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# One For The Murphys



## Synopsis

From the author of the New York Times *Å* bestselling novel *Å* *Fish in a Tree!* *Å* Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But the day she becomes a foster child, and moves in with the Murphys, she's blindsided. This loving, bustling family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed, and she feels like an alien in their cookie-cutter-perfect household. Despite her resistance, the Murphys eventually show her what it feels like to belong--until her mother wants her back and Carley has to decide where and how to live. She's not really a Murphy, but the gifts they've given her have opened up a new future. "Hunt's writing is fearless and *Å* *One For The Murphys* *Å* is a story that is at once compassionate, thought-provoking and beautifully told. From the first page, I was drawn into Carley's story. She is a character not to be missed or forgotten." *Å* *Å* •Jacqueline Woodson, National Book Award-winning author of *Brown Girl Dreaming* Winner of the Tassy Walden Award for New Voice in Children's Literature

## Book Information

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Paperback: 256 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 376 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #12,447 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in *Å* Books > Children's Books

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Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life >

Self-Esteem & Self-Respect

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

"Hunt's writing is fearless and *One For The Murphys* is a story that is at once compassionate,

thought-provoking and beautifully told. From the first page, I was drawn into Carley's story. She is a character not to be missed or forgotten." [Jacqueline Woodson, National Book Award-winning author of Brown Girl Dreaming](#) "By the end of this poignant debut, readers will be applauding Carley's strength." [Kirkus Reviews](#), starred review "Readers will be cheering her on." [Booklist](#) "This is a beautiful book, filled with hope. You'll cry and laugh along with Carley as she learns to lower her defenses enough to love--and, more surprisingly, be loved. It's a story you'll long remember." [Patricia Reilly Giff, Newbery Honor-winning author of Pictures of Hollis Woods and Lily's Crossing](#) "Undeniably affecting. Hunt's writing is strong and her characters well-developed and believable." [Publishers Weekly](#) "One for the Murphys is a riveting story" [Examiner.com](#) "This novel speaks to the universal experience of growing up but will especially resonate with readers who have questioned the hands they have been dealt and wonder how to move forward nonetheless." [The Horn Book](#) "An astonishing debut! Lynda Mullaly Hunt's direct style of writing has readers rooting for Carley Connors and all of the Murphys from start to satisfying finish." [Leslie Connor, ALA Schneider Family Award-winning author of Waiting for Normal and Crunch](#) "An incredibly touching novel." [TheStorySiren.com](#) "Absolutely astonishing." [Bookalicious.org](#)

Lynda Mullaly Hunt (www.lyndamullalyhunt.com) has received many honors for her debut novel, *One for the Murphys*, which is on over twenty state award lists, including Bank Street's 2013 Best Books of the Year. Her follow up novel, *Fish in a Tree*, is a New York Times bestseller and ALA Notable Children's Book. She's a former teacher, and holds writers retreats for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She lives in Connecticut with her husband, two children, impetuous beagle, and beagle-loathing cat.

This is a heartwarming story of an adolescent entering foster care for the first time after abuse from a stepfather. She discovers how a functional family operates. With this discovery comes anger towards her own mother, a desire to be a real part of her foster family, and feelings that she is unworthy of happiness. As a foster parent, I have seen this scenario played out in real life many times and know that it is realistic. I enjoyed the bittersweet ending!

"One For The Murphys is a very touching tale about a street-smart Vegas girl named Carley who is forced into foster care after an incident at her home in Connecticut. After moving in with her foster

family, the Murphys, she immediately wants to return to her real mother in physical therapy. However, as Carley warms up to the Murphys, she gets a taste of what has been missing from her life for a long time. When her real mother is well enough and wants her back, Carley must make the heart-wrenching decision on who she wants to live with. This book is very realistic and well-worded. It clearly describes the very stressful and confusing life of Carley at her foster home. Emotional and eye-opening, Lynda Hunt creates wonderful characters, a believable plot, and emotional scenes filled to the brim with detail. I recommend this book to absolutely any reader looking for a good story.

My daughter (11) loved this book because she can now relate to how an abused child feels. Despite being abused and betrayed by her mother and the string of her mother's boyfriends/husbands, Carly is a very caring and sometimes stubborn and obnoxious (like a typical tween/teen) person who regained some trust in people under the loving care of her foster mother and family. My daughter felt sorry Carly because Carly was torn between feeling loyal to her foster family and feeling loyal to her mother who put her in this situation in the first place.

I loved this book. It was so touching and true, the fact that this is realistic fiction and it can actually happen makes me love it even more!!! I wish, SO MUCH, that Carley could have stayed with the Murphys, and maybe get mom actually didn't want her back. I really didn't want to finish this book because now I don't know what I'm going to read!

A realistic accounting of the struggles for a young teen to understand and adapt to a functional loving family when all she has known is her dysfunctional one. Lessons to be learned by all are available without a preaching tone, but with heart and the importance of love and understanding.

My 8th grade daughter and I read this book, and we both loved it. It made us laugh and cry. It taught us more about the life a foster child might experience. It made us feel as though our own family was fairly normal. At the end of the book, you weren't sure who to root for, and what decision you hoped the main character would make. Is blood thicker than water? Without spoiling the ending, just know that it was happy and uplifting.

Good story for 11 - 14 year olds. Enjoyed it very much, but as an adult, would have liked to delve deeper into the character's pasts. Just the right amount of detail for young teens without becoming too explicit.

My 13 year old read this book this summer. It was one of 12 books on her summer reading list and she said this was her favorite out of the 12.

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