

[ press release ]

# THE COMPLETE BOOK OF ASPEN

**A heartbreakingly hopeful novel in verse by award-winning author, Danna Smith, based on her true DNA experience.**

DNA sucks at keeping secrets.

When Aspen's best friend gives her a DNA test kit, a half teaspoon of spit is all it takes to discover her entire life has been a lie.

Learning that her beloved late father was not her biological father—and that her mother had deceived her—ignites a wild storm of emotions. Aspen struggles with her identity and the burden of being the gatekeeper of this closely guarded family secret.

When her mother refuses to reveal her biological father's name, Aspen sets out on a courageous journey to find him.

Backmatter includes an author's note and explanation of poetic forms.

## ADVANCE PRAISE

"Smith's novel-in-verse is tender and satisfying. It is a gift, not just to a teen in this particular situation, but to anyone trying to understand who they are." —Kate Coombs author of *Water Sings Blue*

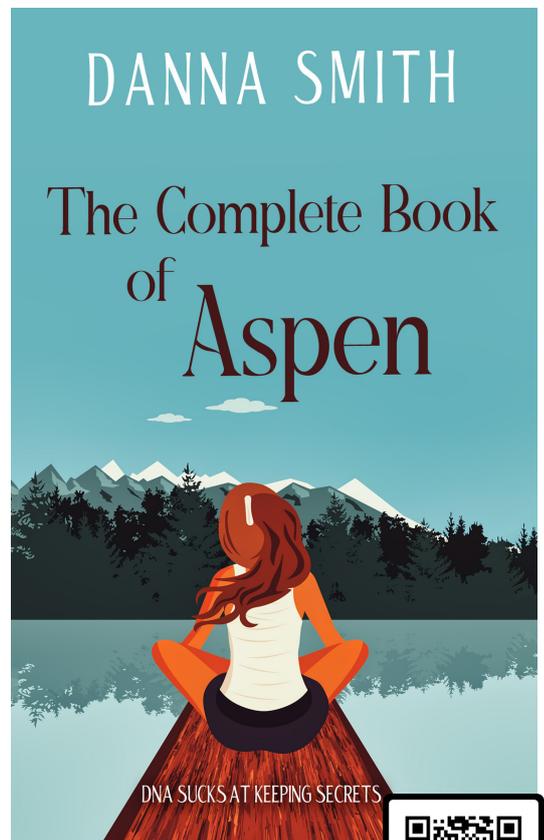
"...Told in unique poetry form, you will agonize along with Aspen as she learns to cope with the reality many of us face today with DNA testing. —Melody DeLeon

"...Suspenseful and a thing of sheer beauty, emotionally rich and psychologically engaging." — The Book Commentary

"Smith's verse is not only lyrical and compelling, but it also shows a mastery of technique." —Linda Joy Singleton, author of *The Seer*, *Dead Girl*, and *Curious Cat Spy Club* series.



Danna Smith is the award-winning author of over twenty books for children, including *The Hawk of the Castle* (Candlewick), a 2018 Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Books of the Year, a number of Little Golden Books, and the forthcoming *Rooftop Garden* (Barefoot Books singalong, April 2022). Danna lives in the beautiful wine country of northern California with her family. Find her online at [www.dannasmithbooks.com](http://www.dannasmithbooks.com) and pop over to her poetry blog at [www.poetrypop.com](http://www.poetrypop.com)



SCAN ME

The Complete Book of Aspen  
by Danna Smith

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