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Where the Stars Still Shine

By Trish Doller



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Where the Stars Still Shine By Trish Doller

Stolen as a child from a large and loving family, and on the run with her mom for more than ten years, Callie has no idea what normal life might be like. She's never had a home or gone to school, and she gets most of her meals from vending machines.

Then Callie's mom is finally arrested for kidnapping her, and Callie's real dad whisks her back to what *would* have been her life in small-town Florida. Now she must find a way to leave the past behind and learn to be part of a family. And she must believe that love—even with someone who seems an improbable choice—is more than just a possibility.

This searing story of love and betrayal will resonate with readers who want stories that are gritty and utterly true.



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 10 Up—Readers who appreciated the gritty realism tempered with romance in Doller's *Something Like Normal* (Bloomsbury, 2012) will welcome this book about a 17-year-old struggling to move beyond a traumatic past and find redemption. Callie was kidnapped at age five by her mother, Veronica, and both have been on the run ever since. Rootless and bouncing from place to place, the teen has become accustomed to loneliness. But when Veronica is finally arrested for her daughter's kidnapping, Callie's reunion with her father, Greg, is bittersweet. Left to her own devices all those years, she bristles at his attempts to establish a stable home environment and draw her into his close-knit family. He is part of a large Greek-American community in which everyone seems to know everyone and she is overwhelmed by it. Callie's competing loyalties to both parents prove trying as she grapples with creating friendships and fulfilling family expectations. Terrifying flashbacks also reveal that Callie was sexually abused as a child. She seeks solace in the arms of Alex, a local boy with a "ladies' man" reputation. Soon, their relationship develops from something steamy into enduring tenderness. Adding depth is the novel's stark contrast between Callie's itinerant, heartbreaking former life and her new one, suffused with warmth and Greek traditions. Doller gracefully handles complex issues including mental illness, parental neglect, and trauma in a respectful manner that will ring true to readers. A highly suitable choice for teens who enjoyed Erica Lorraine Scheidt's *Uses for Boys* (St. Martin's, 2013).—Lalitha Nataraj, Escondido Public Library, CAα(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Callie has spent the past 10 years living like a fugitive, ever since her mother abducted her from her father when they divorced. During those years, their life was transient and came with a terrible price for Callie, who was molested by one of her mother's lovers. But now her mother is awaiting trial for kidnapping and medical help for the personality disorder that caused her to bolt in the first place. Callie is reunited with her father and his large Greek family, and while they all want to welcome her back and help her adjust to normal life, Callie has no idea what constitutes normal—or if she even deserves it. A passionate (and explicit) affair helps Callie realize that she is worthy of love and capable of setting down roots. Callie is a remarkably well-adjusted young woman, considering all she has experienced. Her divided loyalty between her damaged mother and the promise of a new life with her father is realistically portrayed, beautifully written, and never feels contrived. Grades 9-12. --Kara Dean

Review

"Beautiful in its grit and realism, *Where the Stars Still Shine* is a skillfully woven story of the ties that bind and bond us." ?*Jessi Kirby, author of Golden*

"Compelling . . . Doller does a great job at showing how Callie has a foot in both of her worlds and her intense and volatile emotions." ?*Library Media Connection*

"The romance and tight narrative make this a dynamo of a soldier's story." ?*School Library Journal on Something Like Normal*

"*Something Like Normal* is intense and sweet, just like Travis, and that makes for a memorable read." ?*Iheartdaily.com on Something Like Normal*

"Amazing. You will smile and sob and when you finish, you will walk away a better you. READ THIS

BOOK NOW.” *?*New York Times bestselling author Lauren Myracle on *Something Like Normal*

“Doller debuts with a timely novel that carves new ground out of the saturated teen romance and post-war trauma genres . . . Doller avoids politicization of the war, and she addresses post-traumatic stress disorder with honesty and a light touch, making Travis's experience both personal and relatable.” *?**Publishers Weekly* on *Something Like Normal*

“Compelling.... Doller does a great job at showing how Callie has a foot in both of her worlds and her intense and volatile emotions.” *?**Library Media Connection*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Wayne Ross:

The book *Where the Stars Still Shine* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why then must we leave a very important thing like a book *Where the Stars Still Shine*? A number of you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim which book can give many information for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer along with your book. Knowledge or data that you take for that, you can give for each other; it is possible to share all of these. Book *Where the Stars Still Shine* has simple shape however, you know: it has great and large function for you. You can look the enormous world by open and read a reserve. So it is very wonderful.

James Benavidez:

The actual book *Where the Stars Still Shine* has a lot associated with on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was compiled by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research previous to write this book. This particular book very easy to read you may get the point easily after perusing this book.

Ernestine Worrell:

In this particular era which is the greater individual or who has ability in doing something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple method to have that. What you should do is just spending your time little but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of several books in the top listing in your reading list is actually *Where the Stars Still Shine*. This book that is certainly qualified as *The Hungry Inclines* can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking right up and review this e-book you can get many advantages.

David Blunt:

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