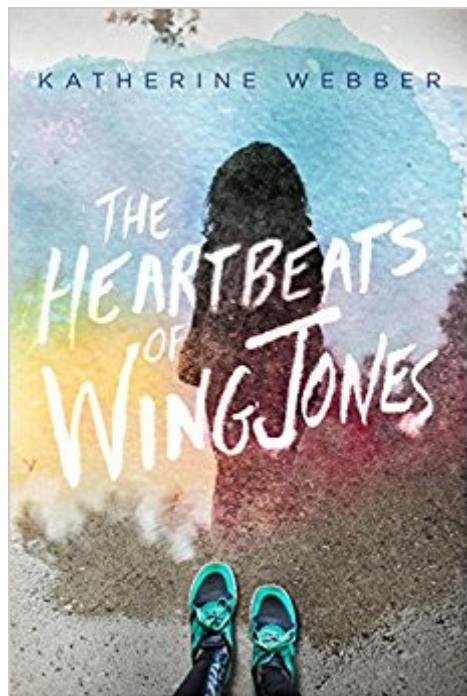


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# The Heartbeats Of Wing Jones



## Synopsis

Jandy Nelson meets Friday Night Lights in this sweeping, warm, arrestingly original novel about family, poverty, and hope. Wing Jones, like everyone else in her town, has worshipped her older brother, Marcus, for as long as she can remember. Good-looking, popular, and the star of the football team, Marcus is everything his sister is not. Until the night everything changes when Marcus, drunk at the wheel after a party, kills two people and barely survives himself. With Marcus now in a coma, Wing is crushed, confused, and angry. She is tormented at school for Marcus's mistake, haunted at home by her mother and grandmothers' grief. In addition to all this, Wing is scared that the bank is going to repossess her home because her family can't afford Marcus's mounting medical bills. Every night, unable to sleep, Wing finds herself sneaking out to go to the school's empty track. When Aaron, Marcus's best friend, sees her running one night, he recognizes that her speed, skill, and agility could get her spot on the track team. And better still, an opportunity at a coveted sponsorship from a major athletic gear company. Wing can't pass up the opportunity to train with her longtime crush and to help her struggling family, but can she handle being thrust out of Marcus's shadow and into the spotlight?"The swiftly paced story will quickly sweep up readers...[a] well-crafted, inspirational debut with plenty of heart, hope, and determination." *"Booklist"* A story showing how hope and love can blossom in the midst of chaos." "Publishers Weekly"

## Book Information

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Delacorte Press (March 14, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399555021

ISBN-13: 978-0399555022

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1.1 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #879,024 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Homelessness & Poverty #740 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports #1062 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying

## Customer Reviews

"TheÂ swiftlyÂ pacedÂ story will quickly sweep up readers...[a]Â well-crafted, inspirational debutÂ with plenty of heart, hope, and determination." --Booklist" This realistic coming-of-age novel, touched with magical realism, isÂ full of diverse and strong female characters....[and]Â about family, love, and the courage to stand up to life&apos;s challenges." --SLJ" Wing&apos;s sense of isolation is well-captured, and her grief and confusion areÂ raw and moving...a solid debut." --Kirkus Reviews"Â story showing how hope and love can blossom in the midst of chaos."Â --Publishers WeeklyÂ "The pure and vivid voice of Katherine Webber&apos;s Wing illuminates an America of hope and tragedy, where both ruin and triumph lurk just around the corner. Life isn&apos;t easy for Wing, the unsung sister of a fallen hero, but in her darkest time, she&apos;ll find her own strength. I fell in love with Wing Jones, and you will too." --Â Laini Taylor, New York Times Best Selling Author ofÂ Daughter of Smoke and BoneÂ "Wing Jones is smart and kind and sexy and wise and I loved it. And it makes you want to pull on your shoes and start running." --Â Katherine Rundell, bestselling author ofÂ RooftoppersÂ andÂ The Wolf WilderÂ "Luminous. One of the best debuts I&apos;ve ever read."Â Samantha Shannon, New York Times Best Selling Author ofÂ The Bone Season"Already lots of buzz about the debut from Booktrust staffer Webber and it&apos;s well deserved, an immensely readable novel about family. [...] Running is key to Wing&apos;s self-discovery and these scenes are some of the most striking in the book, really inspirational to see such a positive storyline about girls and sport."Â --Â The Bookseller, Ones to WatchÂ "Rife with romance, heartache, new challenges, and fabulous grandmothers who give great windows into Wing&apos;s multicultural heritage (she&apos;s half-Black, half-Chinese), this is a lovely debut that&apos;s not to be missed"--Â Barnes&Noble&apos;s Most Anticipated Contemporary YA books of 2017Â "This lovely YA debut follows Wing Jones, a Chinese-Ghanaian highschooler, who, in 1990s Atlanta finds herself in the midst of family tragedy with only one escape: running. It&apos;s a powerful and charming book about finding support and inner strength against the odds" -Â BuzzfeedÂ "A compelling and heartwarming account of finding hope even in the bleakest of circumstances." -Â The Irish Times"The swiftlyÂ paced story will quickly sweep up readers...[a]Â well-crafted, inspirational debut with plenty of heart, hope, and determination." â "Booklist" This realistic coming-of-age novel, touched with magical realism, is full of diverse and strong female characters....[and]Â about family, love, and the courage to stand up to lifeâ™s challenges." â "SLJ" Wing's sense of isolation is well-captured, and her grief and confusion are raw and moving...a solid debut." â "Kirkus Reviews"Â story showing how hope and love can blossom in the midst of chaos." â "Publishers WeeklyÂ

KATHERINE WEBBER was born in Southern California, and has lived in Hong Kong, Hawaii, and Atlanta. She currently lives in London with her husband. Katherine studied comparative literature at the University of California, Davis, and Chinese literature and language at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She has worked at an international translation company, a technology startup, and most recently, a London-based reading charity. She spends far too much time on Twitter, so she invites you to come say hello @kwebberwrites. Travel, books, and eating out are her favorite indulgences. The Heartbeats of Wing Jones is her first novel.

Wing Jones stole my heart and as I cheered her on through this book, I can only hope there is a sequel. The world needs more strong women like Wing who overcame obstacles from the outside and also from within. I love Wing Jones

A quick and moving story with well drawn characters and an interesting story.

Incredible read, immediately fell in love with the characters. It's gripping, heart wrenching and full of love. An absolute must read!!

Great read!!!

I loved this book. It's about sports and romance, but more so about family and picking up the pieces after a tragedy. I felt like all of the elements were seamlessly orchestrated. The writing is a bit poetic and descriptive, but in a lithe, non-pretentious way. The book covers several months of the character's life, but it didn't drag. In fact, it didn't even need the sponsorship story line. The story was full, but the sponsorship wasn't overkill either. What I really loved about this book was the magical realism and the family dynamic. Lao Lao and Granny Dee were fun to read about, always bickering and so very different from one another. Granny Dee is from Ghana, and Lao Lao is from China. This book isn't own voices, but it felt like it was. I didn't see any stereotypes other than maybe the Lao Lao dropping articles. However, some languages don't use articles, so when those speakers learn English, they tend to leave them out. Also, the author lived in Hong Kong and studied Chinese literature, so I'm thinking she based the Chinese-American accent on people she observed. She also flipped some stereotypes. Many people picture Chinese women as thin and black older women as overweight. In her book, the black woman was thin and the Chinese woman was overweight. The weight isn't a large focus in this book, but there is a sweater scene that was

funny because of the size differences these women had. I also really liked Wing. She's a Chinese/black American, which strikes others as rare and often makes her feel out of place. She's made fun of a lot in this book. In the beginning, she's meek, but she finally stands up for herself and stops caring what others think toward the end. Her character arc was fabulous. As far as messages go, a clear one is not to drink and drive. I hope this hits home with the reader. The whole cast of characters is diverse. Aaron is black. Eliza is a lesbian in a committed relationship, and stereotypes are challenged, but Eliza laughs off stupid questions and still finds good in the person. Monica (white with a racist dad) and Marquis (black/Chinese) are an interracial couple. The grandparents are old. Minor characters are a mixture of races. It made for an interesting read, and provided inspiration for the mindless activity people would do while talking, like learning to play Mahjong or cooking an ethnic dish. The family was also low income, which I can relate to. No presents on Christmas is rough, but when you understand your families financial situation, you don't complain. A lot of kid are spoiled these days, each having the latest piece of technology. Wing gets happy over a used pair of shoes. I hope people will read about her and be more appreciative of what they have. But she's not some sob story. The girl goes for what she wants. She takes things into her own hands, and in many ways, she's fearless. And normal, which makes her relatable. This book has strong but moderately used language, some minor sexual content (straight kissing/cuddling), underage drinking, and one scene with a gun. I'd rate this PG-13. Nothing was too in your face or triggering, but she parents might not find this suitable for their impressionable children. I highly recommend this if you like running, romance, and diversity.\* I received an arc of this in exchange for an honest review.

The Heartbeats of Wing Jones is a great read when it comes to diversity! Unfortunately, I'm not the reviewer who can tell you if it does a good job truthfully portraying every culture, though. From my perspective, I found the range of diverse characters to be great. For me, the story was lacking in certain aspects and I honestly think it had a lot to do with the writing. I didn't connect with the story until about halfway through it and that was disappointing. It just felt like a story I've read many times, which is not uncommon for contemporaries, but there's usually at least one element of the book that pulls me in. Also, there's this odd thing with dragons and a lioness, and I wish it was portrayed in a better way. As for the characters, like I said, they are all interesting and incredibly diverse! I liked Wing, I felt her struggle of being mixed race since I am also, and how she had a hard time fitting in. She was probably the best thing about this book, so that's a plus. The romance actually plays a big role in this story, which is sweet and I enjoyed Aaron a lot.. But it wasn't enough for me to love it? I

feel as if I'm telling you how much I didn't enjoy this book, which is true I didn't fall in love with it.. But I think some people will. It just isn't for me. There's a great range of issues dealing with family, friendships, love, and self-discovery, and I know there will be others who love this book for those reasons! Which is great! :)

The Heartbeats of Wing Jones is a well written, heartfelt look at family, grief, and healing. Wing Jones struggles through life as the awkward younger sister of the high school hero. Bullied and feeling invisible, she loves her family but feels trapped by circumstance. With no clear sense of identity and self worth she is ill prepared to cope when tragedy strikes and her beloved brother ends up in a coma, his once stellar future now uncertain. The family quickly founders under a mound of debt and Wing finds herself turning to running as a way to heal her broken heart. In the process she forms her own sense of self, becoming confident and capable of dealing with whatever comes her way - including love. Rich characterizations, heartfelt emotions, and fast paced plotting make this an easy book to love. Wing's confusion is very well portrayed, making her growth throughout the story very gratifying. Readers will cheer Wing on as she strives to become faster and faster, running away from her problems and towards a future of her own making. It's a powerful story, even if it does become a bit predictable. The lion and dragon that appear to Wing when she needs strength felt like a forced, unnecessary plot device. They were distracting to a story that really didn't need them. Wing was always strong enough to stand on her own. A fantastic, emotional read that is sure to please any fan of realistic fiction.

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