



# Neverland

*Shari Arnold*

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## **Neverland** Shari Arnold

It's been four months since seventeen-year-old Livy Cloud lost her younger sister, but she isn't quite ready to move on with her life — not even close. She'd rather spend her time at the Seattle Children's hospital, reading to the patients and holding onto memories of the sister who was everything to her and more.

But when she meets the mysterious and illusive Meyer she is drawn into a world of adventure, a world where questions abound.

Is she ready to live life without her sister? Or more importantly, is she brave enough to love again?

In this modern reimagining of Peter Pan, will Livy lose herself to Neverland or will she find what she's been searching for?

## **Neverland Details**

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Author : Shari Arnold

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## From Reader Review *Neverland* for online ebook

### Kate says

Livy Cloud's little sister Jenna died of cancer four months ago in Seattle Children's Hospital. Ever since then, Livy spends most of her time there, reading stories to sick kids, hoping to make their stay there at least a little bit more bearable. She can't bear the thought of any kid going through what Jenna had gone through, and hopes that by being there, she can at least help somewhat. Besides, it's better than being at home, with her father who's been locked up in his study since Jenna's death and her mother whose sole focus is her Senate campaign. The children, especially Jenna's best friend Jilly, love listening to Livy's stories. However, they don't seem to help Livy herself. She is unable to move on, to stop holding onto Jenna, to move past the denial and depression stages of grief. One day, she meets a mysterious teenage boy named Meyer in the reading room. He doesn't answer any questions about himself – all he seems to want is for Livy to go on adventures with him and his mysterious friends all over town. Adventures are obviously the last thing on Livy's mind, but little by little, she remembers how to have fun. Until a tragedy that was Meyer's fault nearly takes away her best friend. Livy pushes him away and focuses her efforts on saving Jilly's life – she is a match for a bone marrow transplant and if she couldn't save Jenna, saving Jilly is the least she can do. However, her new tutor James H. makes her question things, encourages her to broaden her mind, reconsider many issues. Can Livy survive the operation and if not, what awaits her afterwards? Who is Meyer really and why does he seem to know James? And can Livy ever really move on from Jenna's death and be happy again?

I was intrigued by the idea of a Peter Pan retelling taking place in a modern hospital, so that's how "Neverland" made its way to my TBR almost a year ago. I did expect it to be quite an intense read – most loss of innocence stories are. What I didn't expect it to be is an amazing tear-jerker that pulled me in right away. Nor did I expect to have such a hard time pausing when life got in the way.

Indeed, "Neverland" was both a sad and beautiful tale of family love, loss of innocence (like most of the Peter Pan retellings) and overcoming grief, and a mystery. The main mystery – for Livy, not for the reader – was Meyer. She is a girl from our world, and naturally she doesn't believe in Peter Pan, Neverland, mermaids and all that magical stuff. There is little magic left in her life now that Jenna's gone, so why is Meyer trying to convince her that it exists? Both Meyer and James are making her view Jenna's passing in different lights, and yet they shed little light upon themselves. And whilst I realised whom they were supposed to represent pretty much right away (James Hook is not someone I'd ever miss), I was very intrigued by the direction the story was taking. Seemingly occurring in our world, it had touches of magical realism that were weaved into the contemporary setting by a skilled pen, as though they belonged here.

The characters and tropes are an integral part of "Neverland". I have to admit, whilst I saw the glimpses of the seemingly intended love triangle, it didn't bother me as much as it normally does. Nor did the insta-love between Livy and Meyer. I usually scoff at insta-love because most of the time, it is written in a very unbelievable way, but I could see it happening to someone who's gone through what Livy has gone through and I could certainly believe that she had fallen for Meyer. Another trope is loss of a young family member being a catalyst for character development. Jenna was a lot more than a plot device, but her death sets the events of "Neverland" in motion and thus serves as a prism for Livy's character development. Livy has always been a good person, but it is through that prism that we see how selfless and loving she really is, and how, despite the devastating loss and the grim atmosphere of the hospital around her, she has retained a zest

for life. Meyer was just a way to bring it back out – it's always been there. Her romance with Meyer is important to the overall story, but it does not distract from the rest of the book, which is essentially Livy-centric. That's not to say that the background characters are underdeveloped or boring. For example, the James Hook twist was definitely a new one and yet I could so see it.

You know that an author is talented when they write things that the reader believes and gets. "Neverland" is not Shari Arnold's debut novel – it's not even her first self-published novel. And reading it was an amazing experience. My rating is 8.5/10.

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## **Heena Rathore P. says**

**Note:** I received a copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

**"Odd things happen to all of us on our way through life without our noticing for a time that they have happened."**

- J.M. Barrie, *Peter and Wendy*

### **Plot/Story:**

Neverland is a fairytale retelling of Peterpan and as far as I'm concerned this is the best book I've read so far in the fantasy genre. It has a dreamlike imagery which will leave you craving and begging for more.

The pace of the story was perfect, not too fast, not too slow. I was able to not only read the story in front of me but was also able to live it forgetting everything around me.

This book is literally unputdownable and I love it so much that it has made its place at the top of my all-time favorites! I've already read it twice now and I'll be re-reading it again soon.

In one word it is:

### **Characters:**

I absolutely adore the lead characters of Livy and Meyer, so much so that I guess I'm in love with Meyer!

The relationship between Livy and Meyer developed slowly and beautifully. The vulnerability of Livy added more depth to each and every aspect of the story.

I wanted to cry when Livy felt hurt and wanted to do a happy dance whenever she got a positive response from Meyer. I even blushed a dozen times while reading about Livy and Meyer's small interactions.

### **Romance:**

The beautiful budding romance between Livy and Meyer was nothing less than magical. It was slow and cute love that started as an odd friendship but developed into something more special. The thing that made their relationship so magical is the subtlety of feelings beautifully expressed by the author.

**Writing:**

Shari Arnold's writing style is so simple that it flows smoothly throughout the book. I enjoyed reading this book mainly because of the uncomplicated writing style. I didn't just read this book, but I was really able to live it (and that's something.)

**Beginning:**

The book started beautifully with Livy reading Peter Pan for children in a hospital. How can anyone not get emotionally involved right from the start with this kind of a start! I was swept right off my feet from the very first page. And as the story progressed I lost myself completely in the beautiful world of Livy and Meyer.

**Ending:**

Ahh... the ending. At first, I was like:

But then after a few minutes, I thought about it and realized that it was for the best and that the ending couldn't have been better. Yes, it wasn't a straight out happy one, but it was realistic and, more importantly, acceptable. After being swept off by this story I really dreaded to know the end, but the author, Shari Arnold, really surprised me with a well-balanced ending.

And then I was like:

**Cover Art:**

The cover art of this book is simply awesome. The colors are so pretty and subtle and the minimalistic design makes it a great cover.

**Blurb:**

The blurb is perfect and gives a fair idea of what to expect from the book. I picked it up from NetGalley after reading the blurb itself, so yeah, it totally worked for me, and I'm sure it'll definitely get anyone else's attention as well!

You can also read this review at **The Reading Bud** .

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**Irene says**

Book provided by Netgalley

**Likes:**

- Livy is an extremely likeable character, I loved her from the very first page. It's so clear how much she misses her sister and just wants her to come back. At the same time she pretty much has to deal with the loss alone, because her parents are pretty much absent. She's being forced to act mature, because she's got no-one else. I really felt for her and I loved her so so much. The way she acts and the things she wants to do, they're so realistic and I've even been there myself.

I also loved the way she grew. It was like a the seasons, when suddenly everything comes to life again during spring. It was done in a very great way.

- I don't think I've ever highlighted so many quotes before. Some of them because they were beautiful, some of them because I could relate. The writing style was really good, it was right down my alley.
- I kind of have a soft spot for these kinds of books. I expected it to be good, but I wasn't prepared for it to be *this* good. I think it'll be a new favorite!
- I wasn't too fond of Meyer at first, but he grew on me and I ended up liking him. James I liked immediately, he was a great character. Livy's parents started out to be pretty annoying and I didn't understand them at all, but when the book ended, I liked them and I even came to understand why they acted like they did. It just took me a while to accept them.

#### ~~Dislikes:~~

#### Memorable quotes:

"And when my sister died, they stopped calling altogether. Maybe they figured I was too busy mourning to need a friend."

"That's what I am. I'm a pothole. And until someone comes along and fixes me, I am dangerous. I am broken. I am not a part of this life and yet I'm still here. I know I'm supposed to get over losing my sister. I know that's what everyone expects. I'm just not ready yet."

"You have a lot to learn about love, Livy. Love isn't selfish. It may be unkind and it will definitely humble you, but never will it demand what it can't give back."

"I hate this place sometimes. I hate that there is even a need for a children's hospital. There should be a rule universally accepted when it comes to kids, like an age restriction. Nothing and no one should harm a child during the time they are too young to fend for themselves. I get that life isn't fair. But it's far worse when you don't understand what is happening to you. When you're too young to even make sense of it. The death of a child goes beyond unfair. It feels like a punishment."

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### Jeannette Nikolova says

*Read on the WondrousBooks blog.*

**So, so amazing! Honestly, this is a truly beautiful and heartbreaking little novel.** I'm so glad I stumbled upon this gem, and really, it was a stumble. I had promised myself to lay off of NetGalley, because exams are coming, but there this lovely cover was and I hit the Request button before I could stop myself. And I'm so glad I did it!

**Neverland** is a novel which I would have a hard time trying to explain to you. Whichever method of explanation I choose, I would be oversimplifying. There is magic in this book, but it's not a book about magic, there is love, but it's not a romance, there is cancer, but it's not a cancer book, there is drama, but it's

not a tragedy.

In just 358 pages **Shari Arnold** manages to create such an intricate and beautiful world. She does have the help of one Mr J.M. Barrie, author of the not-so-beloved-by-me **Peter Pan**, but that's not really the point of **Neverland**. It's not a Peter Pan rip-off and Peter Pan is not the center of attention.

**Neverland** is actually a coming-of-age novel, a book about loss and the life which continues flowing after death, it's a book about letting go, but it's also a book about being happy.

I'm afraid that I cannot do **Neverland** the justice it deserves. It's such a touching and imaginative piece of literature.

*"There's this feeling I get sometimes, that I'm displaced, like I've fallen and no one has noticed yet. If I stay real still they'll avoid me, put up pylons around me like I'm a large pothole in the ground. Yes. That's what I am. I'm a pothole. And until someone comes along and fixes me, I am dangerous. I am broken. I am not a part of this life and yet I'm still here."*

This is **Livy** at the beginning of **Neverland**. She has recently lost her little sister to leukemia and her entire family is broken by that loss. Livy is such an admirable person, after the death of Jenna, instead of staying angry and aggressive, she spends a part of every day reading to the other little kids at Jenna's hospital. Her way of mourning is by letting a little bit of happiness and light into the lives of the other children with the same unfortunate diagnosis.

That's how she meets **Meyer**.

*"The thing is, I believe him. I believe he could fly if he wanted to, because in the matter of a few hours he's made me feel weightless. So incredibly light that at any moment I could lift off. And that's really all you need to fly, isn't it?"*

The reason this book is not getting the 5-star treatment is because I absolutely loved and was in awe by the fact that in the first half of the book you can feel the magic, it's right there at the tips of your fingers, and yet it's not there. In the second part of the book magic surfaced on its own and less attention was paid to the characters, which made me a bit detached and sad that this balance that I so liked was ruined.

There was a connection/comparison that I couldn't help but make, though. In case you've read and remember **The Brothers Lionheart**, you are going to get a certain sense of déjà vu. I remember the same feeling in that book as well, at first I was amazed by the unconditional love between the brothers, and then when they changed realities, their personalities changed as well. It's not one hundred percent the same thing, but I did feel the similarities were there.

**Nevertheless, Neverland is beautiful! It's just beautiful. Just read it. Seriously. I don't feel like I can explain full well how touching it is.**

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## snowplum says

There is one piece of advice I would give to any aspiring writer: think of a book you would like to read, and write it. If you are a truly special writer, this will require that you be incredibly brave, because at some point you will question whether other people will understand your work, like it, respect it, or feel what you feel. You may suspect that some people will not like your story, and that some may even hate it or mock it because it is different. And you will have to believe in your story and the possibility that the right readers will find it, even if they didn't know they wanted it because it didn't exist before.

I suspect that Shari Arnold faced this challenge more than once in the process of writing her new novel *Neverland*. This astonishing book is being marketed as a YA novel, and I fear that that will be greatly to its detriment. The problem, from a practical standpoint, is that this book depicts a person looking at childhood and growing up, life and death, fairy tale hope and its counterpart in the real world with such an uncannily insightful, poignant, and honest perspective that it seems to be neither a typical adolescent nor adult perspective. And thus, I fear, it will struggle to find a broad readership who are able to embrace this story on its own unique terms.

The millions of adolescents reading most of the YA bestsellers I could name all want to grow up. They may or may not think it's fun to be teenagers, but they certainly aren't in a place of idealizing the innocence of childhood. They want to get on with falling in love and having the freedom that comes with college and beyond. Conversely, most adults, even those who are touched by the themes and characters of the original Peter Pan story, think of Peter Pan as someone appealing in theory, but not to be revered in reality. We're all supposed to want to grow up. After all, we have no choice, so emotionally it's preferable to find the good in it instead of eternally lamenting what is lost.

I think Shari Arnold has woven together several really lovely ideas into a deeply moving story... and I find myself struggling to think of a single person to whom I would recommend it without some qualification or hesitation. I think that some of the most intelligent and sensitive adults I know would be put off by the entire first part of the book -- it's a rather sad, stark portrait of a teenage girl whose younger sister died of leukemia, and she is consumed with grief and alienated from her parents, who are each solitary in their own sadness. For someone who has never experienced a comparable loss, this content might seem unrealistic, and it would certainly be depressing. (Speaking for myself as an only child, I can understand the depiction of the parents' grief, but I had a few moments of wondering whether Livy's grief over losing a sibling is actually what many teenagers would feel. I wouldn't say I didn't believe it, but I admit that I wondered a few times.) For the entire first part of the book, Livy is a main character who seems as though she wouldn't resonate for many teenagers -- both because they haven't experienced a loss like Livy's, and because they have no particular desire to attempt to empathize.

I, personally, wasn't utterly transfixed by the book until Part II, the trip into *Neverland*. But from then on, I was impressed, touched and moved... and I want very much to stand up and be counted as a member of the audience Ms. Arnold must have been hoping to find. I don't know how many of us there are. I'd sure like to meet more of us than I've met in my life, but I know I should count myself fortunate to have met the few I've found. I'd like to say that we're technically adults who never quite (or entirely) grow up, and we're intelligent and sensitive and open and value imagination to the highest degree. We still value wonder and innocence and beauty, and we think that writers like Shari Arnold are brave and special and deserve to be lauded, even if it's virtually impossible to figure out the right label to put on their books to find the readers who will appreciate them.



This book is a fairy tale. It is also a moving treatment of the subject of loss and grief. I think it would be very difficult to find someone who is currently dealing with a significant loss who is at *exactly* the right point to be ready for this story -- because to be ready for this story is to be ready to begin to move on. And frequently being in the process of moving on makes one not wish to have the most painful wounds re-opened while trying to fit reading a book in between working and eating and sleeping and trying to function.

As a literary work, Neverland is flawed, and doesn't really find its most impressive voice until Part II, which is over 50% of the way in. But once it got where it was going, nothing could have torn me away from this story. In the end, this novel is smart enough that I feel no need to critique it harshly for any technicalities of craft or prose, and so emotionally extraordinary that I wish I could do more to help it make its way to other readers who would love it... and maybe even some who *need* it.

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I received a complimentary ARC of the book from NetGalley in return for an honest review... and I certainly hope you can tell that that is what I've given here.

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### **Marjolein says**

*Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>*

With Neverland as the title, it is not a surprise this is a Peter Pan retelling. Livy lost her younger sister a couple of months ago and is struggling to give it a place. When she starts to meet several mysterious people, will she find peace?

I really don't know with this book. It was an easy and quick read, but I never felt invested in the story. While Livy does incredible good things for the children at the hospital, she never came to life and basically remained as much of a fantasy as Neverland. Because of that, I could put down the book easily, and had I not been reading it now for a challenge, it might have taken me awhile.

I quite liked the idea though, and parts were very interesting, but they didn't make up the bigger part of the book. The jury's still out on this one.

Thanks to the publisher and Netgalley for providing me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!

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### **Paula M. of Her Book Thoughts! says**

**"There are subtle truths buried in every make-believe.... You never know where you might find one."**

**Oh WOW.** This book broke me into pieces, honestly. But thank the book gods that it repaired me when the end came. This book is magical! It surprised me so much. Reading this book is like a roller coaster ride. What happens in a roller coaster ride? You get scared, some might cry in the middle, some gets frustrated they just want it to end but most importantly, when the ride ends, you're left with that adrenaline and that huge grin on your face. (Some puke I know, but don't worry it won't happen here) **I finished NEVERLAND with happy tears in my eyes and then I re-read it all over again.**

The story started a bit slow and usually, I tend to complain because I'm not a fan of slow paced plotlines. But in here, I feel like it was really necessary. We got to know more Livy. Her life, her parents, her grief. **The way Shari Arnold described Livy's emotions, of her grief, was incredible. It feels like I'm the one who lost a sister and I'm the one grieving.** It made me sad SO MUCH that I wanted nothing but to get away Livy in that situation. It was heartbreaking. And her parents was just the same. **You really are not the same person when you lost someone you love.** Livy was a main character to root for. It was so easy to understand and sympathize with her. She was authentic. **Shari Arnold wrote fantastic characters. They are all not the same from the first time you read them because all of them underwent a tremendous growth.**

**Now MEYER, our Peter Pan in this tale was.. its really hard to describe my feelings towards him.** He's so sexy but oh so frustrating too! I'm not his number one fan, but I'm not a hater either. I really didn't like his disappearing acts at the first part in the story. **But then again, he is Peter Pan. He has secrets. And he's always ready for an adventure!**

**"It's time for an adventure," is all he says. He's sitting next to me, our legs brushing against each other each time the bus turns a corner. "Are you up for a little adventure, Livy?"**

The word building was really believable. Something that will convince you that what you're reading can be real. **The explanations of Neverland.. Meyer.. the flying.. the magic, it was solid. I believe Shari Arnold's terrific writing helped too.** I fell hard! Not too purple prose, but not super simple either. It's perfect. **It fits the story, the magical atmosphere was there and it transports you.** I have nothing but praise.

So. It is obvious that I HIGHLY RECOMMEND this retelling. Whether you're a PeterPan fan or not. **Shari Arnold weaved a magical retelling that J.M. Barrie will approve of. Be charmed by Meyer and join Livy's adventure towards acceptance, moving on and into love!**

**You can also read my review in [HERE](#).**

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**Wart Hill says**

Things I Find While Shelving

*I received a free ARC via NetGalley*

After her sister's death, two new men enter Livy Cloud's life. One wants her to escape, one wants her to accept.

Meyer is full of fun and games, drawing Livy into activities that clear her mind and allow her to get away from the painful memories (and reality) that are haunting her life, if only for a little while. He is mysterious and intriguing and Livy grows more and more drawn to him.

Her substitute tutor, James Hale, tries to draw her into discussions of what comes after. Not just in the sense of an afterlife for her sister, but in the sense of continuing life for her and her family.

And it all spirals to a head when there's a complication when Livy is donating bone marrow to help another little girl with cancer. When she finds herself in a strange place, populated by little children, and watched over by none other than Meyer. The mysterious boy who can fly.

Livy has found her way to Neverland, though she wasn't meant to. It's not the same as in the stories, but it's close, and Meyer is offering Livy something she never thought she'd ever have again: a chance to be with her sister. If she stays in Neverland, she has her sister again. She won't be alone.

But James is in Neverland, too, because there's more to him than meets the eye as well, and here in this place where Livy thought all her problems were solved, she once again has to face the question: will she escape her pain, or will she accept the life she's been dealt and keep going?

This book deals with loss and pain and moving on in a very interesting way. I liked the touch of Peter Pan, and the way that Neverland was something different. I thought that everything was handled very well, especially Livy's indecision and her family's struggle to deal with the death of her sister.

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## **Laurence R. says**

Actual rating: 2.5/5

Interesting idea, but it didn't live to my expectations.

I started to read this book really excited about its story, because I love books inspired of fairy tales. However, I quickly realized that there was something missing to it, at least to me, which made it feel like it wasn't professional. I know I got an ARC, but the fact is that the entire plot lacked professionalism, at least to me. I felt like I was back on Wattpad, reading books that could've been great, but that sadly weren't. It disappointed me a lot and made me less and less interested in the story.

I don't have much more to say about the story, because I feel like I didn't get much out of it. I will say that the concept is really nice and that there's nothing excessively bad to say about the characters, the writing or the plot, but the book simply didn't do it for me.

(Thank you NetGalley for providing me with a digital copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.)

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## **Hope Ortego says**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZs3d...>

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## **Rissa says**

3.5??

The first 205 pages were slow and all over the place but page 206 forward was really good. Obviously if I was taken to a place and they called it neverland i would be like yeah right where are we and thats what happened.

The first part of the book was gettig to know the characters and their personalities which would have been fine if the paragraphs flowed better together. We went from her little sister to truth or dare to do we have school on Thursday and I just needed more structure.

Once we made it neverland i really liked the chatacters and their bickering. The conversations throughout the entire thing was very raw and real for the most part which I appreciate. The characters were likeable and I love Neverland so I already wanted to love 'Neverland' going into it.

The writing was good (bit choppy) but easily read. And the story... it had the potential to be amazing but overall I liked it.

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## **Batool says**

You can read this review on my blog: <https://batoolsbookfeels.wordpress.co...>

I was a little wary of this book at first, because my experience with lesser known authors hasn't been very good lately. I was so pleasantly surprised for several reasons, however, when I finally picked it up. One of the aspects of this book that I really did not anticipate was its emotional intensity. As someone who has a sister the same age as the protagonist's sister, I could connect very strongly to her pain. Livy's struggle to let go of her sister and begin the healing process made me tear up on several occasions because I could imagine myself in that same situation.

Even though this is a fantasy novel and it contains magic and other fantastical elements, its themes were not particularly light. At its most basic level, it was really a story about a girl who struggles to decide if she wants to go on with her life after the loss of someone she loves, or if she wants to lose herself in the darkness of grief. For those of you who are familiar with If I Stay, you can find some parallels in that novel and this one.

Meyer (the love interest and the “Peter Pan” of this story) pops into Livy’s life and attempts to show her that life can still be worth living even when it feels like you’ve lost a piece of yourself. To his surprise, though, it turns out that she has just as much to teach him about love and loss. For this reason I found their relationship to be beautiful. I did find Livy a little weird for trusting Meyer so easily in the beginning of the book when she knows almost nothing about him. However, I’m willing to overlook this, as an important idea present in this book is taking risks (and, ultimately, if the cost you pay for these risks is worth it).

One of my complaints about this book is that, at times, it can feel a little slow. On the other hand, I loved how you didn’t really know what was going to happen next. The adventures that Meyer takes Livy on are fun, and the combination of his energetic youthfulness and his wisdom and experience with pain makes him such a wonderfully complex character. Plus, it didn’t hurt that he has sparkling green eyes and an ever-present grin (a combination which I’m a huge sucker for).

While the story does drag on quite slowly in some parts, I found this novel to be emotional and powerful. I would recommend it to anyone looking for a good stand-alone novel about grief and loss that doesn’t portray these themes in a particularly dreary or depressing way. Or, of course, anyone looking for a Peter Pan retelling.

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## **Christina Marie says**

**\*\*This book was given to me in exchange for my honest review\*\***

Such a unique retelling/interpretation of a classic fairytale.

I had a great time reading this story and falling in love with the characters and the world. I am always iffy when it comes to retellings or re-interpretations of a well known story, but Shari Arnold did a great job.

This story follows the aftermath of Livy Cloud and her struggle to come to terms with her little sister's death. It's been a few months and she hasn't been able to get her life back on track. In order to cope and deal with her pain, she spends her time taking care of other sick kiddos, who were also close to her little sister.

In spending her time at the hospital, she meets a young boy by the name of Meyer, who introduces her to a world that she was unaware existed.

As I mentioned, I loved this story. I thought it was unique, fun, sad, sweet and all of the above. Shari made me feel quite a few things while reading this book.

There's a lot of pain that Livy is dealing with and it's not only her. She has to deal with the pain that her parents are also going through. The character progression in the book, though frustrating, was very well done. Livy annoyed me more times than she didn't, but it was pretty realistic -- emotion-wise.

The world within this book was very realistic in one way, but also very fantastical in another way. The adventure that Shari and these characters take the reader on is definitely a familiar one, because of the homage being paid, but it's also a brand new story because of how unique it is!

Overall, I think most people will have a fantastic time reading something like this. The fantasy is definitely real because of Livy and her emotional experience in dealing with coping and healing. But it's just a lovely

story overall that I am glad that I read.

Shari really capture the spirit of Peter Pan.

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## **Tanya (Girl Plus Books) says**

3.5 STARS

Neverland is a sweet and charming Peter Pan retelling. Livy is struggling to accept the death of her younger sister Jenna four months ago. Her family has splintered with her mother focused on her political campaign and her father barely there at all, shut away in his study. Livy has become a fixture at the children's hospital, spending all her time reading to the kids. It's there she meets a charming but mysterious boy named Meyer. As Livy grows closer to Meyer, through one adventure after another, she is also spending time with her enigmatic new tutor. And Livy wonders if either of these new people in her life are what they seem.

Neverland had a whimsical feeling that you would expect from a Peter Pan retelling. While the first half had a slower pace, and Livy's dialogue sometimes felt too formal for a 17 year old girl, there was plenty to enjoy here. Livy was unselfish to a fault, trying desperately to save a child in order to make some sense of her own loss. It was easy to fall for Meyer's boyish charm while I was suspicious (and a little creeped out) by tutor James. Neverland, both the book and the place, was enchanting. Fans of retellings, particularly retellings with real emotion, will surely enjoy this one.

Note: Many thanks to Shari Arnold for providing me with a copy of Neverland for review.

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## **Aly's Bookish Wonderland says**

*Unfortunately, I'm putting this on hold.*

I'm actually annoyed that I've hit the 60% mark and completely lost interest. **The truth is, it was going so well... until it wasn't.** If "Neverland" had happened 30% earlier, it might have hooked me in better. If Livy hadn't turned into a sudden bitch for no reason, I might have been able to call her my favourite character. But the fact that out of the blue, she blames Meyer for things he can't control (for example, her best friend falling over and hitting her head) and then whipped out the "Everyone I love leaves me" excuse really got on my nerves.

Up to where I put it on hold, the plot was brilliantly done, Livy was a great character and I could really feel for her, and Meyer was adorable. **It just turned into a random sobfest with scenes that made me want to bash my head into a wall.**

It's been *years* since I watched Disney's *Peter Pan* or the original, or even *Neverland* starring Johnny Depp, so I was really excited for it. **Because it's on hold, it means I'll probably pick it up again in the future. For now, though, I can't bring myself to read another chapter.**

*\*\*Thank you NetGalley for this ARC in exchange for an honest review\*\**

