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One For The Murphys



Synopsis

A moving debut novel about a foster child learning to open her heart to a family's love. Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But the day she becomes a foster child, and moves in with the Murphys, she's blindsided. This loving, bustling family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed, and she feels like an alien in their cookie-cutter-perfect household. Despite her resistance, the Murphys eventually show her what it feels like to belong--until her mother wants her back and Carley has to decide where and how to live. She's not really a Murphy, but the gifts they've given her have opened up a new future. "Hunt's writing is fearless and *One For The Murphys* is a story that is at once compassionate, thought-provoking and beautifully told. From the first page, I was drawn into Carley's story. She is a character not to be missed or forgotten." —Jacqueline Woodson, three-time Newbery Honor author of *After Tupac and D Foster* Winner of the Tassy Walden Award for New Voice in Children's Literature

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0520 (What's this?)

Paperback: 256 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (344 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #6,243 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes #50 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents #67 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Six pages into *One for the Murphys* and I was laughing out loud and already connecting with the main character. Twelve pages in and I was already in tears. From beginning to end, Lynda Mullaly

Hunt, has crafted a truly engrossing and gorgeous middle grade read. Twelve year old Carley is wise beyond her years and has to be. Her mother can be fun and loving, but also unstable and selfish. After a violent encounter with her stepfather, Carley's mother ends up in the hospital and Carley ends up in foster care. The Murphys, with their cozy home, family dinners and devoted parents offer Carley a world she never knew existed and kind of scares her. But the longer she stays, the more this family works their way into Carley's heart and the more they show Carley just how special she really is. But Carley knows this is only a stop on the journey of her regained life. Every once in a while a book comes along and captures me, heart; mind and soul, so completely and *One for the Murphys* is that book. This MG read is so beautifully moving, compellingly honest and breathtakingly palpable, with an unforgettable story and characters that will stay with readers for a long time. This is a quick read, but Hunt makes every sentence, every word count. Told from Carley's perspective, Hunt has perfectly captured her young sarcastic, vulnerable and witty voice. There's a great deal of serious topics being explored in this book (physical and emotional abuse, child neglect, self-esteem issues, bullying) and Hunt infuses a wonderful mix of sensitivity, thought-provoking honesty and humor into this exploration. There's a fabulous lot of engaging and well-developed characters! Carley is such a superbly crafted character that is complexly layered, yet easy to connect with.

Received from DAC ARC Tours. *One For The Murphy's* was such a amazing story. I haven't read many books about Foster Care but I hope to read some more very soon because I loved reading Carley's story it was so inspirational! This book is about a 12 year old girl who finds herself in foster care after an incident with her mother and step father. At first she doesn't want to let herself like the family because she's scared but throughout the story she learns to love the caring family that took her in. Carley the main character is very strong and courageous. She can't really remember everything that happened to her for her to end up with a whole new family but she does know that she has her mother and step father to blame for it. Carley has a tough time getting used to having someone to take care of her and having people be nice to her. Which is horrible for a little girl to not know what it feels like to have people care for her. The Murphys are a great family and I wish every foster care family was like that. Most of the time when books or movies about foster care came out I never wanted to pick them up because usually when you see or hear things about foster care the parents are always crappy and I just don't understand how some people can qualify to be a foster parent when they're so horrible. The kids that are in foster care have already had a tough life that's why they're there they don't need crappy parents to make it worse. (Sorry about that I go off easily) I have to say that my favorite characters had to be the three boys. We didn't get much of Adam but I

really liked Daniel & Michael Eric. Now some might think why Daniel he was such a jerk! But I understood why Daniel was the way he was towards Carley.

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