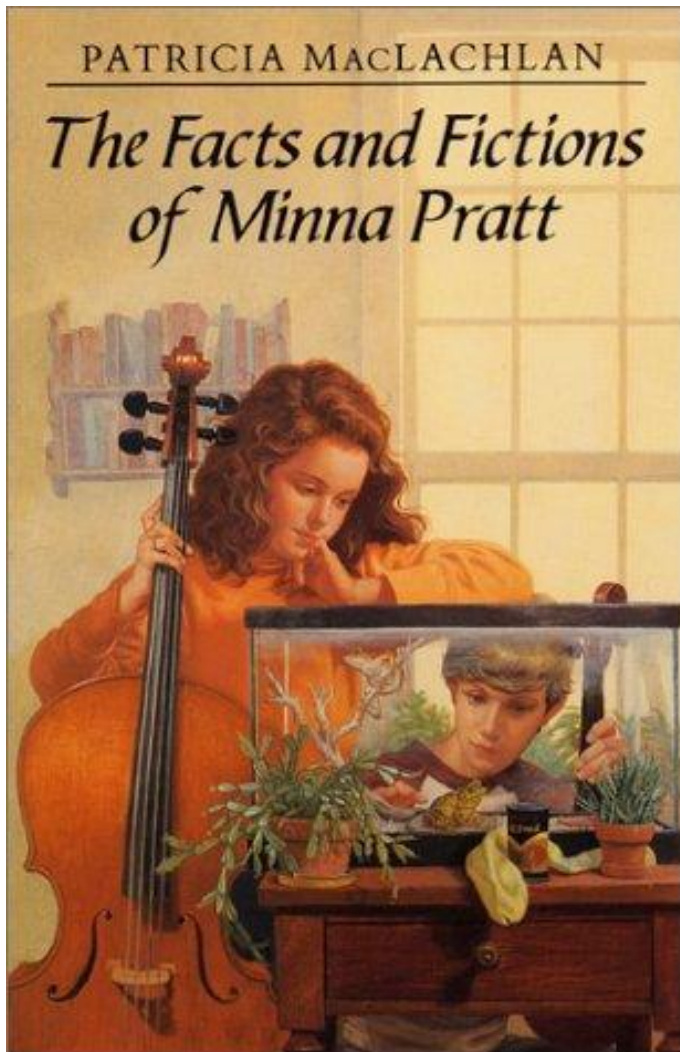

Patricia MacLachlan

The Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt



Title: The Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt

Author: Patricia MacLachlan

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Description

Minna wishes for many things. She wishes she understood the quote taped above her mother's typewriter: "Fact and fiction are different truths," She wishes her mother would stop writing long enough to really listen to her. She wishes her house were peaceful and orderly like her friend Lucas's. Most of all, she wishes she could find a vibrato on her cello and play Mozart the way he deserves to be played. Minna soon discovers that some things can't be found—they just have to "happen," And as she waits for her vibrato to happen, Minna begins to understand some facts and fictions about herself.

Insightful reviews

Desiree:

Each character has unique imperfect qualities that become more and more lovable throughout the book. In spite of imperfections, maybe because of them, love and great friendship engulfs this story.

Josiah: "There is often...no room for perfection in an imperfect world."

—Imelda, *The Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt*, P. 86

If Patricia MacLachlan's name weren't printed on the cover of this book, I can't say that I'd have been likely to be able to identify her as the author just from the writing. I'm used to a slightly more rhythmic sensation to the words she chooses, the gentle waves of her lovely descriptions creating a quiet harmony even when they're describing just mundane, everyday things, or simple outdoors scenes that we could pass a hundred times without ever looking at with deeper insight. *The Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt* has more of an urban feel to it, but Patricia MacLachlan's writing is no less nice for the different type of surroundings. As always, she manages to tell a story with utmost economy of words, putting a fair amount of plot into a relatively short junior novel.

Minna Pratt comes from an eccentric family, a situation certainly not unfamiliar to the main characters in Patricia MacLachlan's stories. Her parents and younger brother, McGrew, all have artsy temperaments, and while Minna has her own fair share of endowment in that area, she approaches life from a much more serious and analytical point of view. Though Minna has been taking cello lessons for years, she's never really hit her groove with it, being surpassed by some of the other students as their "light" turns on and they really *get* what they're trying to do with their individual instruments. As she waits for her own moment of inspiration to arrive, a new student joins the class, a boy named Lucas who has played the viola for as long as Minna has been involved with the cello. The debut pupil quickly befriends Minna and provides her with a new take on her quirky family, as well as on her own much less spontaneous personality. Lucas actually wishes that he might have a family a little bit more like Minna's, and as they learn from each other about better understanding the families they were born into, Lucas also serves as the bridge between Minna and her cello epiphany that she's been awaiting for so long.

I can't say that I'm totally sure what this book is meant to teach. The story is nice, though, and there are some memorable characters (especially McGrew, in my opinion) to add a smile or two along the way. I would give one and a half stars to *The Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt*.

Andrew Foster: Grade Level: 6th to 8th

This book follows 11 year old Minna Pratt. She is a musician that seems to not understand her family dynamic. In the story, she meets a boy named Lucas and falls in love. Throughout the story she struggles with how her family is and how Lucas's family is, making many comparisons. Overall, she learns that her family is just as normal. There are so humorous parts that keep the reader interested.

I could see this book being used in conjunction with a music lesson. Learning the different notes, instruments, and composers. Also, this could be used as a "grass is greener" lesson allowing students to compare and contrast their families with others. In a way, this is also a coming of age story as the Minna prepares to decide what she wants to be as she grows up. There are many different lesson angles one could take with this book.

A.: considered one of my favourite MacLachlan books -- a very good instance of ways she develops characters via defining features --the highway musician who performs Paganini, the easiest good friend who collects amphibians--the woman who wishes the "truth" approximately her mom and unearths that fact will be instructed via fiction.

Geizy: The proof and Fictions of Minna Pratt is set a tender woman who's looking for her vibrato. in the course of the entire publication she is going via many struggles such as, her hands cannot succeed in the 3rd string on her Cello, her mom and dad don't pay as a lot recognition to her as their consider too, and falling in love with the Violinist, Lucas. yet on the finish every little thing seems to be perfect. Her mom and dad went to the competition, she bought her vibrato and her overwhelm is now like her top friend. i will be able to relate to Minna simply because as realized tips to play the Clarinet, it took me your time to get used to the notes and palms simply because I wasn't customary to the Clarinet. yet now I'm in Gold Band. Im no longer excellent at it yet i can't deny that Im strong at enjoying it. This e-book relatively encouraged me to perform extra and that i additionally spotted that i actually get pleasure from reading. i assume a few ebook regularly have satisfied endings. I loved analyzing this e-book and that i inspire you to learn it.

Ariel: This was once a superbly stunning kid's booklet approximately an eleven 12 months outdated woman who longs for vibrato in her cello playing, has a weigh down on a boy, and does not believe understood by means of her parents. Minna felt very actual to me, even supposing the facet characters weren't very constructed and that i felt like her mom and dad have been gratuitously wacky. Overall, it used to be a really great book. I liked that it did not think it had to cross into histrionics of poverty, death, or the other type of trauma to be relevant. This is well a publication i'd get for an undemanding institution girl.

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