



2020

A Galaxy of Sea Stars

Maryn Wheeler

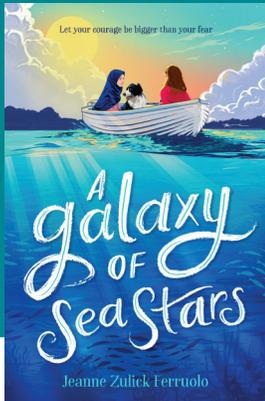
Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Wheeler, Maryn (2020) "A Galaxy of Sea Stars," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 41: Iss. 11, Article 3.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol41/iss11/3>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the 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 ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Book Review

A Galaxy of Sea Stars

Author

Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo

Illustrator

Rich Deas

Reviewer

Maryn Wheeler

.....

Rating

Excellent

Level

Intermediate

.....

Pages

330

Year

2020

ISBN

9780374309091

Publisher

Farrar Straus Books
for Young Readers

For Izzy Mancini, the beginning of 6th grade is not going as planned. Her lifelong friends, the Sea Stars, are drifting apart, her parents separated over the summer, and she has moved. To top it off, a new girl, Sitara, moved in next door. She's an immigrant from Afghanistan, and she eats different food and wears a hijab. As Izzy struggles to accept this new friendship, she finds comfort and direction in the nearby harbor and from her role model, Marie Tharp, a scientist who made groundbreaking oceanic discoveries. Eventually, Izzy learns to navigate the changes in her life and make her own deep discoveries, opening her heart to see that there is a galaxy of Sea Stars to befriend.

This coming-of-age story negotiates big themes and topics, including friendship, divorce, bullying, tolerance, immigration, and courage. Izzy deals with the emotions that come with each of these, including frustration, denial, sadness, and eventually excitement, peace, and understanding. Izzy's journey to open her eyes and heart to new family situations, as well as new friends, will resonate with many middle-grade readers. Izzy's perspective changes as she peeks into how her parents and friends feel. Sitara's experience in particular changes Izzy as Izzy considers what it's like to be a refugee in a completely new culture. The author writes from her experiences with refugees as a volunteer at Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services. This timely novel will inspire readers to see new perspectives, consider emotions in difficult circumstances, and encourage understanding in changing relationships.