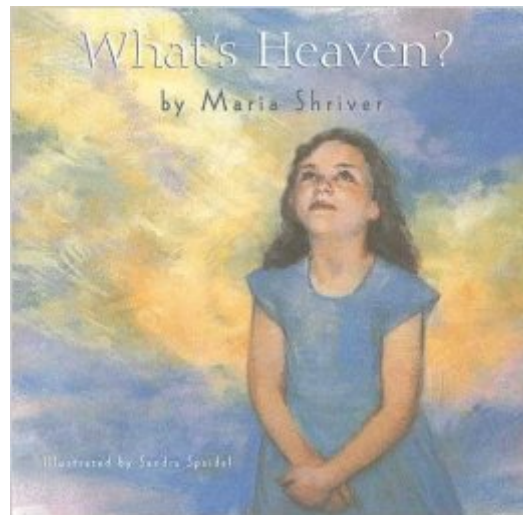


The book was found

# What's Heaven



## Synopsis

This treasure of a book, for people of all faiths, is a starting point for parents who must talk about the difficult topic of death with their children. What should parents say when a loved one dies? Heaven is a difficult subject that always comes up at tough times, and Maria Shriver has written a very special book precisely for these stressful moments. *What's Heaven?* is the story of Kate, a little girl whose great-grandma has just died. She seeks answers, and her mother helps her learn about Heaven. The many questions in this book are real, coming from Shriver's own children, nieces, and nephews when her grandmother Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy passed away. With 900,000 copies of the book now in print, the loving, confident, and ultimately uplifting answers Shriver provides are helping readers' families come together, feel closer to one another, and experience peace during the times when they need it most.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Golden Books Adult Publishing (October 30, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312382413

ISBN-13: 978-0312382414

Product Dimensions: 7.6 x 0.4 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (132 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #14,997 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying](#) #33 in [Books > Self-Help > Death & Grief > Grief & Bereavement](#) #1084 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Maria Shriver does a beautiful job of putting together a story that helps explain loss to children...and she should know. She has lost many loved ones in her life, among them our country's president, her Uncle Jack (Kennedy), when she was eight. Her family had to endure much intrusion into their private grief during that difficult time for our nation. In *What's Heaven*, young Kate's great grandmother has died and she has questions, many questions. In a recent interview, Shriver stated that she had many questions about death when she was young, but couldn't ask them because in

her family death was not talked about. Many of her questions remained inside her into adulthood. When her grandmother, Rose Kennedy, died, her own daughter began asking her the same questions Maria had as a child. Questions that were never answered. Thus, this book was born. Kate wants to know why her mother is sad. Mother answers that her grandma, Kate's great grandma, has died and gone to heaven. Naturally, Kate asks what heaven is, so mother explains, and that brings on more questions. Kate wants to know if animals and people go to the same heaven, and why she can't see heaven, and how you get there, and what's a funeral, a soul, and...???

The book is sensitively written by Shriver and beautifully illustrated by Sandra Speidel whose wispy, soft pastels give the reader a heavenly feeling as the book is being read. The book is a nice size, being just under 8" square. The paper used is smooth and pleasant to the touch with ample white space between lines of text. Each set of facing pages has text on one side and a pastel painting on the other. What's Heaven is a treasure and a gentle, loving way to help children understand what happens when someone dies.

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