

Prisoner:

Plot Summary

Randall Smith is imprisoned for child abuse and domestic violence. His 11-year-old daughter Sybille Smith visits him for the first time since he was taken away in handcuffs. The middle grade novelette takes readers on a coming-of age journey through the five senses: hear, touch, taste, smell, sight, and sound. Find out what Sybille thinks of prison, the inmates she encounters, and follow along as she works through feelings of anger, grief, sadness, and despair.

Additionally, Sybille's grandmother is a profound figure in the book, offering much needed physical and emotional support for her as she braves the frightening world of Temecula Valley Correctional Facility. In book one of the five-book series, *Purple Trees and a Will to Believe*, Sybille and her younger twin brothers Sander and Solomon have just lost their mother to cancer. They are raised by a physically, mentally, and emotionally abusive alcoholic father who frequently beats them with a belt, a small wrench from his garage, and an ironing cord.

In its entirety, *Prisoner* takes readers on a journey through the harsh reality of a correctional facility for drug dealers, burglars, child abusers, and murderers. Sybille is faced with a plethora of challenges, among them working through her own inner turmoil following her father's arrest and at the close of the story, gains the courage to confront her abuser with a simple, "Hello." Sybille's simplistic greeting is symbolic of her bravery and courageousness in facing her fears as she proves to herself that she is stronger than she thought possible.