



# Fish in a Tree

By Lynda Mullaly Hunt



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Fish in a Tree By Lynda Mullaly Hunt

**A New York Times Bestseller!**

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The author of the beloved *One for the Murphys* gives readers an emotionally-charged, uplifting novel that will speak to anyone who's ever thought there was something wrong with them because they didn't fit in.

“Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid.”

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.

*From the Hardcover edition.*



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## **Fish in a Tree By Lynda Mullaly Hunt Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–6—Ally is a talented artist and a math whiz but her skills don't stop her from feeling dumb as she begins sixth grade. Ally finds letters on the page almost impossible to decode because they seem to move around; trying to make sense of them gives her headaches. To add to her problems, her military dad is deployed overseas and she's struggling to cope with the death of her much-loved grandfather. After being misunderstood by another teacher, Ally is transferred to Mr. Daniels's class. Mr. Daniels is supportive and encourages Ally to let go of her protective shell. In this class she meets Keisha and Alfred, students with differences of their own, and they help and support one another, identifying their individual strengths. Kathleen McInerney's reading effectively captures the characters' personalities: Ally's insecurity, Keisha's confidence, science-loving Alfred's robot-like affect, and their snarky classmate, hard-to-like Shay. Adult characterizations also ring true from the concern of Ally's mother to Mr. Daniels's creativity and enthusiasm. The conclusion is both plausible and satisfying. A letter to readers from the author (and read by her) adds a touching personal dimension to the subject of learning differences. VERDICT Recommended for any student who sometimes feels like an outcast, especially those who face learning challenges.—Maria Salvadore, formerly of the Washington, DC Public Library

## Review

\* “Unforgettable and uplifting. . . . Deals with the hardships of middle school in a funny, yet realistic and thoughtful manner. Ally has a great voice, she is an unforgettable, plucky protagonist that the reader roots for from page one. This novel is a must-have.”—*School Library Connection*, **starred review**

\* “Filled with a delightful range of quirky characters and told with heart, the story also explores themes of family, friendship, and courage in its many forms. . . . It has something to offer for a wide-ranging audience. . . . Offering hope to those who struggle academically and demonstrating that a disability does not equal stupidity, this is as unique as its heroine.”—*Booklist*, **starred review**

\* “Mullaly Hunt again paints a nuanced portrayal of a sensitive, smart girl struggling with circumstances beyond her control. . . . Ally's raw pain and depression are vividly rendered, while the diverse supporting cast feels fully developed. . . . Mr. Daniels is an inspirational educator whose warmth radiates off the page. Best of all, Mullaly Hunt eschews the unrealistic feel-good ending for one with hard work and small changes. Ally's journey is heartwarming but refreshingly devoid of schmaltz.”—*School Library Journal*, **starred review**

“[Hunt's] depiction of Ally's learning struggles is relatable, and Ally's growth and relationships feel organic and real.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“Poignant. . . . Emphasis on ‘thinking outside the box’ . . . Ally's new friendships are satisfying, as are the recognition of her dyslexia and her renewed determination to read. Fans of R.J. Palacio's *Wonder* will appreciate this feel-good story of friendship and unconventional smarts.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Reminiscent of Polacco's wonderful *Thank You, Mr. Falker*. . . . Ally's feeling of loneliness and desire to fit in will resonate with young teen readers, as many share those feelings without the difficulty of dyslexia. . . . A tribute to teachers who go the extra mile to reach every student. . . . A touching story with an important

message.”—*Voice of Youth Advocates*

“Entertaining dialogue . . . Ally’s descriptions of her ‘mind movies’ are creative and witty. . . . The treatment of a group of sixth-graders with various quirks who face down their bullies extends the book’s interest beyond the immediate focus on dyslexia.”—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*

“Readers will . . . cheer for this likable girl.”

—*The Horn Book*

About the Author

**Lynda Mullaly Hunt** ([www.lyndamullalyhunt.com](http://www.lyndamullalyhunt.com)) has received many honors for her debut novel, *One for the Murphys*, which is on over twenty state award lists, including Bank Street’s 2013 Best Books of the Year. She’s a former teacher, and holds writers retreats for the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. She lives in Connecticut with her husband, two children, impetuous beagle, and beagle-loathing cat.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Joni Thompson:**

Often the book *Fish in a Tree* has a lot of information on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was compiled by the very famous author. Tom makes some research just before write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after looking over this book.

**Guadalupe Marshall:**

Reading a book to become new life style in this year; every people loves to learn a book. When you read a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read ebooks, you can improve your knowledge, because book has a lot of information onto it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your study, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you can read a fiction books, these us novel, comics, along with soon. The *Fish in a Tree* offer you a new experience in looking at a book.

**Donna Gamble:**

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**Shirley Drago:**

A lot of people said that they feel fed up when they reading a book. They are directly felt it when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose the particular book Fish in a Tree to make your own reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading expertise is developing when you similar to reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the idea about book and looking at especially. It is to be initial opinion for you to like to open a book and go through it. Beside that the e-book Fish in a Tree can to be a newly purchased friend when you're truly feel alone and confuse in what must you're doing of these time.

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