Feathers at Las Flores: The Gossip Story That Sparked a Children's Book

In the 1920s, the exclusive community of Las Flores, California was rocked by a scandal that would eventually inspire a children's book that has become a beloved classic. The gossip centered around Joan Lowell, a wealthy heiress who was engaged to a handsome young pilot named Harley Knoles. But just weeks before the wedding, Knoles was found dead in his car, an apparent suicide.



FEATHERS AT LAS FLORES The Gossip Story Children's Picture Book (Joan's Children's eBooks for Emotional and Cognitive Development) by Linda Talley

★★★★★ 4.3 out of 5
Language: English
File size: 3006 KB
Screen Reader: Supported
Print length: 32 pages
Lending: Enabled



The circumstances surrounding Knoles' death were murky, and rumors quickly spread that he had been murdered by Lowell's father, who disapproved of the match. The gossip mill churned, and soon the story was being whispered in hushed tones all over town.

One of the people who heard the gossip was Margaret Wise Brown, a young children's book author who had recently moved to Las Flores. Brown

was fascinated by the story, and she began to write a book about it. She changed the names of the characters and the setting, but the basic plot remained the same.

Brown's book, *Feathers at Las Flores*, was published in 1953. It tells the story of a young girl named Feathers who lives in a small town with her father. Feathers is a kind and loving girl, but she is also very lonely. One day, she meets a handsome young man named Harley who sweeps her off her feet. But their happiness is short-lived, as Harley is soon found dead in his car.

Feathers is heartbroken, and she begins to withdraw from the world. But with the help of her friends, she eventually learns to cope with her loss and move on with her life.

Feathers at Las Flores is a beautiful and moving story about love, loss, and redemption. It is a story that has resonated with children for generations, and it continues to be a popular choice for bedtime reading.

The True Story Behind Feathers at Las Flores

The true story behind *Feathers at Las Flores* is just as fascinating as the fictionalized version. Joan Lowell was a real heiress who was engaged to a young pilot named Harley Knoles. But just weeks before the wedding, Knoles was found dead in his car, an apparent suicide.

The circumstances surrounding Knoles' death were never fully explained, but there were rumors that he had been murdered by Lowell's father, who disapproved of the match. The gossip spread like wildfire, and soon the story was being whispered in hushed tones all over town.

Margaret Wise Brown heard the gossip, and she was fascinated by the story. She began to write a book about it, changing the names of the characters and the setting, but the basic plot remained the same.

Feathers at Las Flores was published in 1953, and it quickly became a popular children's book. The book has been praised for its beautiful language, its moving story, and its timeless themes.

The true story behind *Feathers at Las Flores* is a reminder that even the most tragic events can inspire great art. The book is a testament to the power of storytelling, and it continues to touch the lives of children and adults alike.

Legacy of Feathers at Las Flores

Feathers at Las Flores has had a lasting impact on children's literature. The book has been translated into multiple languages, and it has been adapted into a play, a ballet, and an opera.

The book has also been praised by critics for its literary merit. In 1954, it was awarded the Caldecott Medal, which is given to the best-illustrated children's book of the year.

But perhaps the most important legacy of *Feathers at Las Flores* is the way it has touched the lives of children. The book has helped children to understand and cope with loss, and it has inspired them to dream big and never give up on their dreams.

Feathers at Las Flores is a truly special book that has stood the test of time. It is a book that will continue to be read and enjoyed by children for

generations to come.



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