

# The Girl in the Well is Me

By Karen Rivers

## Annotation

Kammie just moved to a new town to escape her father's mistakes. She just wants to be popular and make friends. So when Kammie agrees to the (fake) initiation activity that Mandy, Kandy, and Sandy require for her to be their friend, Kammie doesn't expect to find herself at the bottom of an old abandoned well.

Have Mandy, Kandy, and Sandy gone for help or have they left her there to die? Will Kammie be rescued?

## Book Talk

Read the following passage from the book:

The first thing everyone says to do in emergencies--earthquakes or house fires or if, say, you fall down an abandoned well out in the wasteland behind town--is to stay calm.

“Stay calm, Kammie,” I tell myself. My voice echoes up the dusty tunnel to where The Girls are, safe on high ground.

“HELP!” I scream. “MANDY KANDY SANDY!”

No one answers me, but I know they are there. Unless they went to get help. That's it. They went for help.

Meanwhile, I am thoroughly wedged between the damp, rough walls of this stinky old well.

I try to breath slow, in and out. In and out. In and out. My heart beats. Nothing is broken, at least I don't think so. So I guess I'm OK.

I am OK.

I will be OK.

OK?

## Book Trailers

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5T1FUTfvZs>

## Author on the Internet

- Website: <https://www.karenrivers.com/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/search?q=Karen%20rivers&src=typd&lang=en>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=544745489>

## Items to use in a library display

- Macaroni

## Book Club Discussion Topics

- bullying
- belonging
- social groups/cliques
- self perception
- fear

### **First Line of the Book:**

- “The whole thing feels like a prank at first, like something they planned--a joke with a punch line.”

### **Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)**

- *How to survive mean girls* by Miles, Lisa
- *How to survive anything* by Buchholz, Rachel
- *EMT : crisis care for injuries and illness* by Greve, Tom
- *Search and rescue : imminent danger* by Berne, Emma Carlson

### **What to Read Next**

- *Flora and Ulysses* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Reign Rein* by Ann M. Martin
- *Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan

### **Other Books by this Author:**

- *Love, ish*
- *Finding Ruby Starling*
- *The Encyclopedia of Me*

### **Additional Resources**

- News story: 7-year old survives fall in well  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAKwt\\_ACIng](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAKwt_ACIng)
- News story: “baby Jessica” (McLure) rescue  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBk5mIVYAZ4>
- Interview with the author:  
<http://www.allthewonders.com/podcasts/karen-rivers-lets-get-busy-episode-244/>