dislike one of her poems.A Maze Me is no exception. Every poem sends a strong message or fills you with a feeling or new idea. Each poem is written so beautifully that no illustration is needed, as it probes curiosity and imaginitive explanations. In my opinion, Naomi Shihab Nye is very philosophical, and this thinking appears through metaphors that are evenly distributed throughout her literature.A Maze Me is an incredible set of poems and your life will not be complete until you have read this.

I bought this book at an airport for my daughter- but I read it out loud to her and her little brother, and we all enjoyed it. The poems are fun and sad and funny and insightful. It led me to seek out other works by Nye and I’ve enjoyed them all.

Simple enough for older kids, generated a couple of interesting dinner conversationsIt’s a challenge presenting alternative reading materials for kids in the digital age.Everything seems to be rushed through electronic devices and reflection is lost.

Wonderful poetry - sensitive and beautiful. I will give the book to my granddaughter when she turns 12 but it truly is great for all ages. I have ordered other books by the same author since reading this.

I love Naomi Shihab Nye’s style. I’m suspicious to write a review, but... It is not only for girls aged 12-14. Any woman, at any age can find rays of sunshine in it. I love opening this book randomly and

reading the poem on the page I find. It is always pleasant and touching.

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