



2010

Livvie Owen Lived Here

Lauren McMullan

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Dooley, Sarah. *Livvie Owen Lived Here*. Feiwel and Friends, 2010. ISBN 9780312612535.
\$16.99. 229 p.

Reviewer: Lauren McMullan

Reading level: Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fiction; Realistic Fiction

Subject: Autism--Fiction; Family Life--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Books--Reviews;

Livvie and her family have lived in almost every rentable house in Nabor. Although her struggles with autism cause concerned landowners to evict her family, she refuses to live anywhere but the town she has grown up in. When her family once more faces eviction, she is certain there is a way for her family to return to the yellow house of her childhood. Finding that the sign on the house reads 'Condemned' rather than 'For Rent,' all of her sorrow and fear culminate in a tantrum, allowing her to release the pain she has been feeling and emerge with a new plan to help her family.

Dooley, a special needs educator, constructs a novel through the eyes of Livvie, the autistic middle daughter of the Owen family. Her narrative is fascinating and wonderfully insightful. The author opens readers' eyes to the world of children with special needs that is so often overlooked and misunderstood. With numerous characters to fall in love with; multiple issues to discuss with students, family, or friends; and insights that shed a new light on the way we think and view those with disabilities, this debut novel will not disappoint readers of any age.

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