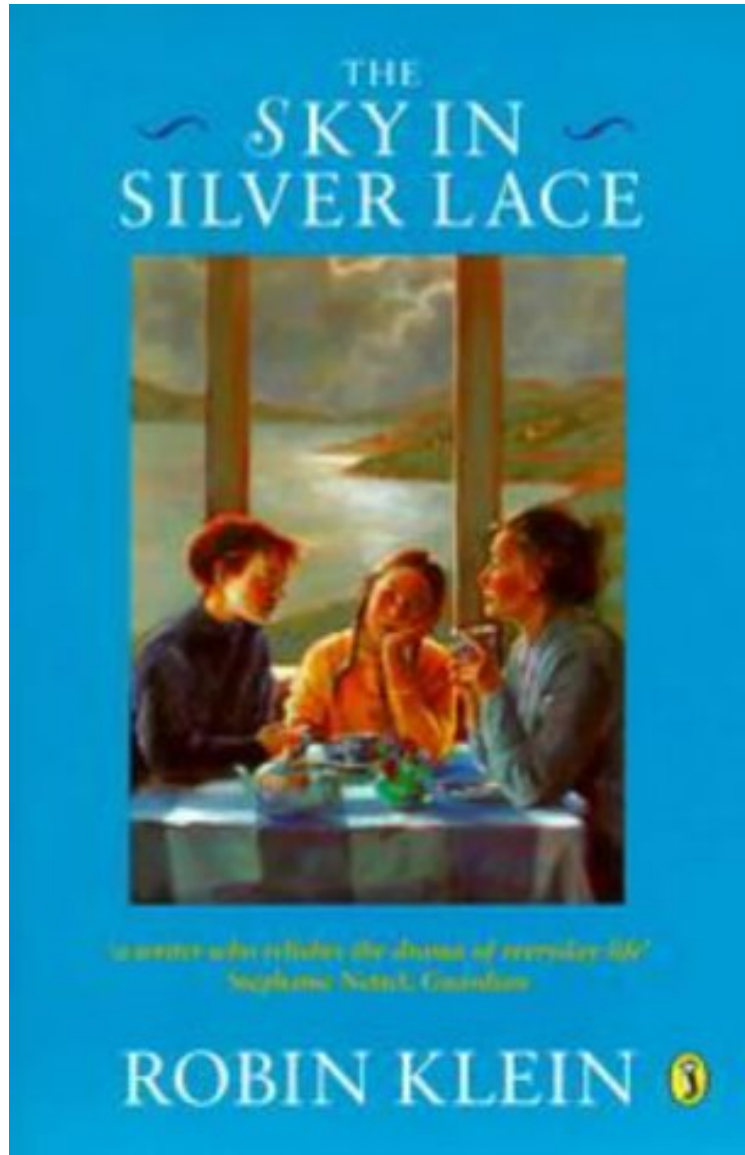


The Sky in Silver Lace

Robin Klein

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Robin Klein : The Sky in Silver Lace before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sky in Silver Lace:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. "Its Lonesome Now You've Gone..."By R. M. FisherThe third and final book of the trilogy chronicling the lives of the Melling sisters sees the entire family uprooted from their rural home in Wilgawa and shifted to the city suburb of Lacey's Bay. With their father away looking for work, scholarly

Heather, tomboyish Cathy and dreamy Vivienne are left to struggle along with their mother and eldest sister Grace across a series of temporary homes and new schools. As ever, Klein captures the essence of adolescence the state in which you long for childhood and adulthood at the same time, and more often than not are caught awkwardly between the two. Across the length of the book the Melling girls deal with the fear of a potential bully, the horror of wearing a second-hand school uniform, and the mixed blessings of a boy's attention. But beneath these seemingly trivial matters is the underlying shadow of more serious problems: the prolonged absence of their father, the indignities of poverty, and the need to call upon mean-spirited relatives for financial assistance. Though there is comedy here, "The Sky in Silver Lace" is more bittersweet than its predecessors: in fact it can be downright melancholy at times. Klein doesn't shy away from the frustration and stress of the family's precarious situation, and though supporting character Isobel Dion (the girls' cousin) once again steals the show with her audacious lies, even she is portrayed as in over her head when it comes to the bustling, overwhelming city. This time around the book loses a bit of its 1940s atmosphere: with the exception of a few details here and there there's not much indication of the time period in which the story takes place, but Klein is still excellent when it comes to the "show don't tell" rule. In particular, she loves playing with the point-of-views inherent in each chapter: Heather and Cathy are respectively snobby and crass when seen through the eyes of Vivienne, and *she* becomes annoying and obnoxious when viewed from *their* perspective. To compare this trilogy (also comprised of *All in the Blue Unclouded Weather* and *Dresses of Red and Gold*) with *Anne of Green Gables* is fitting considering it's often referenced in the text itself (it being Vivienne's favourite book), but the trilogy has always foregone sentimentality in favour of a biting sense of humour and a strong dose of realism. It's sad to say goodbye to the Melling sisters, and I've always thought perhaps a fourth book would be forthcoming (one for each season of the year), but the trilogy on the whole is a vivid and memorable look into a dysfunctional but loving Australian family the ups and downs, the squabbles and camaraderie, the victories and losses. Re-reading them for the first time since I myself was a teenager, it turned out to be a rewarding trip down memory lane. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A poignant, witty novel. By A Customer. This is without a doubt the best book I have ever read! It is the third novel in the Melling saga, capturing beautifully the care-free happiness of the late 1940's. With wonderful characters, and scenes both hilarious and touching, this is a book you'll want to read again and again: Robin Klein is a genius!

Vivienne, Cathy, Heather and Grace have moved from the country to live with their mother in the city. But money is short and there are new schools and friends to adjust to. However, things aren't that bad, as there are newsreel theatres, smart city stores, and spring is just around the corner.

From School Library Journal Grade 5-7-The four Melling sisters, Vivienne, Heather, Cathy, and Grace, whom readers met in *All in the Blue Unclouded Weather* (1992) and *Dresses of Red and Gold* (1993, both Viking) are back. Set in Australia during the 1940s, this novel tells of the girls' move with their mother from their small country town of Wilgawa to the city while their ne'er-do-well father looks for work. The dreary winter months are made more difficult by the scarcity of money, the need to rely on relatives, and several moves to new living quarters. The book is episodic, with narration shifting among the sisters. The style is subtle and mildly humorous. However, the idioms and cultural differences are not always clear from the context. Klein excels at drawing unique characterizations and sibling relationships. Certainly American children will relate to issues of moving, fitting in, making new friends, and dealing with change. The difficult realization that their father may never be coming home is balanced by the promise of spring. A gentle story, short on action or a strong plot. ?Connie Tyrrell Burns, Mahoney Middle School, South Portland, ME Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Gr. 6[^]-9. The four Melling sisters and their mother, whom readers first met in *All in the Blue Unclouded Weather* (1992), have left their small Australian community for an unfamiliar city. Father, off on another of his moneymaking schemes, doesn't send much money, leaving the Mellings to move between temporary homes until the completion of their Housing Commission flat. Everyone feels the strain. Each titled chapter focuses on one of the girls and stands alone as a short story with a satisfying resolution. In "Kindred Spirit," romantic Vivienne hopes to find her kindred spirit in new neighbor Dana, only to discover that it's Dana's "ghastly younger brother" with whom she has things in common. Exhibiting varying degrees of self-awareness, Klein's characters are complex--sometimes awful--and the author respects her readers enough to allow them to draw their own conclusions about events and personalities. Susan Dove Lempke About the Author Robin Klein is one of Australia's most popular and accomplished writers for children and young adults. Robin has had more than 40 books published. Her works have been adapted for both stage and screen. Many of her books have been shortlisted for the Australian Children's Book of the Year Award. Alice Pung's award-winning books span the genres of memoir, non-fiction, anthology, young adult and children's fiction. Alice's first book *Unpolished Gem* won the 2007 Australian Book Industry Award for Newcomer of the Year. Her second book, *Her Father's Daughter*, won the 2011 Western Australia Premier's Literary Award, and her first novel, *Lucy and Linh*, received a Kirkus star.