

Steering Toward Normal: A Coming-of-Age Journey Like No Other

From the moment we are born, we are thrust into a world that constantly pushes us to conform and fit into predefined societal norms. But what happens when you find yourself in circumstances that defy those expectations? In Rebecca Petruck's captivating novel, "Steering Toward Normal," readers are taken on a heartwarming coming-of-age journey that challenges conventional notions of family, friendship, and identity.

Set against the backdrop of a small town in Minnesota, "Steering Toward Normal" introduces us to the unforgettable character of Diggy Lawson, a boy who grew up in the world of competitive steer showing. Unconventional might be an understatement when it comes to describing Diggy's way of life. Raised by his grandfather Wayne, a former steer-showing champion, Diggy has never known a life outside the show ring.

Life with his grandfather might have been an adventure, but things take an unexpected turn when Diggy's biological father, Doyle, shows up out of the blue, demanding that Diggy come live with him. Adjusting to a whole new set of rules and norms proves to be quite the journey for Diggy, who finds himself torn between two worlds - the familiar one he's always known and the new one that promises to unlock answers about his past.

Steering Toward Normal by Rebecca Petruck(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 4143 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported



Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 340 pages
Lending : Enabled



Petruck's storytelling prowess shines through her vivid and empathetic portrayal of Diggy's experiences. Every page is infused with a sense of authenticity and genuineness, allowing readers to truly connect with the characters and their emotional journey. Through her writing, Petruck captures the universal struggle of adolescence and self-discovery, exploring themes of family, friendship, and belonging.

The bond between Diggy and his grandfather Wayne is a standout element of "Steering Toward Normal." Their relationship adds a layer of depth and heart to the narrative, as we witness the complexities and love that exists between them. Wayne's unwavering support for Diggy's dreams and ambitions is both endearing and inspiring, highlighting the importance of a supportive and nurturing family dynamic.

Friendship is another central theme explored in "Steering Toward Normal." Diggy's friendship with his best friend, Cly, is a heartwarming portrayal of loyalty and the power of standing by someone through thick and thin. Their shared passion for steer showing further strengthens their bond, proving that friends can truly be the family we choose for ourselves.

As readers delve deeper into the story, Petruck masterfully tackles the issue of identity and self-acceptance. Through both Diggy's experiences and those of other characters he encounters, the author prompts us to question the boxes we try to fit ourselves into and encourages us to embrace our unique individuality.

The descriptive language employed by Petruck creates a vivid and immersive reading experience. Filled with rich sensory details and evocative imagery, the novel transports readers to the world of steer showing, allowing them to feel every jolt of excitement, every wave of emotion, and every triumph. Petruck's attention to detail breathes life into the narrative, making it impossible to put the book down.

With its thought-provoking themes and dynamic characters, "Steering Toward Normal" offers a refreshing and timely take on the coming-of-age genre. Petruck's poignant exploration of identity, family, and friendship serves as a reminder that true "normalcy" lies not in conforming to societal expectations but in embracing our authentic selves.

The : "Discover the Extraordinary Journey of Diggy Lawson in 'Steering Toward Normal': A Story of Love, Friendship, and Finding Your Own Path!"

Are you ready to be swept away by a tale that challenges conventions and celebrates the power of self-discovery? Look no further than "Steering Toward Normal: A Coming-of-Age Journey Like No Other." Join Diggy Lawson as he navigates the unpredictable waters of family, friendship, and identity, proving that the road less traveled often leads to extraordinary destinations!

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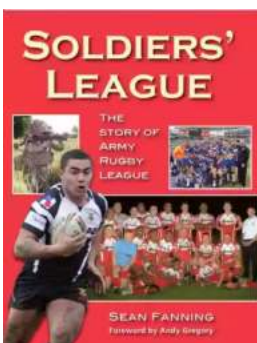
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Eighth grade is set to be a good year for Diggy Lawson: He's chosen a great calf to compete at the Minnesota State Fair, he'll see a lot of July, the girl he secretly likes at 4-H, and he and his dad Pop have big plans for April Fool's Day. But everything changes when classmate Wayne Graf's mother dies, which brings to light the secret that Pop is Wayne's father, too. Suddenly, Diggy has a half brother, who moves in and messes up his life. Wayne threatens Diggy's chances at the State Fair, horns in on his girl, and rattles his easy relationship with Pop. What started out great quickly turns into the worst year ever, filled with jealousy, fighting, and several incidents involving cow poop. But as the boys care for their steers, pull pranks, and watch too many B movies, they learn what it means to be brothers and change their concept of family as they slowly steer toward a new kind of normal.



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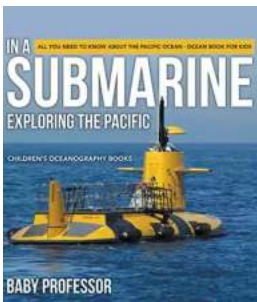
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