

BOOKRAPT™

THE BAY OF PLENTY CHILDREN'S LITERATURE ASSOCIATION INC
www.bookrapt.org.nz info@bookrapt.org.nz



Plenty: a place to call home by Ananda Braxton-Smith

Publisher: black dog books/Walker Books

RRP \$16.99

A well-written novel that will appeal to young readers who have ever had to move country, home or school and experienced the dislocation from the comfort and familiarity of their old place.

On her tenth birthday, Maddy's parents tell her the family is moving from their city home in Jermyn Street, the place that she has loved forever. She can't believe her mother and father have decided to shift without even talking to her first. They say they want to live in a rural area near Maddy's Nana because she's getting old and forgetting things.

But Maddy has to leave her friends, the Fairies Tree in Fitzroy Gardens, plus the people and animals she likes in her neighbourhood. Worst of all, she has to leave behind the fairies on the wall of her bedroom - to Maddy they are more than pictures, they're real.

Although Maddy has no option but to move with her parents, she decides she will never forgive them nor will she ever be happy in the dusty, backwater called Plenty. However, her understanding of the world is expanded when her new teacher sits her beside Grace Wek, an African girl who was born in a refugee camp. Then, as her Nana's dementia advances, Maddy begins to learn about her family background and her mother's childhood in Cyprus.

An insightful novel that follows the transition of a young girl from self-absorbed childhood to awareness of the challenges other people cope with. Maddy changes more than just her location as she moves into adolescence with a deeper appreciation of those she loves. Thought-provoking and an excellent read.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett

Author's profile: <http://tinyurl.com/lq5ewrd>

