



Melbourne's Child
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This is the story of a little girl whose mother leaves the family, never to return. The story is told through the eyes of the child and we know only as much as she does about the events surrounding her mother's departure. The heartbroken little girl, her daddy and her dolly, Lucille, start a new life together. Lucille is broken, and Mummy isn't there to mend her. The broken doll is a gentle and recurring metaphor for all that is broken and irreparable in the young girl's life. Time passes and the little girl's father meets a new woman, Chrissie, who he eventually marries. Chrissie mends Lucille and gradually helps to alleviate a little of the girl's sadness. Jennifer Poulter has created an achingly beautiful story of love and loss, of breaking apart and putting back together. Sarah Davis has masterfully captured the little girl's sadness, and her use of colour skilfully advances the narrative – moving from the duller grey palette of sadness to a brighter palette as the little girl begins to find happiness. In every possible way, this book is breathtaking. Very highly recommended for ages 4 to 7 years.

Written by J.R. Poulter and illustrated by Sarah Davis, Lothian Children's Books, h/b, RRP \$28.99

