



## Cry heart but never break

Death and grief are not topics one expects to find in children's picture books. I recently read one that copes with the concept in a gentle and sensitive way and will help children and adults alike accept life and death.

**Cry, heart, but never break** by Glenn Ringtved : published by Enchanted Lion New York 2016 - translated from the Danish isbn978159270187

Suit: Older children (with caution)/Adult

I recently read this aloud to our Wanganui TCF Coffee Group and there was a stunned silence at the end and then discussion followed.

Four children are aware their grandmother is dying and decide to keep "Death" from taking her away. But Death does arrive all the same, as it must. He comes gently, naturally. The children ply him with coffee to distract him. He makes time to share a story with the children about two brothers, Sorrow and Grief, who wind up marrying two sisters, Joy and Delight. After a long life together, all four died on the very same day, because they couldn't live without each other. Death uses this fable to show children that life needs both light and darkness. *"It is the same with life and death... What would life be worth if there were no death? Who would enjoy the sun if it never rained? Who would yearn for the day if there were no night?"*

And his last advice, after the Grandmother dies, is the title of the book: *"Cry, heart, but never break. Let your tears of grief and sadness help begin new life."*

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