



A Taste of Blackberries

By Doris Buchanan Smith

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**What do you do without
your best friend?**

Jamie isn't afraid of anything. Always ready to get into trouble, then right back out of it, he's a fun and exasperating best friend.

But when something terrible happens to Jamie, his best friend has to face the tragedy alone. Without Jamie, there are so many impossible questions to answer -- how can your best friend be gone forever? How can some things, like playing games in the sun or the taste of the blackberries that Jamie loved, go on without him?

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In Smith's moving story, a prank ends in tragedy, and a boy must learn to live not only with the loss of a friend, but with the feeling that he could have prevented it. Ages 7-10.

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Review

"The sensitivity with which the attendant sorrow and guilt are treated makes this an outstanding book. It blazed the way for the many other grief books that quickly followed, but few have approached the place of honor this one holds." Jim Trelease, *The Read-Aloud Handbook*, Sixth Edition, 2006

"Smith deals honestly and emphatically with the range of emotions... the story is not, however, an elegy; but a celebration of the continuity of the life-death cycle." *The Atlanta Journal*, 1973, Cynthia Westway

"It will be difficult to find a children's book this autumn by a new author as good as Doris Buchanan Smith's *A Taste of Blackberries*." *Times Literary Supplement*, 1975, David Rees

"Rightfully viewed, along with Katherine Paterson's *Bridge to Terabithia*, 1977, as one of the seminal children's books on the subject of death." *School Library Journal*, Ann Welton, 2002

"An honest, touching story." -- *ALA Booklist*

About the Author

DORIS BUCHANAN SMITH (June 1, 1934 - August 8, 2002) was an award-winning American author of children's books distinguished for their realism. The first contemporary children's book author to deal with the difficult subject of death (*A TASTE OF BLACKBERRIES*), Smith also tackled divorce, obesity (*LAST WAS LLOYD*), juvenile delinquency, unwed mothers (*RETURN TO BITTER CREEK*), dyslexia, and child abuse (*TOUGH CHAUNCEY*), in a series of books that were praised for their sensitivity and relevance.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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As people who live in the modest era should be up-date about what going on or data even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is certainly always change and advance. Some of you maybe will update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what one you should start with. This *A Taste of Blackberries* is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

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