

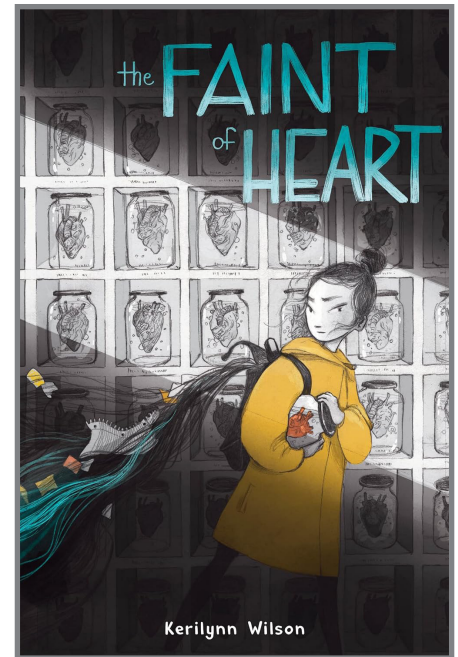
The Faint of Heart

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
KERILYNN WILSON

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Not that long ago, the Scientist discovered that all sadness, anxiety and anger disappeared when you removed your heart. And that's all it took. Soon enough, the hospital had lines out the door—even though the procedure numbed the good feelings, too.

Everyone did it. Everyone except high school student June. But now the pressure, loneliness and heartache are mounting, and it's becoming harder and harder to be the only one with a heart.

One day, June comes across an abandoned heart in a jar. The heart in the jar intrigues her, it baffles her and it brings her hope. But the heart also brings her Max, a classmate with a secret of his own.

And it may rip June's own heart in two.

Part speculative fiction and part cautionary tale, *The Faint of Heart* is a moving and ethereal debut that questions morality and the feelings that seem too big to contain.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Kerilynn Wilson is an author/illustrator with a love of the weird and wonderful. She lives in Oregon City, Oregon, but her mind tends to wander to made-up places in her head filled with flying jellyfish and birds that eat the stars. *The Faint of Heart* is her debut graphic novel.

STUDY NOTES

- June lives in a society in which nearly everyone has given up their ability to feel. What would you choose? Would you give up all emotions in order to never to feel pain or sadness? Or would you keep even your bad feelings in order to experience joy and love?
- As more students have their hearts removed, the school cuts art from the curriculum in favour of more maths and science classes. When June's sister has her heart removed, she stops making art with June. What is the connection between emotion and art?
- Much of June's world is black and white, while June wears a bright yellow coat, and her artwork is often vivid, warm colours. What does Kerilynn Wilson's use of colour throughout *The Faint of Heart* call attention to?
- Plants are a motif throughout the book. What do they symbolise?

- What does June discover when faced with the heartbreaking choice of sharing her heart with either her sister or her crush?