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Fish In A Tree



Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller! 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 than to everyone than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.

Book Information

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Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (300 customer reviews)

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Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #24

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> School #36 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social

Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Lynda Mullaly Hunt has crafted a beautiful story about being "that kid", the one for whom the expectations are low, and who retreats into her own world to keep the real one at a distance. Ally

sees in pictures. Words are nearly impossible to decipher; so she doesn't try. With the help of a great teacher, who begins to crack her code, Ally starts opening up to the idea that maybe there's more to herself than she realized. It's a powerful realization, and one that so many kids will relate to. Through the course of the story, Ally finds and connects with other kids who accept her and see beyond the attempts at distancing herself from them. Ally's allies, Albert and Keisha, feel very real to me. Their bond of friendship helps Ally realize that she has much to offer, and it bolsters the trio against the sideways glances and smack talk of some of the other kids, like Shay. The author has effectively put into words that claustrophobic feeling of what it's like to HAVE to stay one step ahead of being figured out and labeled as dumb. That crushing feeling- that need to stay under the radar, or even be deemed problematic, instead of the world finding out the truth, feels so real here. Mr. Daniels is the teacher who sees beyond the front Ally has put up. He knows something is up with this girl, and refuses to let her go under the radar. We discover that Ally is actually dyslexic, and that it is a workable condition. The more Ally understands this, the more empowered she is. And her friends help her through it all. Everyone should be so lucky as to have a Mr. Daniels in their lives. A good teacher can literally be a turning point in a struggling student's life. I know I had a few teachers like that- the ones who saw the person before the grade.

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