



# Carry the Sky

*Kate Gray*

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## **Carry the Sky** Kate Gray

Kate Gray takes an unblinking look at bullying in her debut novel, *CARRY THE SKY*. It's 1983 at an elite Delaware boarding school. Taylor Alta, the new rowing coach, arrives reeling from the death of the woman she loved. Physics teacher Jack Song, the only Asian American on campus, struggles with his personal code of honor when he gets too close to a student. These two young, lonely teachers narrate the story of a strange and brilliant thirteen-year-old boy who draws atomic mushroom clouds on his notebook, pings through the corridors like a pinball, and develops a crush on an older girl with secrets of her own.

"*CARRY THE SKY* sings a brave and honest anthem about what it means to be different in a world of uniformity. "In the rich rarified world of a prep school, Kate Gray has woven two powerful personal stories into a charged and compelling human novel which shows us that swimming under that quirky, antic, off-beat community are also life and death. Gray has a sharp eye and tells her story with verve and a deft touch." - Ron Carlson, author of *A KIND OF FLYING*

"Lyrical, moving, and hauntingly beautiful, Kate Gray's *CARRY THE SKY* winds between two voices, Taylor and Song, both navigating the narrow lanes of St. Timothy's boarding school where they teach, both hitting the walls that surround them. One uses science to make sense of loneliness, loss, and desire--the other uses the beat of a rower's oar in water. Together these two outsiders struggle to move past mourning, to seek hope as they crack open their insular world. *CARRY THE SKY* is full of unforgettable characters and images, each word carefully chosen, like a perfect fold in a paper crane, creating a graceful neck, strong tail, and mighty wings, perched on the edge of the page, ready to take flight." - Hannah Tinti, author of *THE GOOD THIEF*

"A splendid debut novel, beautifully written and brimming over with humanity and grace, alternately humorous and heart-wrenching." - Christopher Buckley, author of *BUT ENOUGH ABOUT YOU*

"Set in a boarding school in 1983, *CARRY THE SKY* is a haunting exploration of loneliness, grief, and desire. In lyrical, elegant prose, Kate Gray spins a tale of characters struggling to forgive themselves and to find each other, and reminds us to pay attention to the ordinary and unexpected flashes of beauty around us: a brilliant kite, geese overhead, a paper crane in a tree." - Carter Sickels, author of *THE EVENING HOUR*

"In the small, close world of a boarding school, three broken people circle each other, drawing closer to the tragedy that will move them all, finally, beyond their private sorrows. Three voices, three stories, and we are caught up in those stories as they are slowly revealed, like shards of a shattered mirror, one piece at a time. There is huge humanity in this novel. It is shockingly beautiful. Kate Gray is relentless." - Joanna Rose, author of *LITTLE MISS STRANGE*

"*Carry the Sky* is as intricate and precise as the paper cranes its characters fold. It comes as no surprise that Kate Gray is a poet as well as a fine novelist. Here we are surely in a poet's hands, her lyricism and attention to detail elevating the boarding-school narrative to something heartbreaking and truly universal." - Cari Luna, author of *THE REVOLUTION OF EVERY DAY*

"*CARRY THE SKY* is a dazzling narrative mosaic about innocence lost, the ghosts we grieve, and the emptiness of some forms of discipline and delineation. Kate Gray gives us a 'page-turner' in the best sense:

you'll want to read both fast and slow, moving back and forth through this fearlessly told story, savoring." - M. Allen Cunningham, author of THE GREEN AGE OF ASHER WITHEROW

"Kate Gray's prose sings as she gives us schoolyard bullying, unrequited love, unresolved grief, adolescent desire running amok, and adult desire scarcely contained." - Stevan Allred, author of A SIMPLIFIED MAP OF THE REAL WORLD

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