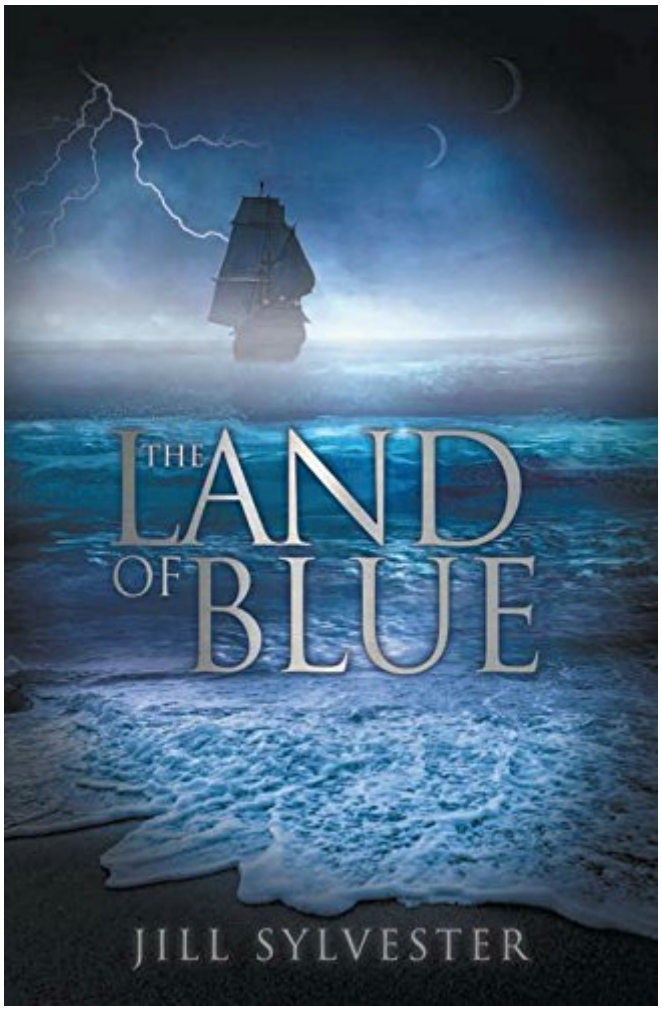
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The Land Of Blue



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Synopsis

Twelve-year-old Cassie ConnorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s father has mysteriously disappeared and her mother and grandparents wonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t tell her where he went, or why. Then one hot August afternoon an endearing old lady named Agatha arrives on the dilapidated porch and tells Cassie that her father has gone to the Land of Blue and Cassie is the only one who can save him. It turns out that Agatha is the physical manifestation of the voice in CassieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s head, the authoritative voice that instructs her to bite her nails and skip the odd-numbered stairs.Under AgathaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s tutelage, CassieÃ¢â ¬â •accompanied by her best friend Mariana who she brings along for supportÃ¢â ¬â •Zippers between life at her Irish-Catholic, alcoholic grandparentsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ house in Boston, to the foggy, carnival style Land of Blue. Once they arrive, they meet TJ, a boy in search of his missing brother. The three become fast friends, in this place of seemingly never-ending fun, sharing in a similar mission. Yet, CassieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s plans to find her father and bring him home are consistently and suspiciously thwarted. That is until Cassie falls through the Ripple and discovers an alternate land that illuminates that things are not always what they seem and her father may stay trapped in the Land of Blue forever. Will Cassie find her father and bring him home or will she, like so many others she meets along the way, remain in the alluring Land of Blue? Written by a licensed mental health counselor, The Land of Blue is a coming-of-age fantasy novel that takes readers young and old on a fascinating journey of the power of friendship, the love of family and ultimately, the choice to overcome darkness.

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Customer Reviews

Thoroughly enjoyed this book! Her characters are fleshed out and so likable even with their faults. Her descriptions are such that you can easily visualize reality and both worlds in the Land of Blue. Her messages are clear. The power of positive thinking in all that you do. The self-fulfilling prophecy. Believing in yourself and those around you. Choosing to rid yourself of those negative thoughts and people. Fighting for what you believe in. Fighting for those you love. Understanding that everyone needs to make their own choices. Taking what's negative and turning it into something positive - Nosy vs. Curious. Understanding there are different versions of family and love for each of us, none being better or more right than the other. Not giving up. Not letting the past control your future. Fighting demons that come in the form of voices, visions or addictions. This is a reminder to all of us, both child and adult. We all have choices. What we decide is where our path takes us. Listen to Tufa. She knows.

I just finished reading The Land of Blue and I might have to read it again. It is so rich with metaphors and subtle messages, I want to make sure I pick up on every one of them! The story takes you on a great adventure filled with wimsy and life lessons all at the same time. At first, on the surface, it is a story filled with fun and fantasy, a bit like Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. But then you realize that too much of a good thing is not a good thing after all, and the inner workings of mental illness and addiction surface. Having a child with OCD and anxiety, this book is enlightening as to how her mind works and the constant struggle that goes on in her head over even the simplest of things. The story involves strength and courage and the strongest message of all, that we always have a choice.

This book is a gift that lifts you up and grabs you from the moment you pick it up until long after you put it down. Jill Sylvester creates The Land of Blue, an enthralling fantasia, that brilliantly unfolds into the human condition and the challenging issues of mental illness. The main character, Cassie,

takes us along on her journey into fantasy and adventure when she leaves her home and enters the Land of Blue in search of her happiness. The reader is compelled to rally for Cassie as she faces many obstacles including her ability to believe in herself. It is obvious that Jill Sylvester understands the complexity of the issues that the characters in the book have to deal with such as obsessional and compulsive thinking, anxiety, and addiction. These issues are presented with depth and sensitivity as well as an expectation for renewal. CassieÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s adventure is filled with suspense, humor, insight, and vivid, whimsical imagery. Both the adult and young reader will relate to CassieÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s worries and hopes as they discover how the thoughts that we have impact our lives. As a parent of two daughters, a professional working with children for many years, and as someone who really enjoys a great fantasy book, I would highly recommend the Land of Blue. I plan to purchase more copies as gifts for those who may be looking to discover another way to think about choice vs. fear and the power that they can discover in the Land of Blue.

This is one of the most creative, innovative new reads of our time! A very modern day twist encompassing the adage of good vs. evil in a way that touches and is relevant with the spirituality movement underway today. Fantastical visualization that is a cross between Willie Wonka and Harry Potter that will surely resonate with adolescents, young teens, and adults alike. Like the Land of Blue itself...readers will be drawn in with intrigue with the notion of video games, candy galore, and the lack of rules...only to have their eyes ultimately opened to the importance of positive thoughts, self-talk, and the power of choice and free will (especially good choices!)...and, of course, love of family. The reader comes away with the understanding of the importance of staying aligned with the positivity that innately resides in each of us. Genius! A must read!

This needs to be a required summer read for both parents and their children. There are so many things that you can relate to in this book as both an adult and looking back at yourself as a child/adolescent. So many times we feel like we are alone with the things we struggle with as individuals or within our families but what you will see in reading this is that you are never alone and you always have a choice in your life to learn from your struggles or let it defeat you. Jill does an amazing job with her descriptions making you feel like you are really there with Cassie. I could not put the book down. I particularly liked the references to places I am familiar with being from Boston. I am ordering a few of these for my family and friends. I don’t want to give up my copy because I will be reading it again. Also the cover design and colors are beautiful! Get a copy for yourself and a friend you won’t regret it!

This was such a beautifully written story. Don’t let the young adult fiction label fool you. This book is such a feel good story that is perfect for all ages! Although it is fictional, it has so many life lessons that the author so brilliantly incorporates into her story. This story makes you reflect on real life issues such as OCD, depression, substance abuse, but its done in such a gentle, forgiving manner. Sometimes we all get into the habit of treading along and not seeing the positive things in our lives, instead dwelling on the negative and being stuck in negative space. This story displays how there may be good in our lives that we take for granted. The author does such a great job on bringing you on a journey of conquering your fears and realizing your full potential for happiness. I highly recommend this for your entire family!

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