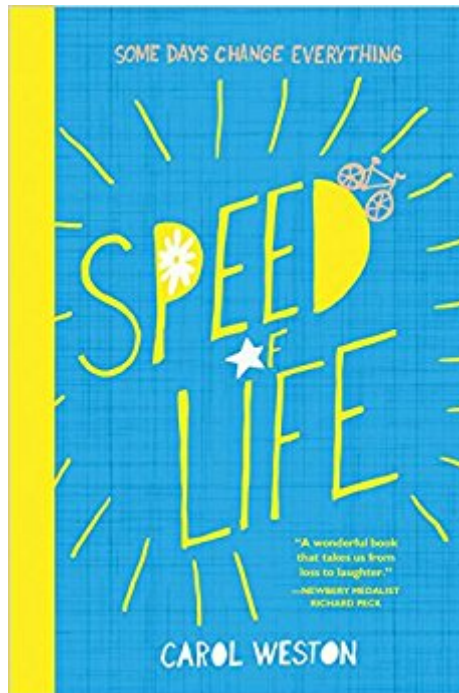




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Speed Of Life



Synopsis

Sofia lost her mother eight months ago, and her friends were 100% there for her. Now it's a new year and they're ready for Sofia to move on. Problem is, Sofia can't bounce back, can't recharge like a cellphone. She decides to write Dear Kate, an advice columnist for Fifteen Magazine, and is surprised to receive a fast reply. Soon the two are exchanging emails, and Sofia opens up and spills all, including a few worries that are totally embarrassing. Turns out even advice columnists don't have all the answers, and one day Sofia learns a secret that flips her world upside down. **SPEED OF LIFE** is the heartbreaking, heartwarming story of a girl who thinks her life is over when really it's just beginning. It's a novel about love, family, grief, and growing up. "A wonderful book that takes us from loss to laughter." --Richard Peck, author of *The Best Man* and Newbery Gold Medalist *A Year Down Yonder* "You won't want to put it down. But my advice is slow down and savor this delightful book, full of carino, funny and heartfelt, and (spoiler alert) not just for teens." --Julia Alvarez, author of *In the Time of the Butterflies* and *Return to Sender*

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 630 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 329 pages

Publisher: Sourcebooks Jabberwocky (April 4, 2017)

Language: English

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Best Sellers Rank: #105,746 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Stepfamilies](#) #133 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying](#) #661 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women](#)

Age Range: 11 - 14 years

Grade Level: 6 - 8

Customer Reviews

"The multicultural cast is led by the completely likable Sofia, whose mother was Spanish and whose abuelo's comforting presence remains across the ocean. Her story has no fast, easy answers, but

there is a clear message that while time does not necessarily heal, it helps. The advice of not to fall too hard, too fast, or too far is real, not preachy. Complex characters and a strong voice make this one stand out." - Kirkus, starred review

"Sofia's growth-amid unexpected interest from boys, her first relationship, new additions to her family, and grief-is both relatable and moving." - Publishers Weekly, starred review

"This slice-of-life story echoes the author's own experience as a teen magazine advice columnist and addresses all sorts of issues: death, grieving, moving, parental dating, parental sexuality, stepsibling conflict, new schools, self-esteem, and relationships. This refreshing work tackles a lot of themes, but eventually Sofia does get to a better place...Weston isn't afraid to tackle the squirm-inducing questions common to high school freshmen too embarrassed to seek sound information from reliable sources." - School Library Journal, starred review

"Carol Weston's novel takes place over the course of a year, allowing readers to see how much Sofia changes as time goes by." - Bookish

"This novel is jam-packed with important, dramatic, and inevitable aspects of adolescence, from pimples to periods to popularity...Weston draws heavily on her years as "Dear Carol" at Girls' Life magazine, creating a solid, affecting tale of maturing and coming to grips with one's reality." - Booklist, starred review

"A letter-writing habit turns hairy in Carol Weston's *Speed of Life* (Sourcebooks)." - Vanity Fair

"This is, perhaps, the most perfect eighth grade girl book I have ever read. In fact, it was excruciating to read (in the best possible way) as I felt I was right back in Middle School myself. It reminded me of nothing more than the Judy Blume books I read at that age, but current for today's readers." - Teen Librarian Toolbox, School Library Journal

"Author Carol Weston (*Girltalk: All the Stuff Your Sister Never Told You*; *Ava and Pip*) has been the voice of "Dear Carol" at Girls' Life magazine since 1994. She draws on her many years of experience to tackle tough issues with honesty and humor. Death and grieving, self-esteem, "bras, periods, cliques, and crushes" are all addressed head-on in this engaging novel. Readers will enjoy spending a pivotal year with Sofia, as she learns to find comfort in life's changes, both big and small." - Shelf Awareness

"A sweet, moving tale about grief and growing up." - New York Post

"Weston imparts insights about life and loss throughout, tracing Sofia's increasing maturity; by the time Sofia turns fifteen, "I had gotten out of from under the heavy blanket of grief. I was...growing up." Supported by sympathetic friends and family (including Kate, who is just as nice in person, and always gives excellent advice), Sofia faces each new challenge in her life with honesty, bravery, and humor." - Horn Book Magazine

"I laughed out loud and I teared up while reading this novel. I will eagerly place it on my daughter's bookshelf, so that she, like Sofia, can find her own resilience and voice in our painful, joyful, speeding world." - The New York Times

"Perceptive, funny and moving...I laughed out loud and I teared up while reading this novel. I

will eagerly place it on my daughter's bookshelf, so that she, like Sofia, can find her own resilience and voice in our painful, joyful, speeding world." - The New York Times

Carol Weston has been the Dear Carol advice columnist at Girls' Life since 1994. Her sixteen books include *Ava and Pip*, which the New York Times called "a love letter to language," and *Girltalk*, which came out in a dozen languages. *Speed of Life* received starred reviews from Kirkus, PW, SLJ, and Booklist. Carol studied literature at Yale, graduating summa cum laude, and has an MA in Spanish from Middlebury. She lives in Manhattan. Visit her at www.carolweston.com.

I LOVED *Speed of Life*. When I was halfway through, I started thinking: I really care about these characters: I want to be part of their journey; I want them to find a happy ending. I was hoping the author could pull it off and I'm very glad to say that *Speed of Life* finishes perfectly. I highly recommend this novel and I imagine it would be especially ideal for a girl who has lost someone she loved--or for that matter a reader experiencing love for the first time. One unexpected highlight of *Speed of Life* is the inside look at what it is like to be a teenager in the fancy neighborhoods of Manhattan in 2017. As a teenager with brains but not wealth, the protagonist has to battle for things her peers can take for granted as a result of having rich parents. Her battles are ones we can all embrace.

This book is intended for a younger reader. Middle school age so I wondered if I'd relate to a book told in the voice of a fourteen year old. The answer is yes! It's a heartwarming story of bravery and strength. I'd recommend it to teens on up to grandparents.

Although I purchased this book for a young teen relative, delivery had to be delayed because I couldn't put it down. Carol Weston has a wonderful knack for getting into the heads and hearts of teen girls. I highly recommend it for teen girls and boys too.

Carol Weston brings young Sophia, her friends and her (new) family to life in this carefully crafted and beautifully written story. I highly recommend it to those young at heart or who maintain faith in the healing power of love and friendship.

Any teenager is going to be moved by this story. It's full of life and full of love. Carol Weston is a friend of mine, but don't think I'm biased. If I didn't love this book, I'd just write nothing. Read it!

A beautifully written book--perfect for the middle school girls in your life, but equally enjoyable by any adult who loves Young Adult Fiction--it's witty, it's real, it's poignant, and a wonderful read!

Another wonderful book by this AMAZING author! If you haven't read her "Ava" series I would highly recommend them as well.

I'm O.K. with the mean, bitchy, spoiled, psycho characters in popular series like "Gossip Girl" and "Pretty Little Liars". But, sometimes you think it would be a nice change if everyone could just be a bit more normal and yet still interesting. That's what I found here. The big drama, of course, is that our heroine Sofia has been corresponding with advice columnist Kate, and then Kate starts to date Sofia's Dad. That is soooo uncomfortable, but it's really a very small part of the book. (I mean how much can you do with just that premise?) The heart of the book is that during the course of the story Sofia gets a year older, and the Sofia from the end of the book is a more mature, self-reliant, self-aware and self-assured Sofia than the one we started with. I think that's a good thing. The issues we deal with are a recently deceased Mom, (which is actually the main thread running through the book), boys, sex, daughter/Dad relations, dating widowed Dads, blended families, school pressure, peer pressure, BFF relations, and the occasional zit. No mean girl stuff or high drama. Because of that lack of "high drama" or edgy plot the book might be a bit slow for some readers, but I thought the pacing took us through Sofia's year with engaging style and energy. In dealing with Sofia's issues we meet a remarkably together and articulate cast. Get this. Our heroine is not frantic or a drama queen. She narrates the book and her voice is honest and open. Sofia's BFF is funny and loyal. Dad is kind, supportive and perceptive. His new girlfriend, advice columnist Kate, is calm, perceptive, patient, and funny. The potential new step sister is funny, sarcastic, and basically decent. Are you kidding me? These are all solid people and yet they live a privileged life on the Upper West Side? Can that be possible? And get this - "Dear Kate's" advice is pretty good advice, so any pre-teen or early teen reading this is actually going to get a positive takeaway. So, it's heartfelt, it's authentic in a fictional-perfect-teen sort of way, it's lively and funny, and it's upbeat. Did not see that coming. (Please note that I received a free advance copy of this book without a review requirement, or any influence regarding review content should I choose to post a review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.)

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