



The Eyes of the Doe

by Patricia Taylor Wells

ISBN 9781945805530

"Ever since the day she was born, she could aggravate me one moment, then leave me feeling ashamed for not being a better mother the very next. She simply wants more and needs more than I ever have to give her."

In 1963, Holly Hendricks and her family moved from the small East Texas town where they have strong family roots to the impersonal city of Dallas. Against a backdrop of local and worldwide turbulence, their once close ties are fragmented. With her mother not coming to terms with losing a son and the father having a breakdown, fourteen-year-old Holly returns to the small town to stay with her Grandma as she tries to cope with the loss of her brother.

From the author

My inspiration was from a similar life experience and poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay, "The Buck in the Snow," which expresses how quickly and unexpectedly life can be taken away. Those left behind are forever wary as they go about their lives. My father actually did tie apples in an oak tree when I was young in response to my wanting an apple tree. I live by what he taught me from that experience: I could have anything I wanted if I waited long enough and thought hard enough about it.

Discussion Questions

1. What life lesson does Holly learn from her father at an early age?
2. How would you describe Jewell's viewpoint on life?
3. Why does Holly think her father can predict the future?
4. In what way does Ross favor his son over his two daughters?
5. How is sibling rivalry depicted in the story?
6. What incidents in the story reveal either racial bias or racial tolerance?
7. In what ways does Holly feel alienated from her family?
8. How do Jake's friends feel about Holly?
9. How does Holly's faith change throughout the story?
10. What does Holly learn from Antarctica, her grandmother's caretaker?



About the author

Patricia Taylor Wells, holds a BA in English and French and has facilitated writing critique groups for the Atlanta Writers Club and Knoxville Writers Group. She published her first book in *2016: Camp Tyler, A First of its Kind* for the benefit of Camp Tyler, the oldest outdoor education school in the country, which she attended as a child. Most of Ms. Wells' writing has been directed at serving organizations and causes important to her. As a result, she was selected to write the first article for the newly created Authors Among Us column in *Tyler Today Magazine* (June/July 2016). She also published two poems, a short story and a narrative non-fiction article in the 2016 East Texas Writers Guild Anthology. In addition, the first chapter of *The Eyes of the Doe* placed as a finalist in the 2016 First Chapter Competition for Historical Fiction sponsored by East Texas Writers Guild. She especially enjoys writing poetry and draws inspiration from the wide range of experience she gathered from her travels and living in a variety of places. She currently lives in Tyler, Texas with her husband Bob and their dog Kaspar.