

## **One for the Murphys**

**Lynda Mullaly Hunt**

**Reviewed by: Pia Visaria, 13**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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12-year-old Carley Connors can sure endure a lot. She grew up in Las-Vegas with her lively mother and learned to be street smart through all their experiences together. This all changed when she was suddenly put into foster care due to a beating from her step-father and placed with a foster family, who had a completely opposite approach to life. Initially, Carley had some sort of a mental block stating that she wouldn't want to be a part of the Murphy Family (her foster family) but eventually she adjusts and learns about a different way of living life and bonds with the Murphys.

Hunt has beautifully crafted this story so that the audience can relate to it, and really learn from it. The way Hunt has incorporated everything from literary elements, emotions, to an intense storyline truly makes this story one of a kind. Carley's quirky perspective makes the readers feel like they are in her shoes experiencing her journey alongside her. I really admired the way Hunt subtly added in hints of life lessons and morals to learn from along the story, whether it be the when Carley realizes that she shouldn't have judged Toni, or when she musters up the courage to finally open herself up to the Murphys.

This book does have some implied emotional violence and mentions of physical abuse which may not be suited for young readers. For those reasons, I would recommend this book to anyone who is 12 years old or older. Lastly, this book would make a great gift for anyone who likes realistic fiction!

### **Recommended Titles:**

- "Fish in a Tree" by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- "Shouting at the Rain" by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- "Rain Reign" by Ann M. Martin
- "Out of my Mind" by Sharon M. Draper
- "Because of Mr. Terupt" by Rob Buyea