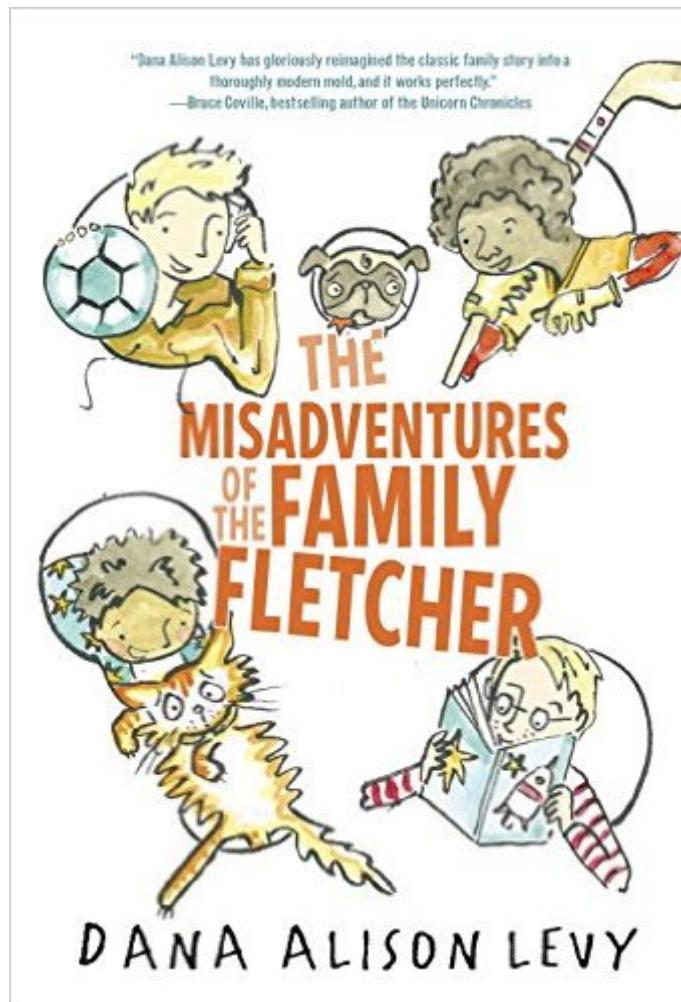


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The Misadventures Of The Family Fletcher



Synopsis

• Fans of Beverly Cleary's Quimbys, Judy Blume's Hatchers, and, more recently, Jeanne Birdsall's Penderwicks will fervently hope that more Fletcher misadventures are yet to come. • "School Library Journal, Starred The start of the school year is not going as the Fletcher brothers hoped. Each boy finds his plans for success veering off in unexpected and sometimes disastrous directions. And at home, their miserable new neighbor complains about everything. As the year continues, the boys learn the hard and often hilarious lesson that sometimes what you least expect is what you come to care about the most. ▶ Praise for The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher ▶ A Junior Library Guild Selection [set star] • Their banter is realistic, and the disorder of their everyday lives, convincing. The Fletcher family rules! • "Kirkus Reviews, Starred ▶ Dana Alison Levy has gloriously reimagined the classic family story into a thoroughly modern mold, and it works perfectly. • "Bruce Coville, bestselling author of My Teacher Is an Alien and the Unicorn Chronicles [P1] [set star] • With its semi-episodic structure, laugh-out-loud humor, and mix of zaniness and love, Levy's debut offers something truly significant: a middle-grade family story featuring gay parents and interracial families that is never about either issue. • "School Library Journal, Starred ▶ Levy provides a compelling, compassionate, and frequently hilarious look at their daily concerns. By book's end readers will want to be part of (or at least friends with) this delightful family. • "The Horn Book ▶

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0750 (What's this?)

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Dgs edition (July 14, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385376553

ISBN-13: 978-0385376556

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars ▶ See all reviews (49 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #38,018 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Parenting & Families #28 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption #143 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Customer Reviews

This is an episodic collection of domestic comedy vignettes that mostly feature the four sons in the family. We basically follow a year in the life of the Family Fletcher. Much can be made, I imagine, from the fact that this is a "modern" non-traditional family, which just means that the family unit is headed by a gay couple and includes four adopted sons. You have your standard issue traditional family comedies, (say, Birdsall's Penderwicks, or Sydney Taylor's All-of-a-Kind Family). You have your standard issue "zany" families, (Surviving the Applewhites). You have zany, or at least frantic, gay couple family comedies, (The Birdcage anyone?). But here you have a settled and stable family. The fact that it is watched over by a Dad and a Papa isn't much more remarkable than the fact that the family in "My Three Sons", (the subtly unconventional 1960's TV show), was headed by Fred MacMurray and his housekeeper "Uncle Charley". Apart from a very sensitive and perceptive treatment of the awkwardness the boys encountered when introducing their family to someone for the first time, (say at a parent-teacher conference at a new school), the non-traditional aspect of the family gets little play, although it is always there in the background.

I really enjoyed this book and will be happy to share it with my daughter when she's a bit older (nothing difficult or controversial to explain--but she's 2 and not exactly up for a book without pictures right now :). Unlike magic/lite horror kids' books, this one is completely safe and free from anxiety. No monsters, no existential threats, just ordinary childhood stress approached and conquered (or not, but to no one's demise) and lots of family support and mild but ordinary conflict. And while it's not a huge page-turner, it's still engaging and pleasant and full of light-handed messages about respect and cooperation and not making assumptions. Although the family is close-knit, the kids still feel the sting of deteriorating friendships and still keep their own secrets. But they're altogether friendly and loving, sort of like a modern-day Father Knows Best with two dads and a much more colorful (both literally and figuratively) parcel of kids. It's excellent that the diversity of both the kids and the parents is treated casually. Kids deal with new things organically (unlike their uptight parents), so not making a giant issue about cultural differences is the perfect, natural way to introduce kids to a family that's different from their own. All the conflict is normal kid conflict, not racial or orientation conflict. I think the reviewers grabbing their smelling salts about the 2 dads are saying a lot more about themselves than the book. I also like that the parents are successful and loving, though still imperfect and embarrassing, and that the more successful (financially) parent is

the one who works from home.

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