



# Almost Home

*Nora Raleigh Baskin*

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## **Almost Home** Nora Raleigh Baskin

Leah Baer has been shuffled to and from various parents and households for years, and now shes back at her fathers house with his new wife. This latest move seems as though it might be a lasting one, but Leah feels out of place both at home and at school. Then an unconventional boy named Will befriends Leah and persuades her to try acting to express her ideas and feelings. As Leah begins to learn more about herself, she also begins to see how she fits in her family members lives, and gradually finds out what it means to be home. Nora Raleigh Baskins stirring and heartfelt novel resonates with emotional truths.

## **Almost Home Details**

Date : Published September 7th 2005 by Little, Brown Young Readers (first published May 7th 2003)

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Author : Nora Raleigh Baskin

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Genre : Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Realistic Fiction, Young Adult

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# From Reader Review Almost Home for online ebook

## T.V and Book Addict says

Such a cute book with really great writing. Recommended for Middle Grade readers. Also for kids with divorced parents, those who were adopted, or just anyone who's looking for a home. :)

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## Ahjenae Cathey says

Almost Home is about a girl named 6th Grader named Leah dealing with her mom leaving & being put in the care of her father; Living with her father isn't easy & even harder with her stepmother who doesn't seem to like her. Leah deals with the life of a broken home, school drama, & more. Overall to me the book was alright but, it didn't really grab my attention as much but the book was somewhat interesting. If you like stories about being a kid dealing with life even though you have a broken home or just drama as a child then I would recommend it. But, if not then I don't think this is the book for you.

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## Brianna says

REALLY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! That's all I have to say REALLY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! This was so J it's pathetic. A modern fiction about a girl who learns to love and stuff. Bleh. You MAY like this if you are younger 9 or 10? This was so stupid!!! REALLY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! YA? YA? REALLY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! No, don't read this (at least if you are older than 12). No. REALLY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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## Maya says

I mean I personally think that rating is fair since all it talks about is basically how her parents got divorced and how she wants to go back home.

Oh and also how many Almost Home books have been written, like search it up it the search bar at the of the Goodreads things and there is like a thousand all by different authors. Actually the accurate checked count (On Goodreads) is: Well I got to 69 then had 3 pages left so I just stopped.

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## Tami says

Almost Home is the story of Leah Baer, a 12-year-old girl who has just recently come to live with her father and his new wife, Gail. Leah's father picked her up from summer camp and told her her mother (with whom she had been living when she left for camp) has moved to California and she will now be living with him and Gail.

Understandably, Leah is flooded with all kinds of questions and emotions. Why has her mother left? Why did she leave Leah behind? The hurt and anger Leah feels in her mother's rejection causes her to build a strong wall around herself in her father's home. She is on guard against appearing to need—or worse, want—anything. Needing and wanting gives other people the power to hurt you. Leah is not willing to give that kind of power to anyone ever again.

As Leah struggles to feel she belongs anywhere, she meets Will, a classmate who remembers her from second grade—before her parents divorced and she moved away with her mother. Leah finds in Will an extraordinary friend who, although not afraid to be the unique individual he is, is also searching for a place to belong. It is with Will's encouragement that Leah both auditions for the school play and begins the frightening task of lowering her protective walls.

Leah's voice is so achingly genuine in its hurt and anger and ultimate hopefulness in life that I found myself completely absorbed in her words as I was reading. I could hear the twelve-year-old me speaking when she spoke and thinking the things that she thought. This is a book that will ring true for all young people—and obviously, for those of us who have been young people.

This is the second incredible book I have read by Nora Baskin and I will definitely continue to seek out her work. I recommend to anyone who enjoys *Almost Home* that they do the same!

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### **Kim says**

It was a very entertaining and interesting book.

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### **Ljamal3 says**

Leah Baer, a young 6th grader, wants to go back home and live with her "mom" and half-sister. But she doesn't know what happened with her mom, and she's living with her dad and wife, which she hates. So she meets a boy named Will who she eventually comes best friends with. Then she finally feels comfortable living with her dad and being away from her "mom".

Themes: Family Loyalty, Friendship, Definition of home

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### **Isabella says**

I thought *Almost Home* was great book. I like when Leah wrote letters to her mom but never sent them to her mom. I also like when she stole the Hershey kisses from her step mom Gail. What I didn't like about the is that almost at the end Leah just starts crying and runs away because it was kind of sad and SCREAMS at Gail (her step mom). Over all I thought the book was AWESOME.

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## **Chocoholic says**

If you have grown up with any kind of dysfunction in your life, you'll appreciate this story. I picked this up at the grocery store on a sale table. It was sweet and sad and really okay. The journey that the young girl is on is a hard one as she struggles to find her place after divorce and the loss of seeing her mom and sister on a regular basis.

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## **Yamin Eaindray says**

Almost Home is a touching book that makes me feel like you're falling apart emotionally by reading each chapter. Leah's life is not perfect, let alone going well. It shows me how it feels like to have a new unwanted mother and being tore away from the mother you loved, the one that gave birth to you. This taught me a lot and every time I read it again, I notice tidbits of things I missed.

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## **Dana Lee says**

Almost Home by Nora Raleigh Baskin is a heartwarming tale about 12 year old Leah Baer, who struggles to find true happiness and acceptance after her life turns over when her mom leaves her. She resents living with her dad, hates her step mom, and only wishes for her loving mom to come back to her. Then she meets a boy named Will Hiller who accepts and befriends her, leading her to finally face the truth and open her cold heart.

The author writes in first person, drawing the reader closer to the main character's thoughts and feelings. She also spices up her writing with a contrasting combination of short, choppy diction and long, detailed phrases. I really enjoyed this book because of Leah's stubborn and charismatic personality. I found myself laughing a couple times about how she tackled situations. I also liked reading the handwritten letters Leah wrote to her mom. I would recommend this book to everyone, especially teenagers who desire some comfort in the midst of problems with family and friends.

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## **Laina SpareTime says**

Cross-posted from my blog where there's more information on where I got my copy and pictures and stuff.

I dunno, I liked this one. It reminds me a bit of Witch's Fire, which I talked about recently. I think I would have liked this as a kid. It definitely has some problematic elements, and I don't know if I would let a kid I didn't get to keep read this, but I got this anxious child so hard, and it was better than I expected.

I'm probably going to keep this just because I could actually see myself reading this again. It is by no means a perfect book but it worked for me. It's one of those things, you know. I'm not saying I'd recommend it without stipulations, just that my brain went all, "Hey, I like this."

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## **Hendrix Eva says**

Understated and full of kindness. Would've loved to read this when I was younger.

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## **Rebekah says**

I love this book. It makes me cry every time I read it.

I relate to the main character (Leah) so much. The thoughts and actions of Leah are so realistic, and out of all the books I've read with middle school age protagonists, Nora Raleigh Baskin is one of the few authors who's managed to create a realistic and believable middle school aged character. Her thoughts are thoughts I had while in middle school, and her actions are something a middle schooler would actually do. Nora Raleigh Baskin makes Leah's emotions feel so real.

I've read this book many times, it's not a challenging or a long read, but I definitely recommend it.

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## **Re says**

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