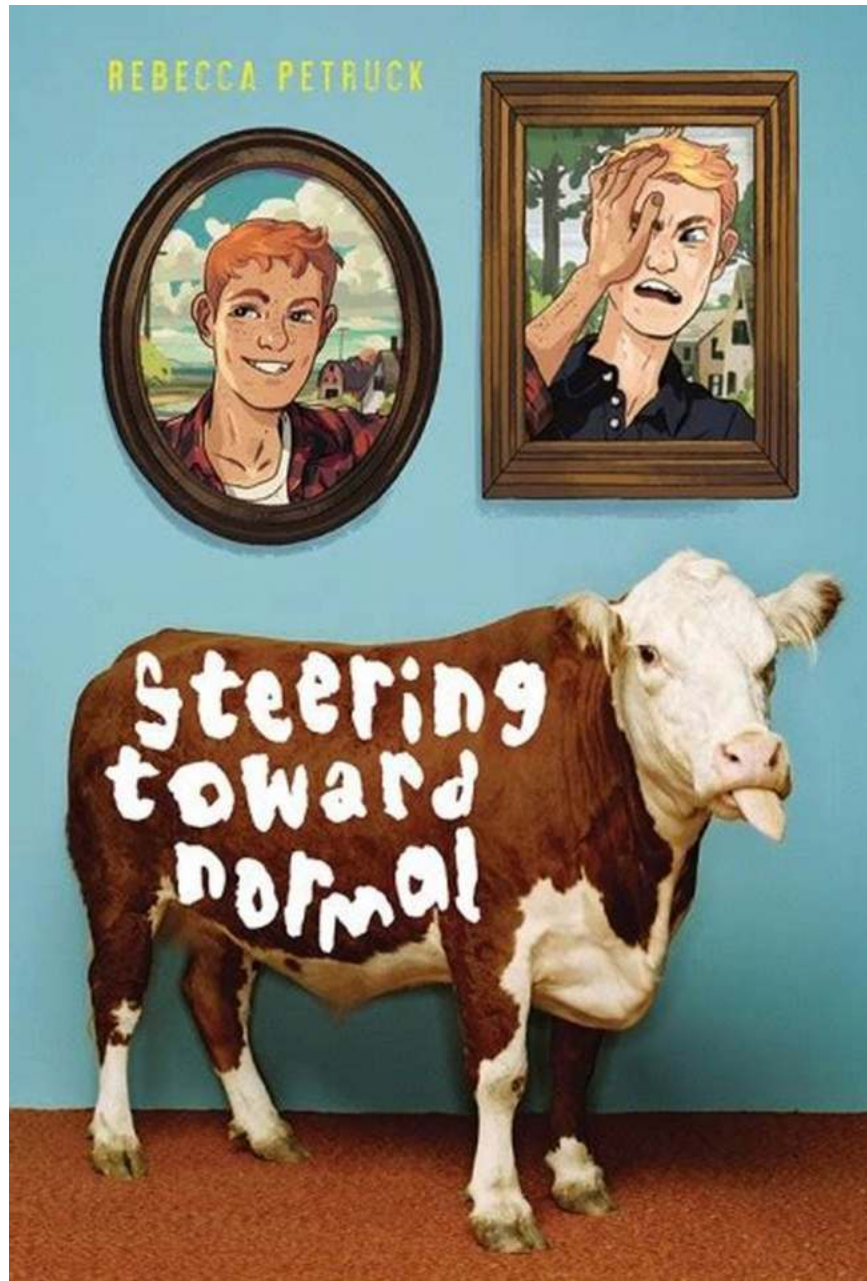


Steering Toward Normal: A Heartfelt Journey of Friendship and Acceptance

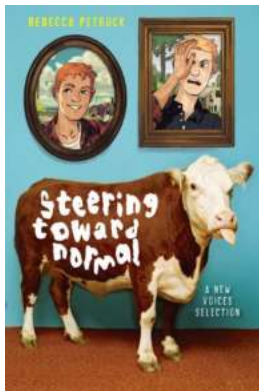


Rebecca Petruck's novel "Steering Toward Normal" takes readers on an emotional journey filled with laughter, tears, and profound life lessons. This heartwarming story explores themes of friendship, acceptance, and the true meaning of family, all set against the backdrop of the Midwest and the world of

competitive steer showing. With its compelling characters and gripping plot, "Steering Toward Normal" is a must-read for all ages.

The Power of Friendship

At the center of the story is seventh-grader Diggy Lawson, who dreams of proving himself as a talented showman in steer competitions. Diggy's life takes an unexpected turn when his best friend, Wayne, moves to California, leaving him feeling lost and alone. However, an unlikely friendship blossoms between Diggy and the new girl in town, Kate, who shares his passion for steer showing. Together, they navigate the challenges of adolescence, forge a deep connection, and learn the true value of friendship.



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



Acceptance and Overcoming Prejudice

One of the most poignant aspects of "Steering Toward Normal" is its exploration of acceptance and overcoming prejudice. As Diggy and Kate work together to train their steers and prepare for competitions, they encounter skepticism and disapproval from their peers. Diggy, who is biracial, faces racism and discrimination, while Kate, who is overweight, is bullied for her appearance.

Through their resilience and inner strength, they rise above these challenges and prove that true success lies in embracing diversity and standing up against prejudice.

The Importance of Family

Alongside Diggy's journey are themes of family and belonging. His relationship with his father, who struggles to accept his son's passion for steer showing, adds a layer of complexity to the story. As Diggy's bond with his steers strengthens, so does his relationship with his father, as they slowly learn to understand and support each other. "Steering Toward Normal" beautifully portrays the transformational power of familial love and acceptance.

A Unique Setting and Authentic Detail

The world of competitive steer showing is a captivating backdrop for Petruck's novel. Her meticulous research and attention to detail shine through on every page, immersing readers in the sights, sounds, and smells of life on a farm. From the dusty show rings to the intense competition, Petruck's vivid descriptions make the story come alive. Whether readers are familiar with the world of steer showing or not, they will be captivated by the authenticity and uniqueness of this setting.

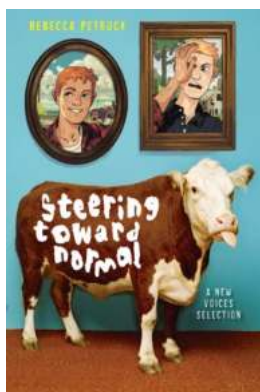
A Heartfelt

As "Steering Toward Normal" reaches its , readers are left with a profound sense of hope and a renewed belief in the power of friendship and acceptance.

Petruck's writing is both tender and honest, resonating with readers of all backgrounds. This touching story will stay with readers long after they turn the final page.

In

Rebecca Petruck's "Steering Toward Normal" is a remarkable novel that navigates the complexities of friendship, acceptance, and family in a genuine and heartfelt manner. With its engaging plot, well-developed characters, and richly detailed setting, this book is a must-read for anyone seeking an emotional and uplifting reading experience. Prepare to be moved, inspired, and transformed by the power of compassion and understanding.



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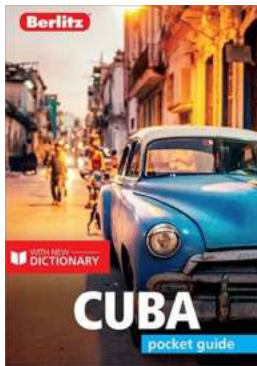
Eighth grade is set to be a good year for Diggy Lawson: He's chosen a great calf to compete at the Minnesota State Fair, he'll see a lot of July, the girl he secretly likes at 4-H, and he and his dad Pop have big plans for April Fool's Day. But everything changes when classmate Wayne Graf's mother dies, 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.



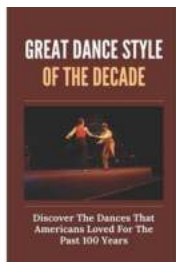
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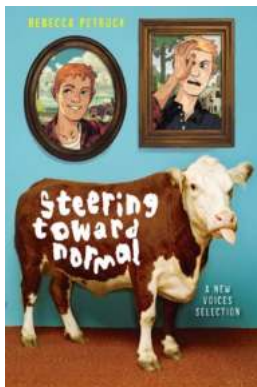
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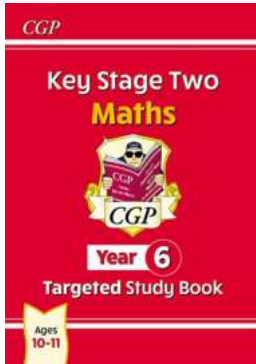
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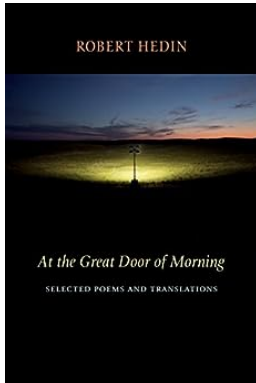
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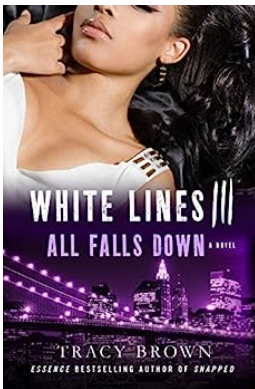
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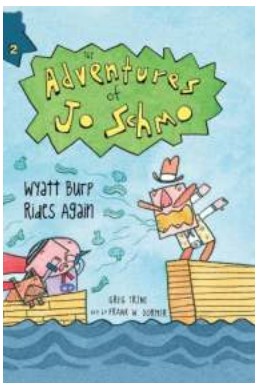
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