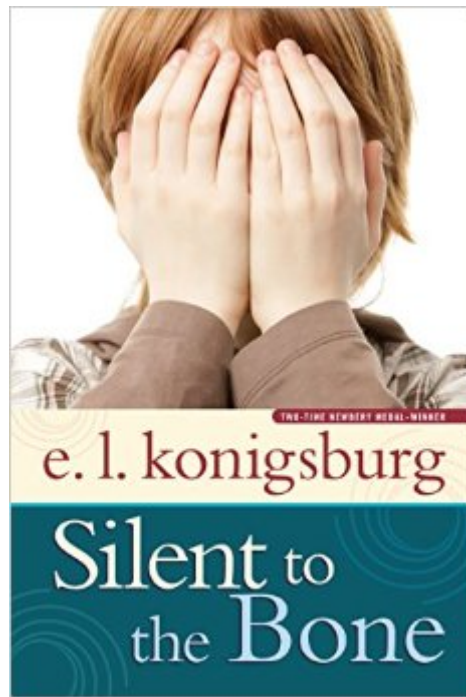


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Silent To The Bone



Synopsis

Speechless Connor is sure his best friend, Branwell, couldn't have hurt Branwell's baby half sister, Nikki. But Nikki lies in a coma, and Branwell is in a juvenile behavioral center, suspected of a horrible crime and unable to utter the words to tell what really happened. Connor is the only one who might be able to break through Branwell's wall of silence. But how can he prove Branwell didn't commit the unspeakable act of which he's accused -- when Branwell can't speak for himself?

Book Information

Paperback: 261 pages

Publisher: Aladdin; Reprint edition (April 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689836023

ISBN-13: 978-0689836022

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.7 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

E.L. Konigsburg's writing has been migrating in style and subject matter; her latest work. *Silent to the Bone*, is ample proof of that. It's also proof that she can write anything she wants to. It is an excellent and intense book that explores family, friendship, love, and lies with Konigsburg's accustomed skill and intelligence. The main character and narrator is Connor. Branwell, Connor's best friend, has been accused of seriously injuring his baby sister Nikki, and has been unable to speak since she was hurt. Connor visits Branwell in the detention center, where he realizes that he must first learn to communicate with his friend and then learn what really happened to Nikki. Connor is a very intelligent kid, but still real and fully-fleshed. In fact, the main characters of this book - Connor, Branwell, the au pair, and Connor's sister - are all very well developed, as are the relationships between them. Although the subject is rather grim, the book itself is not. The primary focus is actually Connor's detective work, the ways in which he goes about discovering what happened both in Branwell's house and in Branwell's head. The plot is gripping and believable,

and the truths - about Branwell's sister, but many others as well - unfold naturally, without calling attention to themselves. Although Konigsburg rarely makes blatant statements about emotions or complex relationships - people mostly don't, after all - she makes everything clear to the reader. The family relationships, for example, are for the most part background, but so perfectly drawn that they are easy to see and understand. Although it's very different from her early works, like *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, *Silent to the Bone* is every bit as good.

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