

Counting by 7s

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A New York Times Bestseller. An AMAZON Best Book of the Year 2013. A Kids' Indie Next List Top Ten Book-- #4, Best Books of Autumn 2013. B.E.A. Buzz Book Award 2013. A Texas Bluebonnet Award Nominee 2014-2015 Master List. A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year. An E.B. White Read Aloud Honor Book. A Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award Nominee. A National Public Radio Best Book of the Year.

In the tradition of *Out of My Mind*, *Wonder*, and *Mockingbird*, this is an intensely moving middle grade novel about being an outsider, coping with loss, and discovering the true meaning of family.

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.

Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is not a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

"In achingly beautiful prose, Holly Goldberg Sloan has written a delightful tale of transformation that's a celebration of life in all its wondrous, hilarious and confounding glory. *Counting by 7s* is a triumph."--Maria Semple, author of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*

"Holly Goldberg Sloan writes about belonging in a way I've never quite seen in any other book. This is a gorgeous, funny, and heartwarming novel that I'll never forget."--John Corey Whaley, author of *Where Things Come Back*

"Willow Chance subtly drew me into her head and her life, so much so that I was holding my breath for her by the end. Holly Goldberg Sloan has created distinct characters who will stay with you long after you finish the book."--Sharon Creech, Newbery Award-winning author of *Walk Two Moons*

Amazon Best Books of 2013

Counting by 7s is a delightful, powerful, and beautifully written book that I can't forget and want to give to everyone around me. Holly Goldberg Sloan's quirky characters nestle into your heart and stay there, particularly 12-year-old Willow Chance. A young genius obsessed with the number seven, plants, and diagnosing medical conditions (especially skin disorders that she can surreptitiously photograph) Willow is a true outsider looking for a way in. Her parents tether her to the world, and when they are killed in a car crash Willow's comfortable sphere is shattered. Though a tragedy, the loss of her parents is also Willow's entry into the lives of others. The bond she forms with an unlikely cast of

characters is heartfelt and transformative. Like Willow's beloved plants, these are people putting down new roots and rising toward the sun. --Seira Wilson
Holly Goldberg Sloan, the acclaimed author of *I'll Be There*, has worked as an advertising copywriter and a writer and director of feature films. She lives in Santa Monica, California.

Other Books

Arithmetic.

1 and 5 are 6, and 1 (really 8) makes 7; set it down. ... 2 and 2 (really 7) are 4: set it down. ... "Yes, but George," said Miss Sessions, "you must learn that the 6th number in counting by 7s, or 6 times 7, as we say, is 42. ..."