

What If? Reviews

One for Sorrow

by Mary C. Sheppard

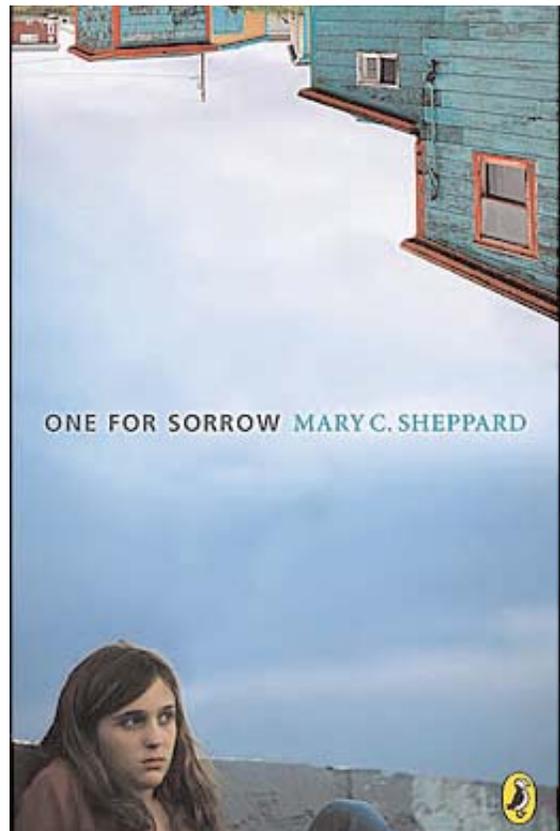
Published by Penguin

Reviewed by Clara Szeto,

19, Markham, ON

Issy Heffernan feels like she has had enough of her cranky, spoiled, bedridden mother and her strict, "old-maid" sister. She has long wished to leave Newfoundland for the big city of Toronto, except she can't. After all, she thinks, how far can an illiterate person go? Issy is shy and unconfident and because of this her classmates make fun of her.

Her sister is fed up with trying to make her come out of her shell too. Once her only comfort, her great aunt, leaves she vows that she will run away on her sixteenth birthday. Issy does not have a lot of friends, but that is fine, since she doesn't intend to build any ties



that she will leave behind anyway. She already has plans drawn out in her mind and everything is going to be perfect.

Then an accident occurs during the winter and someone important from Issy's childhood comes back to Riverbank, Newfoundland. Her father, who is usually absent, comes home to visit. Then the surprising secret behind Issy's inability to read is revealed. As all this takes place her mother and sister seem to be changing slightly as well. So much is happening unexpectedly that she tries to keep her mind set and only think of her escape.

One for Sorrow is a heart-warming story of a complicated, pure-hearted and appealing heroine. Readers can run along on the riveting path of Issy's life and open their eyes to the ever-widening world, searching for comfort and love beside her. This satisfying read is highly recommended for young readers of all ages.