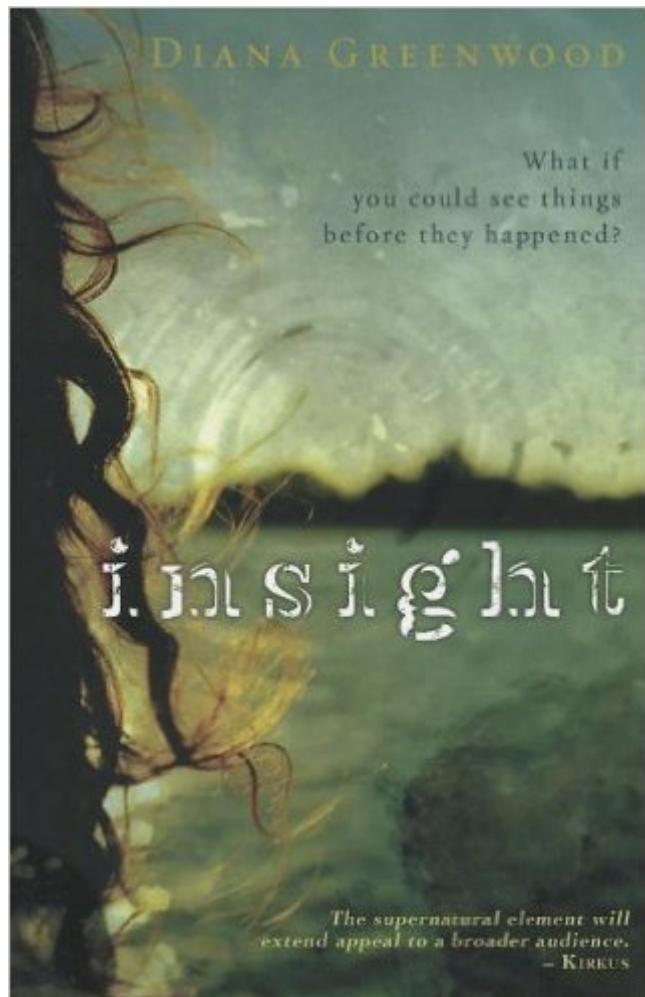


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# Insight



## **Synopsis**

Fourteen-year-old Elvira Witsil lives in a remote area of Wisconsin with her mother, Connie, who acknowledges Elvira only when chores need doing; her grandma, a cantankerous woman who can't hold her tongue; and her baby sister, Jessie • who, the family discovers, is a seer. Along with the burdens of a difficult family, Elvira also bears a daunting secret • she encouraged her father to enlist in WWII. Ever since he was declared missing in action, Elvira has felt responsible for his presumed death. But Jessie also carries a secret about the father she never met • a secret so powerful that when her mother, Connie, learns of it, she sends the family on a journey to California with a traveling preacher. This powerful teen manuscript tells the story of a family's journey toward forgiveness and a young woman's journey toward faith

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book is intended for young adults, but really it is for anyone who has wondered where God is in their times of trouble or why He allows bad things to happen. The story brought me back to those awkward early teen years when I had that one adult I wished I could grow up to be (mine was Pam Price) and I worried no boy would ever be interested in me. One of my favorite lines from the book relate to Elvira's learning about a God she'd never really known or understood before. But then it occurred to me he meant you could believe in God anywhere, not just in some stuffy old church. You could pray and read the Bible in the middle of a campground and it was all a fine thing to do. God apparently didn't mind where you were as long as you believed. And another very wise Elvirism:

There's only one God. But people see God the way they want to.

Imagine living in the 1940's, dirt poor in the middle of nowhere. With a mother who only notices you when you do something wrong, a grandmother who has nothing better than to constantly insult your mother for marrying your now dead father and a little sister who can see into the future. That is exactly the type of home in which Elvira Witsil grew up in. Family secrets, loss, strained relationships all wrapped up with a small glimmer of hope. *Insight* was a breath of fresh air. I was sucked into this novel within the first few pages. Diana Greenwood did an excellent job with the character development. I especially loved being inside the head of Elvira. She was such an interesting character, there were moments where I couldn't help but laugh at some of the thoughts that ran through her mind while other times my heart just ached for her. Jessie was another favorite of mine. For such a small child she showed more thoughtfulness and wisdom than anyone else in her family. *Insight* was an all around well written novel. Full of tense drama, emotional struggles and a family's journey to grow, heal and love.

This book was given to me by a friend. Though I'm 64 years old, it spoke to the girl in me who lost her father to alcohol and her mother to bitterness. This work is exquisitely wrought, and even to this old girl who's by now far from naive, it brought the clear white light of hope and redemption. Thank you Diana Greenwood.

*Insight* was a good inspirational novel. I wasn't expecting the time period of the book to be in the 1940's. Usually I don't read things set in a war time era. However, this book was really good, and didn't focus on World War II much. The plot went along fairly well. Parts of the plot got a little boring at times, such as the stopping along the side of the road a few times to rest. I thought it was cool how the author wrote a few A.A. references into the book. She also wrote a couple of snippets about A.A. history. The ending of the book completely shocked me. I was expecting a totally different ending. I think I liked this ending better than the one I expected. I liked most of the characters. The grandma got a little annoying at times. I think my favorite character was Don, the preacher. I liked how kind and wise he was. He took the family almost cross country without knowing much about them. This was a great novel with a powerful message. The message it gave was to not let guilt consume you. Another message the book gave was that God will help you through your problems, no matter how big they may seem. I recommend this book to anyone looking for a good read.

Elvira Witsil feels as if no one ever pays any attention to her, she has never really had any friends because most of the townspeople look down on her family because her father was an alcoholic. She lives with her mother, Connie, her grandmother and her sister Jessie. The only time anyone pays any attention to her at home is when they want her to do something. Her mother always seems angry and her grandma is often complaining. Elvira misses her father who went away to war and never came back, something she actually blames herself for. When Jessie starts singing songs and quoting a traveling preacher which she has never met, the family realises Jessie is a seer, someone who can see what is going to happen in the future. Connie decides to uproot the family and travel to California with the preacher. The trek cross country has Elvira learning about life and God. Will the family find what they are looking for in California? I loved this coming of age story, told thru the eyes of Elvira a young girl who is very mature for her age. The author weaves the story in such a way that you can easily imagine the problems that faced this family. Each member had their own problems, but failed to communicate. Elvira was a lonely girl who found solace in reading, and the reoccurring dream that she had made perfect sense at the end of the story. Jessie was a girl who could see things no one else could see, but had no control over her gift. As we learn Connie's story we see that she is carrying guilt about her husband. The traveling preacher, Don, taught Elvira about a God who could be her friend. I liked the inclusion of the dog Sarah, and how she became a part of the family. While this book is geared toward teens I found it an enjoyable read. While a quick read at 218 pages, its one of those stories where the characters stay with you long after the story ends. I was provided a complimentary copy of this book by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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