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Rules For Stealing Stars



Synopsis

In the tradition of Sharon Creech and Wendy Mass, Corey Ann Haydu's sparkling middle grade debut is a sister story with a twist of magic, a swirl of darkness, and a whole lot of hope. Silly is used to feeling left out. Her three older sisters think she's too little for most things—especially when it comes to dealing with their mother's unpredictable moods and outbursts. This summer, Silly feels more alone than ever when her sisters keep whispering and sneaking away to their rooms together, returning with signs that something mysterious is afoot: sporting sunburned cheeks smudged with glitter and gold hair that looks like tinsel. When Silly is brought into her sisters' world, the truth is more exciting than she ever imagined. The sisters have discovered a magical place that gives them what they truly need: an escape from the complications of their home life. But there are dark truths there, too. Silly hopes the magic will be the secret to saving their family, but she's soon forced to wonder if it could tear them apart.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (50 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #425,859 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs #305 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness #706 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Only an author having personal knowledge of and personal experience with the heartbreak of a dysfunctional family could have written a novel as emotionally powerful as *Rules for Stealing Stars*. Corey Ann Haydu's introductory letter to the reader confirms that observation. The

letter also confirms that one can survive, moving past the pain but never forgetting the turmoil or the memories of the individuals with whom one shared it. Four sisters – “twins Eleanor and Astrid, Marla, and Priscilla – must not only cope with a move to their mother’s family home in New Hampshire, but also with their mother’s alcoholism and their father’s oblivious demeanor toward the family dynamics. Their mother repeatedly tells the sisters they must take care of one another and, in particular, they must protect the youngest Priscilla. “Mom always said you’re the special one” • While doing so, the three oldest sisters nevertheless minimize and denigrate her by nicknaming her “Silly”. “Eleanor is exactly the kind of girl who would get a special closet. I am not allowed to deserve it” • Yet Silly is the most realistic and perceptive of the siblings. Narrated by Silly, “Rules for Stealing Stars” is a heartbreaking perspective on the effects of alcoholism on a family. “Mom’s moods change so fast, it’s hard to keep track – sometimes when Mom is in a mood, anything can set her off” • Of the family as a whole, Silly says “We are all different around Mom” – exaggerated, desperate versions of ourselves • Yet Silly seems to understand there may be an underlying reason for her mother’s alcoholism. “Mom’s secrets must be in closets – maybe she keeps extra bottles in there” • As most children will do, the girls believe they are the reason for their mother’s behavior.

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