

★ **The Tunnel****Sarah Howden****Erika Rodriguez Medina, Illustrator**

Owlkids Books (Mar 15, 2022)

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A young boy carves a path through grief in this moving picture book. The color scheme is simple to complement the complex subject matter: grayscale with mindful touches of red. The cloak of loss over the house is made clear in subtle ways—bouquets droop in their vases, mail collects on a table, and the boy struggles to escape the heaviness. His mother helps him understand that we all need a “secret place,” and that we can always come back when we’re ready.

DANIELLE BALLANTYNE (March / April 2022)

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