



Sisters, Long Ago

Peg Kehret

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She was drowning - when scenes of her childhood flashed through her mind. Then, images of a girl named Kalos in a distant time and place. Somehow, Willow Paige knew that she was Kalos, saved from drowning by her sister Tiy - as Willow herself was saved by a girl with a long, blond braid. Kalos returned, in Willow's dreams, with a message in a strange, exotic language. Was the past Willow's past? Was the girl her sister in another life?

Sisters, Long Ago Details

Date : Published March 1st 1992 by Minstrel (first published 1990)

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Author : Peg Kehret

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Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Young Adult, Historical, Historical Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade

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kayepants says

I don't know if this book is actually as good as I thought it was when I was 12, but I intend to find a copy and re-read it.

Chocolate Panda says

the whole plot is based on re-incarnation of a teenage girl called Willow and recalling her past memories.

Kristi says

This was probably one of the first books that I read for pleasure as a child and I really didn't read much when I was younger. I remember it sparking an interest in Egypt and reincarnation.

Lynn Spinks says

Oh. My. Gosh. I loved this book .Yes, it was a million years ago but holy cow!! Peg Kehret wrote a bunch of books that completely captivated me when I was younger! I even met her once at a book store and definatly still have the picture from the day. All I can say is she will not disappoint you, especially in this book. It may seem juvenile to some of my older friends but I say who cares?! Pick up a copy of this book and just let yourself live it :)

Kate says

This was one of my favorite books in elementary school!

Kyla says

I read this book when I was about 10 years old. It was about reincarnation. That was my first real experience thinking about what could come after life.

RaygunGothic says

This was one of my favorite books as a little girl in the 90s!!!

Michelle says

Another one I read as a kid and has stayed with me...can you tell I love anything about ancient Egypt!

Misty says

loved this book.

Catherine says

I bought this book at a Scholastic Book Fair, though I gave it away at some point since. I was attracted to the Egyptian princess on the cover, but the story wasn't what I expected. The protagonist girl comes to believe she is experiencing memories from a past life and goes in search of information about reincarnation. I remember her brother dies of leukemia in the present day story. Anyways, it wasn't for me.

Lisa says

I bought *Sisters, Long Ago* at a school book fair when I was a kid (for the low, low early 90s price of \$3.50), and proceeded to read it half a dozen times. It was the first book I ever encountered about a U.S. teen exploring religions outside Christianity. Granted, that exploration is presented in a somewhat idealized/fantasy context, but still--it made a really big impression on my nine year-old self.

The story begins when Willow, a WASPy blonde high schooler, almost drowns at the lake on her sixteenth birthday. Just before Willow is rescued, she has a vision of an experience from another lifetime. The book follows Willow as she tries to learn more about reincarnation, struggles with having different ideas about spirituality than her very, very Christian best friend, and struggles with her sister's terminal illness.

Rereading it as an adult, I still appreciate how Kehret creates a safe space in her book for religious exploration. I also realized that I have Kehret to thank for my habit of taking notes on everything--when I got to the part where Willow attends a reincarnation workshop and writes down key phrases in a notepad, I suddenly remembered sitting in 5th or 6th grade classes taking notes and subconsciously thinking something along the lines of, "I'd better take good notes in case this somehow turns out to be relevant to an ancient Egyptian reincarnation adventure." So way to go to Kehret for modeling the idea that learning is fun. Finally, I was impressed by how condensed the action was. She may skimp on setting, but Kehret can put her characters through a lot of interesting events in a convincing way with an unbelievably small amount of words, which makes for good middle school reading.

Fun 90s flashbacks:

1. "I looked them up in my **encyclopedia**."
2. Referring to the main character's mom as "**Mrs. Paige**" rather than "Willow's Mom."
3. "**Hunk** alert!"

Another YA novel with similar themes of religious universalism, the past colliding with the present, and "Holy smokes, isn't ancient Egypt cool?!" that I also enjoyed around the same age was *The Reluctant God*, by Pamela F. Service.

Sarah says

This book is by my favorite author... I've read so many of her books!!!!!!

Lauren says

I LOVED this book when I was younger! I always wished I had a cool second life like that.

Sarah Crawford says

This is about a girl named Willow who has dreams of being a girl named Kalos at some time in the past. She eventually manages to figure out that Kalos lived in ancient Egypt. The entire novel consists of Willow's trying to learn what she has been dreaming of and experiencing, and learning more and more about the subject of reincarnation.

Which is what the real theme of the book is, more so than the theme of Willow trying to find out what is behind her dreams and visions. The book spends far too much time going over reincarnation and its facets and people's reactions to it. There's too little of the story in the story, and too much semi-academic examination of the topic of reincarnation. It makes the book boring. There should have been some other way to tone down the examination of the topic of reincarnation, and spend more time on Willow and what she was going through.

A book to read only if you are out of any others.

Lindsay says

This book is a GREAT!!!!!!! book by Peg Kehret. It is about a girl who thinks she knows what her past life was. i LOVE this book.
