



2007

Strays

Eliza Nevin

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Nevin, Eliza (2007) "Strays," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 28 : Iss. 1 , Article 20.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol28/iss1/20>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Koertge, Ron. *Strays*. Candlewick Press, 2007. ISBN 9780763627058. \$16.99. 167 p.

Reviewer: Eliza Nevin

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fiction;

Subject: Foster home care--Juvenile fiction; Orphans--Juvenile fiction; Human-animal communication--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

When sixteen-year-old Ted O'Connor's parents die in a car accident, he is sent to live with two foster parents whom Ted is pretty sure are psycho. He inherits two foster brothers--Astin, a gearhead, and C.W., a wannabe gangster--and starts attending a new inner-city high school. As Ted becomes comfortable with the new people in his life he discovers that his extraordinary gift of communicating with animals--left over from his days working at his parents' pet store--begins to fade.

Ted's awkward teenage thoughts are authentic. Readers will relate to his quiet personality and follow his emotional journey with hope for Ted's future. The dialogue and plot are believable, but not extraordinary. Sensitive readers should be cautioned of the prevalent profanity.