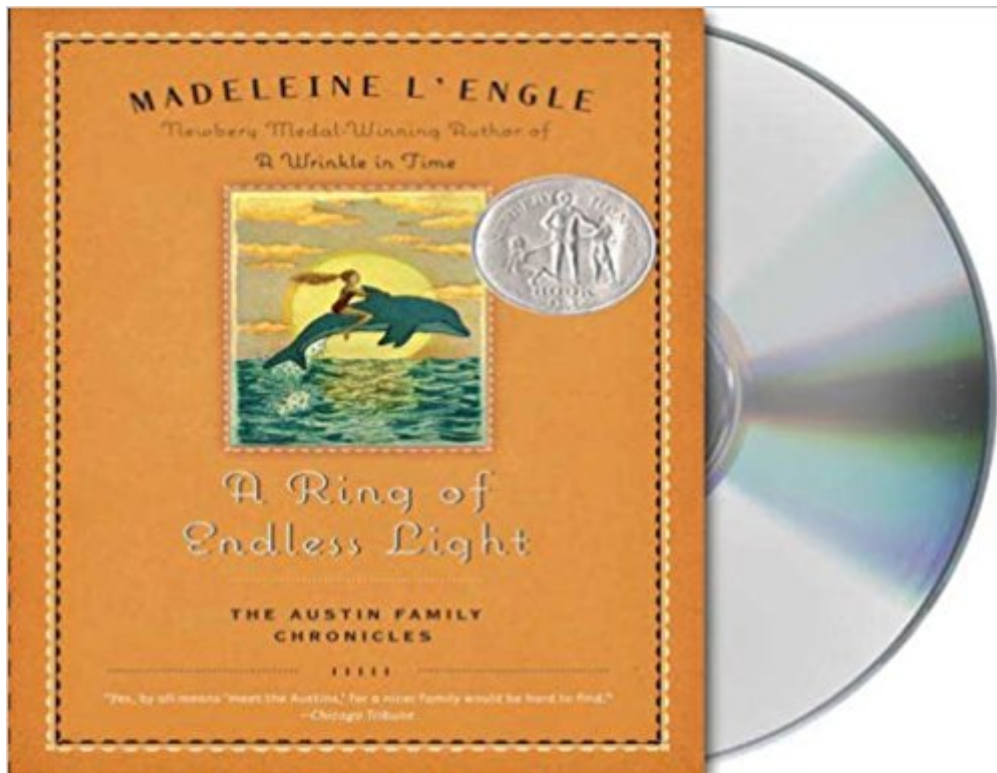




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# A Ring Of Endless Light - CANCELLED (Austin Family)



## Synopsis

After a tumultuous year in New York City, the Austins are spending the summer on the small island where their grandfather lives. He's very sick, and watching his condition deteriorate as the summer passes is almost more than Vicky can bear. To complicate matters, she finds herself as the center of attention for three very different boys. Zachary Grey, the troubled and reckless boy Vicky met last summer, wants her all to himself as he grieves the loss of his mother. Leo Rodney has been just a friend for years, but the tragic loss of his father causes him to turn to Vicky for comfort and romance. And then there's Adam Eddington. Adam is only asking Vicky to help with his research on dolphins. But Adam and the dolphins may just be what Vicky needs to get through this heartbreaking summer.

## Book Information

Series: Austin Family (Book 4)

Audio CD

Publisher: Macmillan Young Listeners; Unabridged edition (September 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1427205833

ISBN-13: 978-1427205834

Package Dimensions: 6.7 x 6.2 x 1.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 240 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #13,394,128 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( L ) > L'Engle, Madeleine #4270 in Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > General #27308 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure

## Customer Reviews

"With customary grace and firm control of an intricate plot, L'Engle has created another irresistible novel about familiar characters, the Austin family. Vicky, 16, narrates the climactic events with Grandfather Eaton on a New England island, where he is living his last days. Publishers Weekly "L'Engle has the magic storytelling gift that makes it a pleasure to lose yourself in her spell. Newsweek "L'Engle writes eloquently about death and life with provocative passages that linger in the thoughts of the perceptive. Booklist, Starred Review

Vicky Austin is filled with strong feelings as she stands near Commander Rodney's grave while her grandfather, who himself is dying of cancer, recites the funeral service. Watching his condition deteriorate as the summer passes on beautiful Seven Bay Island is almost more than Vicky can bear. To complicate things, she finds herself the center of attention for three very different boys: Leo is an old friend wanting comfort and longing for romance; Zachary, whose attempted suicide inadvertently caused the Commander's death, is attractive and sophisticated but desperately troubled; and Adam, her older brother's friend, offers her a wonderful chance to assist in his experiments with dolphins but treats her as a young girl just when she's ready to feel most grown-up. Called upon to be dependable, stable, and wise, Vicky is exhilarated but often overwhelmed. Forces of darkness and light, tragedy and joy, hover about her, and at times she doesn't know which will prevail. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

As a retired school librarian, I can honestly say that this is one of the best books I have ever read, Although it is typically labelled "Young Adult", it is equally moving when read by an adult. Madeline L'Engle thoughtfully and sensitively deals with two major life transitions: dealing with death and finding personal worth. I recently used a poem from this book at my father's memorial service.

I have these books in both hard cover and kindle version. I have read and reread these books ever since I was a young girl.

Very good young adult reading in the "Mett the Austins" series.

When most people hear Madeleine L'Engle they think of *A Wrinkle in Time*. And while that is an exceptionally great novel, *A Ring of Endless Light* (a Newberry Honor book) is, in my opinion, far superior. The writing is exquisite, the themes subtle yet powerful, and the characters are wonderfully real. It steps delicately to the edge of the fantastic, yet maintains a very realistic sense of the narrator - 15 year old Vicky Austin - with all the trials and tribulations of being a hormonal 15 year old poet navigating her way in the world through life, death, and love. I highly recommend this book to any young girl who is experiencing the death of a loved one. When I read it for the first time I was about 13 and had just lost my mother. This book definitely changed my life, for the better. I don't think you will be disappointed if you give this novel a try.

This was my first read by Madeleine L'Engle and I loved it because it handles death, grief, dying, God and the Bible, and the spiritual world so beautifully! I could really relate to Vicky. The best part is that it's a story and doesn't "advise." You will love it!

... knowing that eternity is akin to a ray of endless light is one way to keep the ever present spectre of death at bay. This is one of my most cherished stories for that reason, even setting aside the silly presence of teen romance.

There is so much to love in this book, but I wish the ending had wrapped things up a bit more. You never find out (in this book) what happens to the characters you've come to love. It's a shame to have such well developed characters that makes you want to find out what happens, and you don't.

This is just in response to another review that mentioned the Disney remake of this book. It was horrendous and unrecognizable. Disney slashed characters and trivialized the entire book. The powerful impact of Vicky's inner turmoil about her grandfather and life in general is replaced with a stupid boy interest that doesn't come close to the Adam in the book. Side note: I've reread this book countless times and it remains one of my all-time favorites. It never fails to brighten my mood. Great characters and a family that seems too-good-to-be-true and real at the same time.

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