



ACROSS THE CREEK

MARYA SMITH

SMITH

ACROSS THE CREEK

Arcade Publishing · New York
Little, Brown and Company

ACROSS THE CREEK

MARYA SMITH

Rye spotted her immediately, just after he'd arrived at MamFram's. It was only a glimpse, but she had been there, out of nowhere it seemed. Then she was gone. But she had been real, he was sure of it. He had stared at her across the creek and for one crazy, joyful moment Rye had recognized her. He should have known his mother would never leave him for good, that her death was not final.

Dumb! He must be insane! It's just being here at his grandmother's, surrounded by all his mother's childhood memories. But then Rye actually meets the mysterious girl. Quiet, sensitive and gentle, oddly old-fashioned, she knows all his mother's favorite places, knows Rye and seems to really care about him. She is totally unlike anyone Rye has ever known—except his mother. There are so many strange, unexplained things about the girl that gradually Rye becomes convinced that his first crazy notion is true: She *is* his mother as she was as a child, come back to him across time.

Together, the two youngsters create a magical world beside the creek, a comforting refuge for the grieving Rye from his well-meaning but insensitive grandmother. But reality soon shatters their idyll and leads Rye to a desperate act of betrayal and ultimately to a heartwrenching catharsis.

Jacket illustration copyright © 1989
by Krista Kieffer

