



## The Bear and the Wildcat

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**Komako Sakai, Illustrator**

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Grayscale illustrations scattered with sapphire blue depict the misunderstood journey of grief through a bear and his late friend. Bear's best friend, a little bird, has died; Bear carves a beautiful box for him and cushions his friend with wildflowers, but none of the other animals understand why he continues to carry the box around. When Bear comes across a wandering wildcat, he finds understanding, acceptance, and the courage to take the next step.

DANIELLE BALLANTYNE (January / February 2023)

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