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Almost Paradise

Mavanee Farnsworth

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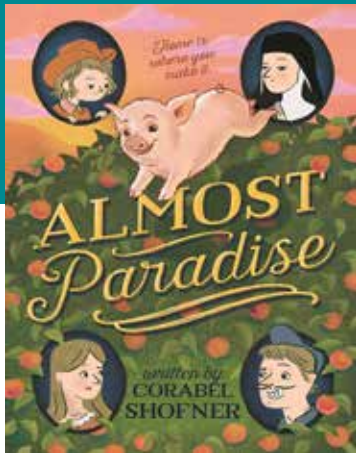
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Book Review

Almost Paradise



Author

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Illustrator

Reviewer

Mavane Farnsworth

Rating

Dependable

Level

Intermediate, Young
Adult

Pages

304

Year

2017

Publisher

Farrar, Straus and Giroux

ISBN

9780374303785

Ruby Clyde, a twelve-year-old living with her single mother, wakes up in the back of Catfish's car. Catfish is her mother's boyfriend. Her mother, Babe, is sitting in the passenger seat. As a pit stop is made, Catfish impulsively commits an armed robbery, throwing both Catfish and Babe in jail. Ruby escapes to find her estranged aunt, her mom's identical twin, who lives nearby. Aunt Eleanor is a nun suffering from cancer, and together they attempt to bail Babe out of jail. Catfish testifies against Babe and reports that she encouraged the robbery. Ruby is put up for adoption and Aunt Eleanor adopts her. However, Babe and Eleanor decide to swap places like they used to when they were young. Babe will be able to raise her daughter like she always should have, and Eleanor will serve God teaching the inmates about Him.

Almost Paradise is a story of a family coming together. Ruby's mother, Babe, has always been babied and doesn't know how to take care of herself, let alone her daughter. Babe recognizes her weaknesses and works to develop a motherly nature. The story is based around four main characters. These four characters have very different personalities, but their stories aren't developed particularly well. Their uniqueness adds interesting elements to the story, but there is little pull towards their personalities. The characters' lives are spelled out through the eyes of Ruby, but there isn't much for the reader to discover. There are many exciting elements to the story to catch the attention. From discovering Ruby's estranged aunt, to an armed robbery, to finding out that Eleanor has cancer, there is always a plot twist to keep the reader engaged.

* Contains mild language.