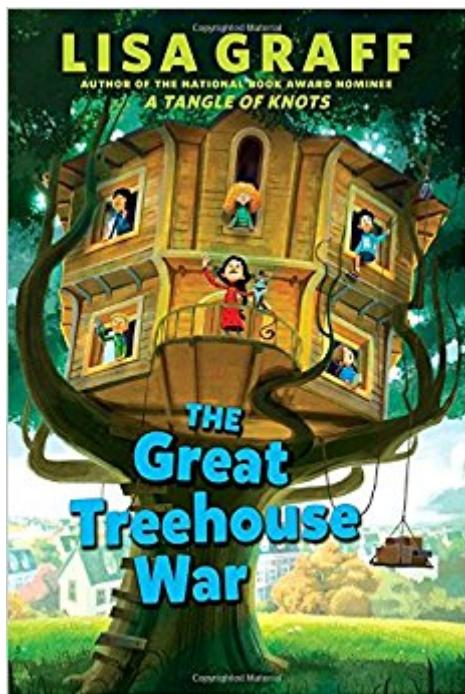


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# The Great Treehouse War



## Synopsis

Kids vs. parents! An epic treehouse sleepover! An awesome group of friends! An exciting new book from National Book Award finalist Lisa Graff. Winnie's last day of fourth grade ended with a pretty life-changing surprise. That was the day Winnie's parents got divorced and decided that Winnie would live three days a week with each of them and spend Wednesdays by herself in a treehouse between their houses, to divide her time perfectly evenly. It was the day Winnie's seed of frustration with her parents was planted, a seed that grew until it felt like it was as big as a tree itself. By the end of fifth grade, Winnie decides that the only way to change things is to barricade herself in her treehouse until her parents come to their senses—and her friends decide to join. It's kids vs. grown-ups, and no one wants to back down first. But with ten kids in one treehouse, all with their own demands, things get pretty complicated! Even if they are having the most epic slumber party ever. In the newest novel by beloved National Book Award finalist Lisa Graff, kids turn the tables on their parents, and all the rules are tossed out the window. But does Winnie have what it takes to hold her ground and keep everyone happy? This story, with a pitch-perfect middle grade voice and a zany yet poignant situation, is perfect for fans of Sharon Creech, Louis Sachar, and Jack Gantos. Praise for Lisa Graff's novels: *The Great Treehouse War* "It's kids vs. parents in epic fashion...Graff's whimsical, original work is a breath of fresh air." *School Library Journal* "Combining over-the-top storytelling with down-home wisdom, this [is] fun." *Booklist* "[Graff creates] A vibrant patchwork of personalities that gives voice to the power of friendship." *Publishers Weekly* "A good-natured satire of helicopter parenting and a celebration of child ingenuity." *Horn Book* *Lost in the Sun* "Graff writes with stunning insight...consistently demonstrat[ing] why character-driven novels can live from generation to generation." *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review "Weighty matters deftly handled with humor and grace." *School Library Journal*, starred review "This [novel] speaks powerfully, honestly, almost shockingly about our human pain and...redemption. This book will change you." *Gary Schmidt*, *The Wednesday Wars* "Graff crafts a compelling story about a boy touched with tragedy....And like all the best stories, it ends at a new beginning." *Richard Peck*, *A Year Down Yonder* *Absolutely Almost* "A perfect book to share with struggling readers." *Booklist*, starred review "Achingly superb." *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review "Graff's...gentle story invokes evergreen themes of coming to appreciate one's strengths (and weaknesses), and stands out for its thoughtful, moving portrait of a boy who learns to keep moving forward." *Publishers Weekly*, starred review "The patrons of my school library have been asking, 'Do you have any books

like "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio?" and now I have the perfect offering." "A beautiful world of deliciously interconnected stories." •Entertainment Weekly, A-\* "Subtle and intricate, rich with humor and insight, this quietly magical adventure delights." •Kirkus Reviews, starred review "Combining the literary sensibility of E.B. White with the insouciance of Louis Sachar, [this] should satisfy readers for years to come." •Booklist, starred review

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0890 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: Philomel Books (May 16, 2017)

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Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #110,024 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce #907 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings #2090 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Praise for Lisa Graff's novels: "The Great Treehouse War" "It's kids vs. parents in epic fashion, and Graff's not-quite-fantasy world is every kid's dream....Graff's whimsical, original work is a breath of fresh air. A strong addition to any middle grade collection." •School Library Journal "Combining over-the-top storytelling with down-home wisdom, this appealing chapter book is easy to booktalk and fun to read." •Booklist "In this appealing faux-memoir, [Lisa Graff creates] a vibrant patchwork of personalities that gives voice to the power of friendship." •Publishers Weekly "It's

a good-natured satire of helicopter parenting and a celebration of child ingenuity, but mostly it's all about what fun it is to live in a tree." •Horn Book Lost in the Sun\* "Graff writes with stunning insight [and] consistently demonstrates why character-driven novels can live from generation to generation." •Kirkus Reviews\* **STARRED REVIEW** "Graff creates layered, vulnerable characters that are worth getting to know." •Booklist **STARRED REVIEW** "[A]n ambitious and gracefully executed story." •Publishers Weekly\* **STARRED REVIEW** "Weighty matters deftly handled with humor and grace will give this book wide appeal." •School Library Journal\* **STARRED REVIEW** "Characterization is thoughtful." •BCCB\* **STARRED REVIEW** "This is a novel that speaks powerfully, honestly, almost shockingly about our human pain and our human redemption. This book will change you." •Gary Schmidt, author of *The Wednesday Wars* "Lisa Graff crafts a compelling story about a boy touched with tragedy and the world of people he cares about. And like all the best stories, it ends at a new beginning." •Richard Peck, author of *A Year Down Yonder* *Absolutely Almost* \* "Albie comes through significant emotional hardship to a genuine sense of self-worth." •School Library Journal, **STARRED REVIEW** "A perfect book to share with struggling readers." •Booklist, **STARRED REVIEW** \* "Achingly superb, Albie's story shines." •Kirkus Reviews, **STARRED REVIEW** \* "Graff's...gentle story invokes evergreen themes of coming to appreciate one's strengths (and weaknesses), and stands out for its thoughtful, moving portrait of a boy who learns to keep moving forward, taking on the world at his own speed." •Publishers Weekly, **STARRED REVIEW** \* "Lately the patrons of my school library have been asking, 'Do you have any books like *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio?' • and now I have the perfect offering." •BookPage\* "Maybe the wonder of *Absolutely Almost* is that it's willing to give us an almost unheard of hero." •Betsy Bird, *Fuse #8* Blog "Graff...again draws on her ability to create rich lifeworlds for her characters to present a boy who is gifted in many ways....[T]his is a sharp portrait of an outsider's inner perspective, and Albie's coming to terms with himself will be cheered by many." --BCCB Reviews\* *A Clatter of Jars*: "Graff is a master of the magical realism genre, and this offering is worthy of a spot in any middle grade collection." •School Library Journal "Graff's vivid character development and world building makes for tight plotting and nicely negotiable complexity. A great fit for fans of Louis Sachar's *Holes*." •Booklist "Graff's prose and plot construction is as pleasing as ever, and *A Clatter of Jars* will appeal to a wide range of

readers."Ã¢â€¢BookpageA Tangle of KnotsÃ¢â€¢"Lisa Graff has created a beautiful world of deliciously interconnected stories that draw you in."Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢"Abby West, Entertainment Weekly, A-\*Ã¢â€¢"Subtle and intricate, rich with humor and insight, this quietly magical adventure delights."Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢"Kirkus Reviews \*STARRED REVIEW\*\*Ã¢â€¢"Combining the literary sensibility of E.Ã¢â€¢ B. White with the insouciance of Louis Sachar, Graff has written a tangle that should satisfy readers for years to come."Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢"BooklistÃ¢â€¢ \*STARRED REVIEW\*

Lisa Graff ([www.lisagraff.com](http://www.lisagraff.com)) is the critically acclaimed and award-winning author of *Lost in the Sun*, *Absolutely Almost*, *A Tangle of Knots*, *Double Dog Dare*, *Sophie Simon Solves Them All*, *Umbrella Summer*, *The Life and Crimes of Bernetta Wallflower*, and *The Thing About Georgie*. Lisa GraffÃ¢â€¢'s books have been named to more than forty state award lists and have been touted as Best Books of the Year by booksellers, teachers, and librarians. *A Tangle of Knots* was long-listed for the National Book Award in 2013. Lisa Graff lives with her family just outside of Philadelphia. Follow her on TwitterÃ¢â€¢ @LisaGraff.

The story was entertaining and kept my son's interest. It was a quick read for him, he's probably read a few times already.

Such a great blending of middle grade voices in a fun uniquely laid out book! For those with kids that find chapter books daunting and prefer to read only the comic book style 'chapter books' that are so popular with middle grade literature right now - *The Great Treehouse War* is a perfect blend to introduce kids into great full chapter-book literature! With the fun post-it note narratives sprinkled throughout along with sketches, transcripts, how-to guides, etc. it really makes for page turning fun! The plot and characters of this book are adorably tuned to middle grade thinking and also provides great insight into real-world issues and touches on topics of divorce, finding a voice, etc. in a wonderful and silly approach of extremes while protecting readers from any of the harsh elements that topics of divorce may bring up. Thus keeping it a fun and age-appropriate story of silly antics of a group of friends binding together in a fun child vs. parent story! As an adult I found it a fun and refreshing read to escape the real world for a little bit! I also enjoyed eating some ice cream for breakfast while reading it! Because I'm an adult and I can do what I want! ;)

First things first, let me just say that *The Great Treehouse War* was a lot of fun to read. I started

reading it and before I knew it I was near the ending. Despite being way over the intended age group for this book, I still found myself able to read and appreciate it a lot. The Great Treehouse War is about a young girl named Winnie. Winnie is your normal 10ish year old girl (she is in the fifth grade). She has friends, likes art, and has the worlds most amazing cat. She also has parents that decided that they were better off no longer married to each other. When Winnie's parents decided to divorce, they split everything up so it would be equal for both of them. One parent had Winnie 3 days of the week and the other had her for the other 3 days. This only equals up to 6 days, however, they couldn't let one parent have 4 days and the other only get 3, so they came up with a plan. Between the two properties (they had found a place that they could live there was a treehouse. So for that odd day of the week, which happened to be Wednesdays, Winnie would be in the treehouse, not with either parent. That way everything would remain totally equal and fair. Of course, that was too hard for the parents. They started celebrating all the crazy holidays that happen. They each kept trying to one up the other. This was causing Winnie to fail the fifth grade. But neither parent was listening. As long as everything was fair that was all that mattered. A lot of things went on that ended up with Winnie in the treehouse with her friends...and the great treehouse war began. See? It really is quite the book! Throughout the book there are tons of illustrations and little side notes from her classmates about the things that happened in the story. Each kid has their own little quirk, and the quirks pop up over and over again. It lightens up the seriousness of the book and makes it a lot more fun to read. At first I thought they took away a little bit from the story, but once I got used to them I enjoyed them. Also, as you can tell, there is a serious note to this book. I am an adult, not a kid in the age range that this book is intended for....so to me it was quite obvious. The way the parents were behaving was really affecting Winnie. How this translates to a kid with the way this story was written? I am not 100% sure. Maybe they will relate to Winnie, maybe they won't. I can't tell you. Did I think it was fun? Yes. Do I think Winnie should have had to go to such an extreme measure to try to get her parents to listen to her? No. But this story wasn't meant for me - the adult. It was meant for the kids. And I will definitely let a kid read this book. I think they will enjoy it and I hope that if they find themselves in a similar situation, that they will find a character that they can relate to. And that they can find some help from this book on how to speak up and be heard if they need to be. This review is based on a copy provided by the publisher in exchange for a fair and honest review. All thoughts and opinions are mine and mine alone.

Winnie's divorced and constantly arguing parents are obsessed with making sure Winnie spends equal amounts of time with each of them...which is why they decide that Winnie will

spend three days a week with each parent and spend Wednesdays by herself in a treehouse located directly between their houses. Winnie loves her treehouse Wednesdays, especially since her parents are currently trying to outdo each other by celebrating wacky and weird holidays, which has caused Winnie to fall way behind on her fifth grade education. But when Winnie's friends decide that they're tired of their own parents unfair treatments, the ten kids decide to stay in Winnie's treehouse and NOT come out until their demands are met! Ten kids, one treehouse, and a whole lot of drama...what could go wrong? Lisa Graff's The Great Treehouse War is a witty, heartwarming, and charming middle-grade book. Graff's signature pitch-perfect storytelling, engaging characters, and honest yet age-appropriate approach to tough subjects, are all present in her newest tale. The Great Treehouse War is told from Winnie's precocious and endearing POV, in a scrapbook type format that tells the story of the Treehouse 10 and their experiences during their almost three week standoff in the treehouse. This creative format will captivate and entertain readers with all the extra notes, drawings, how-to's, and more, included. Young readers will love the awesomely absurd idea of a child spending one day a week alone in a cool treehouse...and Winnie's two story treehouse, with its bathroom; art station; zip line; and more, makes for a super fun setting. The Treehouse 10's time in the treehouse is full of laughs, excitement, and relatable conversation. And each of the Treehouse 10 have a unique, diverse personality that adds a great deal to the story and dynamic. I really like the main heroine Winnie and so will young readers. And of course, The Great Treehouse War explores subjects like divorce, sibling rivalry, growing up, and more, with a lot of humor, honesty, and heart. The Great Treehouse War kept me chuckling and entertained with its wild premise, likable characters, and different format...all things middle-grade readers will highly enjoy!

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