In Swiss writer Zoë Jennys haunting debut novel, The Pollen Room, an absent mother poisons her daughters world, down to its very air. Always on her way out the door, trailing scarves, hair, and discarded blossoms in her wake, Lucy is so distracted, unmaternal, and alluring that its hard to say whether she makes things worse for the narrator--her daughter, Jo--when shes around or when shes gone. Jo never gives up hope for Lucy, meaning she gets endlessly pummeled. When Lucy takes off permanently with her lover Alois, abandoning her 5-year-old daughter to the reckless care of her father, Jo must spend nights entirely alone in the house while her father drives a delivery truck. For the adolescent girl, reunited with Lucy in Aloiss house after his suspicious death, it is another deeper, fresher hell to watch her mother--at the first sign of recovered energy--begin to plan her escape into the arms of another new man. Jo, to the contrary, cant flee anywhere. She barely gets out of bed. Her landscape, though, is in constant motion--particularly when shes outdoors, or with Lucy. It would be pretty creepy up here alone at night, dont you think? I asked her. She looked over at me as if Id said something completely irrelevant, and suddenly the ground seemed to buck under my feet as if I were riding on the back of an unbroken beast. The sky threatened to open wide, and I felt the hardness of the earth beneath me. I tried to concentrate on the mole under the left corner of Lucys mouth, but her face broke up into pieces as she leaned over me, peering into my eyes. Translated from the German by Paris Review editor Elizabeth Gaffney, The Pollen Room charts Jos suffocating life with an uncommon, unflinching eye. Time passes, and Jos world simply does not rebuild itself. But readers will find their own worlds enlarged by the sustained lyricism and honesty in Zoë Jennys writing. --Jean Lenihan

My Personal Review:
I loved this book i read it several times, it really dipicts parts of depression well, as well as showing the result of some of the children of the hippy generation that become so lost when there parents abandoned them. I
wrote a Character analysis for school it is not very good but it gives you the basic idea:

Jo: figuring what she wants to do with the rest of her life. As a child she is left with the darker sides of her mind, as her father left her alone, when she reaches adolescence she is also lost by the abandonment of her mother, and the now lesser support of her father. She feels lost and frightened about what she might not become.

Lucy: Jo's mother leaves Jo when she is very young to deal with her father. Later takes Jo into her home when Jo is already passed 18. Marry's again to Alios, and when he dies she locks her self in her room, and creates a room full of dead flowers pollen, and later disregards Alios' existence. Has a hard time dealing with the idea that he she still has a daughter and tells everyone that it is her younger sister.

Jo's dad: not very parental, loves Jo, but has no connection with her, re-maries. A absent minded professor with his writing, even though it has never bin and never does get published

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
The POLLEN ROOM: A NOVEL by Zoe Jenny - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!