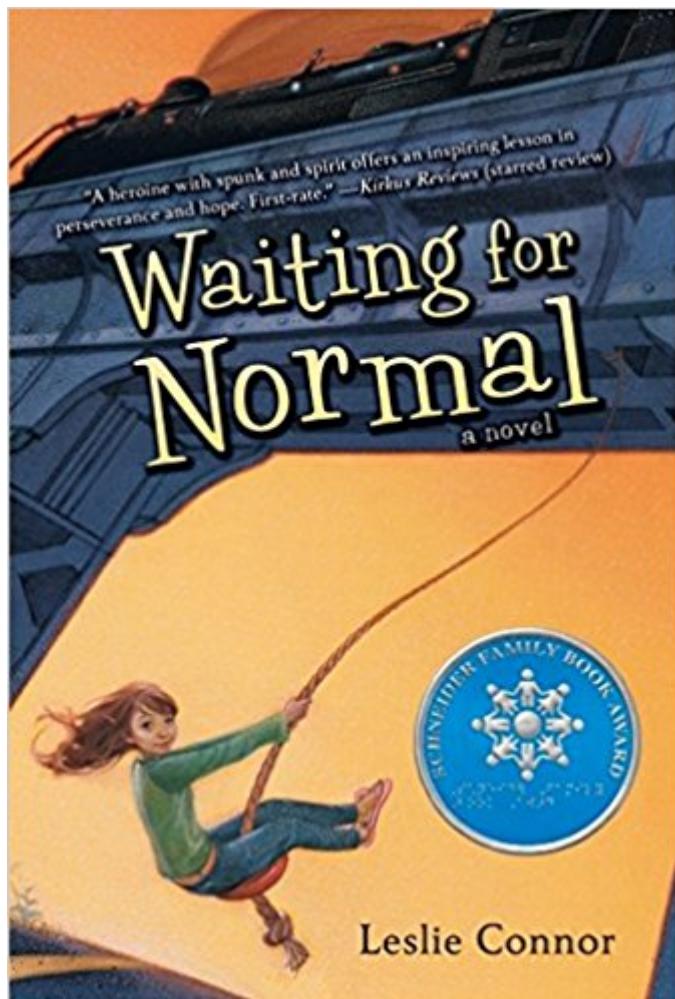


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# Waiting For Normal



## Synopsis

School Library Journal Best Book \* ALA Notable Children's Book \* New York Public Library's "One Hundred Titles for Reading and Sharing" \* Chicago Public Library Best of the Best \* Cooperative Children's Book Center Choice \* Connecticut Book Award Winner \* American Library Association Schneider Family Book Award Winner This poignant and joyful novel is filled with meaningful moments and emotional resonance. Addie is waiting for normal. But Addie's mother has an all-or-nothing approach to life: a food fiesta or an empty pantry, her way or no way. Addie's mother is bipolar, and she often neglects Addie. All-or-nothing never adds up to normal, and it can't bring Addie home, where she wants to be with her half-sisters and her stepfather. But Addie never stops hoping that one day, maybe, she'll find normal. A heroine with spunk and spirit offers an inspiring lesson in perseverance and hope.

First-rate. — Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 570 (What's this?)

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Katherine Tegen Books; Reprint edition (January 26, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060890908

ISBN-13: 978-0060890902

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 58 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #198,476 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #189 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness #376 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction #641 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

We've seen this situation before: a parent neglects a child, while the child seeks a wider community to find support. Here that child is 12-year-old Addie, who lives with Mommers in a trailer on a busy street in Schenectady after her adored stepfather and half sisters move

upstate. Mommers has lost custody of the "littles" because of neglect, and though she and Addie can laugh together, once Mommers hooks up with Pete, she is not much for good times--though she brings the bad times home. Addie finds solace in occasional visits to her sisters and in her neighbors, especially Soula, ill from her chemotherapy treatments. Connor takes a familiar plot and elevates it with smartly written characters and unexpected moments. Addie starts out being a kid who thinks she has to go along to get along, but as Mommers' actions become more egregious, her spine stiffens. And though Addie loves her time upstate, she is willing to forgo it when the normality she has there is more painful than positive. This is a meaningful story that will touch many. Grades 5-7. --Ilene Cooper  
--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

A heroine with spunk and spirit offers an inspiring lesson in perseverance and hope. First-rate. (Kirkus Reviews (starred review)) A story centered around loss, heartbreak, abandonment, and new beginnings. (School Library Journal (starred review)) \* "This book persuades that good people and delightful possibilities are all around, even in the most unpromising circumstances." (KLIATT) [Leslie] Connor treats the subject of child neglect with honesty and grace in this poignant story. Characters as persuasively optimistic as Addie are rare, and readers will gravitate to her. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) "Connor convincingly portrays Addie's beyond-her-years resourcefulness and the opposing feelings that drive her to protect the life she has while longing to be a permanent part of the 'normal' home her sisters occupy with her stepfather. (The Horn Book)

Spoiler alert: The main character has a learning disability, while her mother has an untreated bipolar disorder. All she wants is a normal life. She is befriended by non-blood "family", including a gay couple. I liked the casual acceptance of that relationship; it's part of the story but isn't an issue or problem. There's also a beloved friend with cancer, and a death, so it's not a light book, but it has very important ideas, and it's very readable.

I'm a shrink as well as an author and spent 40 years teaching middle school children. Not only am I impressed by the high quality of the writing, but with the wisdom of the content as well. Highly recommended for even high school students.

The author has given us a great protagonist--12 year old Addie, who is stuck between a rock and a hard place. How she perseveres and the love she gives and gets in return make this a moving and compelling story.

Great book. Sad but realistic with a good ending. I love reading from the child's perspective.

For a twelve year old girl, life with one possibly bi-polar parent is a lot to deal with. Add to the mix a deceased father, 2 half step sisters, a loving but distanced step father and Addie is barely coping. Thanks to an extended support system via the local gas station/convenience store, Addie is able to make it day to day, ultimately on her own, in her search for "Normal".

This is a great coming of age story. I have recommended it to many 6th and 7th grade girls and everybody loves it. It's a story that sticks with you...I've thought of Addie many times since I read the book a few years ago.

A GREAT read for all ages!

Due to life circumstances, I have not been able to read a juvenile novel in over two years. I found this title on and purchased it. I was able to read it last week and couldn't put it down. Leslie Connor has done a wonderful job of creating a character to care about. I loved this book. I'm going to buy a class set to read with my seventh graders. I'm only sorry that Ms. Connor has just started writing, as I'd like to read more of her work. I can't wait to read the next one! Maybe there'll be a sequel so we can continue to root for Addie.

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