



## Waiting for Normal

By Leslie Connor

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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. All-or-nothing never adds up to normal, and it can't bring Addie all to home, where she wants to be with her half sisters. But Addie never stops hoping that one day, maybe, she'll find normal.

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### Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

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

### Review

"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 portray's 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)

### About the Author

Leslie Connor is the author of several award-winning books for children, including *Waiting for Normal*, winner of the ALA Schneider Family Book Award, *Crunch*, *Miss Bridie Chose a Shovel*, and *Dead on Town Line*, a young adult novel in verse. She lives with her family in Connecticut.

### Users Review

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#### Debbie Davis:

Book is definitely written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important issue to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A book *Waiting for Normal* will make you

to become smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think that will open or reading a new book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you looking for best book or suited book with you?

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**Roger Hodge:**

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