

# WITHOUT JENNY

MARK GUNTHER

## DESCRIPTION

Joy Rosenberg thinks she's the luckiest person in the world, with satisfying work, a passionate marriage, an excellent bicycle and two great kids. But when ten-year-old Jenny is killed, Joy's life is destroyed. Tortured by visions of the accident and twisted by guilt, she feels doomed to a life of unremitting darkness. Judaism holds her, but how could God have taken her child? Family, friends, work, athletics—nothing can restore the world she had. Joy struggles to live a life of purpose and compassion while grief is tearing it apart. Can she forgive herself and learn to love again, or will she lose her husband and son forever? An emotional story told in honest and haunting detail, *Without Jenny* is an intimate portrait of a loving marriage stretched to the breaking point by the unspeakable.

*"Gunther vividly dramatizes how grief isolates us from others and from the petty concerns of the living, movingly depicting the courage it takes simply to go on surviving. There are no palliative proverbs here—no reassurance that suffering strengthens us, no sense that time heals all wounds. This novel draws us intimately close to the mysteries of imperfect love and of human resilience."*

**—Catherine Brady, winner of the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction**

*"Without Jenny is a heartbreaking journey of love and loss, of mourning and memory, of faith and doubt. Mark Gunther offers his readers a meditation on strength, courage and the healing power of family."*

**—Rabbi Naomi Levy, author of *Einstein and the Rabbi***

## KEY SELLING POINTS

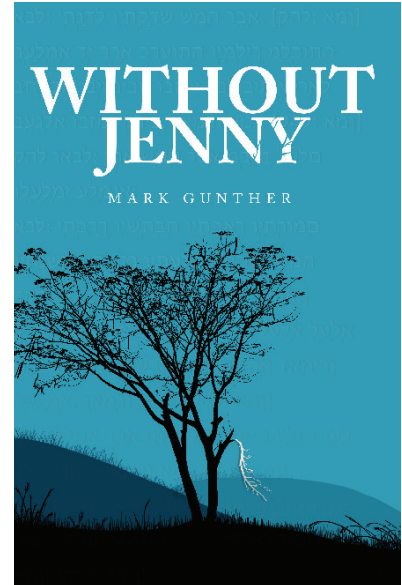
- There are twenty million bereaved parents in the United States and millions more who support them. A child loss infrastructure exists with national organizations, local groups, publications and conferences.
- *Without Jenny* is unique in presenting the lived experience of bereavement. It is neither polemical nor prescriptive. The bereaved will recognize themselves in these pages.
- *Without Jenny* brings the mourning practices of Judaism to a broad audience.
- The author is a bereaved parent and is willing to engage the reading audience around his loss.

## AUDIENCE

- Bereaved parents and the people who support them
- Clergy and other grief counselors
- Married couples struggling with relationship struggles, especially in face of adversity.
- Jews and Jewish-curious
- Readers of literary fiction, mainstream fiction, family and relationship driven fiction

## MARKETING AND PUBLICITY HIGHLIGHTS

- Specific outreach to grief organizations and publications is underway.
- The novel is being offered for review to Jewish publications as well as
- The novel is part of the 2018-19 Jewish Book Council (JBC) Network, including a featured spot in the 2018 JBC conference in NYC.
- The author will be making extensive appearances at bookstores, festivals and organizations, including two launch parties in the Bay Area.
- The author is utilizing his established website/social media to promote the book.



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**Distributor: Ingram**

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**SOFT COVER: \$16.95, 978-1-63393-544-0**

**HARD COVER: \$29.95, 978-1-63393-546-4**

**EBOOK: \$7.99, 978-1-63393-545-7**

**TRIM: 6"x 9", 230 pages**

**FICTION: Family Life/ Jewish**

## WEBSITE:

[www.markgunther.net](http://www.markgunther.net)

## AUTHOR BIO



Mark Gunther has been many things in his life—student, hippie, cook, husband, carpenter, father, dancer, administrator, musician, entrepreneur, athlete. He has worked in staff or board roles in small businesses and nonprofit organizations for forty years. After his daughter Eva was killed by a drunk driver in 1997, he and his wife started the Eva Gunther Foundation ([www.evafoundation.org](http://www.evafoundation.org)), to “fuel hope in the heart of a girl.” Mark received an MFA in Creative Writing in December of 2015 and since then has been published in several literary journals and other publications. *Without Jenny* is his first novel.

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