



One Secret Thing

By Sharon Olds

Alfred A. Knopf. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, One Secret Thing, Sharon Olds, Sharon Olds completes her cycle of family poems in a book at once intense and harmonic, playful with language, and rich with a new self-awareness and sense of irony. The opening poem, with its sequence of fearsome images of war, serves as a prelude to poems of home in which humor, anger, and compassion sing together with lyric energy--sometimes comic, sometimes filled with a kind of unblinking forgiveness. These songs of joy and danger--public and private--illuminate one another. As the book unfolds, the portrait of the mother goes through a moving revisioning, leading us to a final series of elegies of hard-won mourning. "One Secret Thing " is charged throughout with Sharon Olds's characteristic passion, imagination, and poetic power. The doctor on the phone was young, maybe on hisfirst rotation in the emergency room. On the ancient boarding-school radio, in the attic hall, the announcer had given myboyfriend's name as one of twobrought to the hospital after the sunriseservice, the egg-hunt, the crash--one of themcritical, one of them dead. I was looking at thestairwell banisters, at their lathing, the necks and knobs like joints and bones, the varnish...



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