Mini Wife Syndrome A Stepmothers Guide 1ad462f66234b2b7b42df909c7f32a2a

Becoming a Couple of Destiny

"The Joy Luck Club is one of my favorite books. From the moment I first started reading it, I knew it was going to be incredible. For me, it was one of those once-in-a-lifetime reading experiences that you cherish forever. It inspired me as a writer and still remains hugely inspirational." – Kevin Kwan, author of Crazy Rich Asians

Introduction to Protein Science

This fairy tale retelling lives in a mystical world inspired by the Far East, where the Dragon Lord and the Serpent God battle for control of the earthly realm; it is here that the flawed heroine of Forest of a Thousand Lanterns finally meets her match. An epic fantasy finale to that breathtaking and dazzling story.
Reviews "A top purchase for most fantasy collections." --School Library Journal, starred review

Stepcoupling

Imogen Keegan, who has been labelled emotionally disturbed, gets through the pain of her mother's death by overeating and her interest in theater, until her impossibly perfect new stepsister, Ella, and the exposure of her diary bring on a crisis.

Why Does He Do That?

The stepmother's role often is ambiguous and underappreciated, and frequently it carries unrealistic expectations. The book answers women's concerns and questions, including: How can I be a caretaker and a key emotional connector in the family if the children don't accept my influence? How should I cope with children who are confused about their family and torn between loyalty to their biological mother and me? When should I step back in conflicts and when should I insist that my husband stand up for me? In addition it addresses the spiritual and emotional climate of the home, providing perspective and guidelines to help stepmothers and their families thrive.

The Mental Load

The companion guide to Mini-Wife Syndrome: A Stepmother's Guide Finally! A succinct, straightforward guide to Mini-Wife Syndrome written especially for Dad to help him understand what in the heck is causing so much chaos in his home. Mini-Wife Syndrome is real not just a figment of your wife's imagination! In this guide we will discuss Mini-Wife Syndrome, including the symptoms, possible causes, and most importantly, what can be done to correct the problem and restore peace in your home.

Knight to the Rescue

Steppmonster

The Secret to Attracting a Man Who Loves You, Sees You, And Cherishes You Into A Committed, Lasting Relationship You want to be loved and cherished by a man. You want a man who feels like you're too important to him to lose you. But we live in the age of the "hookup culture" where casual, friend with benefits, relationships have become the norm. Maybe you get into a situation where you give your everything only to be taken for granted, have the guy pull away, and eventually disappear on your altogether. This makes you feel confused, frustrated, and feeling like you doubt yourself and your own worth wondering if you'll ever get into the relationship you want. If you're having a hard time with men and dating, it's not your fault. We live in a culture that encourages superficial relationships and discourages anything meaningful. I believe there's a better way for men and women to get into and stay in committed relationships that last. That's why I put together a proven path that will help you get into the relationship you want. It's called, "The Forever Woman." Who Am I? My name is Matthew Coast and I've been teaching in the dating industry since 2005. I've taught, coached, and spoken to hundreds of thousands of both men and women, all over the world, about dating and relationships. My videos and articles reach millions of women, every month, all over the world. Many of them have gone on to get married, raise families, and live happily ever after. I've helped save marriages, mend broken hearts, and heal struggling relationships. And now I'd like to help you. Your Success Path I have a 3 part plan for you to be successful - Believe in your value - Position yourself in value - Communicate your value If you're ready to put this plan into action, just click the add to cart button and purchase it right now. If you get The Forever Woman and use the principles in it - You'll attract a man who loves and cherishes you. - He'll pursue you for a committed, lasting relationship. - You'll do less work and feel more appreciated and valued by your man. If you don't get it - You'll stay stuck in your problems and challenges with your man. - You'll feel like you're doing everything in a relationship only to be taken for granted, have guys pull away, and eventually disappear on you - You'll wonder if you're ever going to get into the relationship you want. If you're ready to arrive and become a great man who loves, sees, and cherishes you, buy a copy of my book and I'll speak with you again soon! Talk soon, Matthew Coast

The Tattooist of Auschwitz

NERBULA AWARD WINNER • HUGO AWARD FINALIST • "If you want a fantasy with strong characters and brilliantly original variations on ancient stories, try Uprooted!" —Rick Riordan "Breathtaking . . . a tale that is both elegantly grand and earthily humble, familiar as a Grimm fairy tale yet fresh, original, and totally irresistible." —Publishers Weekly (starred review) NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR • BuzzFeed • Tordotcom • BookPage • Library Journal • Publishers Weekly Agnieszka loves her valley home, her quiet village, the forests and the bright shining river. But the corrupted Wood stands on the border, full of malevolent power, and its shadow lies over her life. Her people rely on the cold, driven wizard known only as the Dragon to keep its powers at bay. But he demands a terrible price for his help: one young woman handed over to serve him for ten years, a fate almost as terrible as falling to the Wood. The next choosing is fast approaching, and Agnieszka is afraid. She knows—everyone knows—that the Dragon will take Kasia: beautiful, graceful, brave Kasia, all the things Agnieszka isn't, and her dearest friend in the world. And there is no way to save her. But Agnieszka fears the wrong things. For when the Dragon comes, it is not Kasia he will choose. Praise for Uprooted "Uprooted has leapt forward to claim the title of Best Book I’ve Read Yet This Year... . . . Moving, heartbreaking, and thoroughly satisfying, Uprooted is the fantasy novel I feel I’ve been waiting a lifetime for. Clear your schedule before picking it up, because you won’t want to put it down.”—NPR

Mini-Wife Syndrome - a Stepmother's Guide

Love don't cost a thing... except everything. When billionaire mogul James Preston hires an escort as a date for his brother's wedding, he knows he's taking a risk. One thing he won't be taking? The escort's clothes off. He just wants a date—not a girlfriend. Not a relationship. No strings. No ties. No games. No sex. He has his reasons. He lost someone he loved, and isn't interested in trying again. Too many opportunities for mistakes or worse, heartbreak. Audrey Reynolds became a high-end escort to keep her brother in his expensive group home. James Preston is the client of her dreams—he's offering to pay her more money than she's ever made before. But James is difficult. He's gorgeous, troubled and all too human for Audrey's business-like tastes. Determined to complete her assignment and collect the money, Audrey tries to play by James's rules. But before she knows what's happening, he's rewriting the contract. When Audrey ends up in James's bed, he realizes that she's everything he's wanted... and everything he's been running from.

Small Sacrifices

If you want to feel more confident as a stepparent and learn how to develop practical skills to address daily challenges, this book is for you! Blythe has cut to the chase in delivering a book that will truly raise your awareness about how successful stepfamilies work breathes refreshing, loving, and positive insight into the world of stepfamilies. -- Patrice McKenzie MS, Ed CHNP Therapist, Mother & Step-Mother

Women Who Run with the Wolves

You found the love of your life, and you vowed to have, to hold and to stepmother. You always thought that in time you'd grow to be the perfect, loving family. So why does it seem that the harder you try, the more unappreciated you feel? As a stepmother, therapist and founder of the popular Web site stepforstepmothers.com, Dr. Rachelle Katz knows all too well how challenging stepmotherhood can be. Based on thousands of in-depth interviews and the latest research, she's created a powerful program to help you: * Alleviate stress and take care of yourself * Bond with your new family * Set and enforce clear boundaries * Get the respect you deserve * Strengthen your relationship...
From Mom to Me Again

The story of an Oregon woman convicted of shooting her three children, killing one, in 1983.

The Smart Stepmom

Draws on the author's experiences as a stepparent, as well as the expertise of clergy, psychologists, and counselors, to provide guidelines on how to overcome the expectations, conflicts, and loyalty issues of a blended family.

The Real Secrets Women Only Whisper

Book one of the New York Times-bestselling All Souls trilogy—"a wonderfully imaginative grown-up fantasy with all the magic of Harry Potter and Twilight" (People). Look for the hit TV series "A Discovery of Witches," streaming on AMC Plus, Sundance Now and Shudder. Season 2 premieres January 9, 2021! Deborah Harkness's sparkling debut, A Discovery of Witches, has brought her into the spotlight and galvanized fans around the world. In this tale of passion and obsession, Diana Bishop, a young scholar and a descendant of witches, discovers a long-lost and enchanted alchemical manuscript, Ashmole 782, deep in Oxford's Bodleian Library. Its reappearance summons a fantastical underworld, which she navigates with her leading man, vampire geneticist Matthew Clairmont. Harkness has created a universe to rival those of Anne Rice, Diana Gabaldon, and Elizabeth Kostova, and she adds a scholar's depth to this riveting tale of magic and suspense. The story continues in book two, Shadow of Night, and concludes with The Book of Life.

Gyn/Ecology

It takes two. Even if men aren't from Mars and women aren't from Venus, they still have different takes on what makes a relationship work. In this he says--she says book, Bishop Joseph Walker and his wife Dr. Stephaine Walker tell you how to know when you're in love and ready to take that next step of commitment. This dynamic and successful couple will also dialogue about the place of intimacy, carving out time for each other, and the importance of creating a spiritual life together in order to make significant and lasting decisions. They will also talk about the values necessary to keep couples together in this temptation-laden culture.

The Man Who Folded Himself

Seventy now-adult children of divorce give their candid and often heart-wrenching answers to eight questions (arranged in eight chapters, by question), including: What were the main effects of your parents' divorce on your life? What do you say to those who claim that "children are resilient" and "children are happy when their parents are happy?" What would you like to tell your parents then and now? What do you want adults in our culture to know about divorce? What role has your faith played in your healing? Their simple and poignant responses are difficult to read and yet not without hope. Most of the contributors—women and men, young and old, single and married—have never spoken of the pain and consequences of their parents' divorce until now. They have often never been asked, and they believe that no one really wants to know. Despite vastly different circumstances and details, the similarities in their testimonies are striking; as the reader will discover, the death of a child's family impacts the human heart in universal ways.

The Premed Playbook

Stepmothers, do you often feel awkward and excluded when spending time with your husband and your stepdaughter? Does their physical affection seem excessive or inappropriate? Do you feel she is more like the "other woman" than your stepdaughter? If the answer to these questions and more is a resounding YES, then you might have a Mini-Wife in your marriage. Mini-Wife Syndrome is more common than most people realize in relationships where single fathers have inadvertently allowed their daughters to step into roles of companion, confidante, and/or helpmate with their fathers. In this book, we discuss Mini-Wife Syndrome from start to finish: the symptoms, the causes, complications, and possible treatments to control this disease that can and will wreck your relationship.

Kingdom of the Blazing Phoenix

Most little girls grow up dreaming of being a mom, but hardly any of them dream of becoming a stepmom. Nevertheless, approximately one million new stepfamilies are created every year. It's no secret, being a stepmother can be a living nightmare. But it can also be an enriching and rewarding experience—one that God can use to strengthen you, helping you survive and even thrive in the toughest job you never asked for. Written by two women who are stepmothers themselves—and know the difficulties of helping to raise someone else's children—this book is filled with down-to-earth insights and advice for stepmothers from stepmothers. It also offers expert guidance from pastors and counselors on such issues as roles, expectations, realistic goals, organization, finances, holidays, vacations, relationships with stepchildren, negotiation, forgiveness, healing the past, building a strong marriage with stepchildren on the scene, dealing with in-laws and ex-spouses, sexual tensions in stepfamilies, health, depression, stress, and much more. While there is no magic formula to guarantee stepmother success, encouragement and practical wisdom are available in this much-needed resource.

Escorting the Billionaire

New enhanced edition of the original underground classic by Clarissa Pinkola Estés, Ph.D., features rare interview excerpts with this internationally acclaimed Jungian analyst and cantadora (keeper of the old stories). First released three years before the print edition of Women Who Run With the Wolves (Ballantine books, 1997) made publishing history (more than 2 million copies sold worldwide), this landmark audio probes the instinctual nature of women through world myths, folktales, and commentary. Through an exploration into the nature of the wild woman archetype, Dr. Estés helps listeners discover and reclaim their passion, creativity, and power.

Mini-Wife Syndrome - a Divorced Dad's Guide

This classic work of science fiction is widely considered to be the ultimate time-travel novel. When Daniel Eakins inherits a time machine, he soon realizes that he has enormous power to shape the course of history. He can foil terrorists, prevent assassinations, or just make some fast money at the racetrack. And if he doesn't like the results of the change, he can simply go back in time and talk himself out of making it! But Dan soon finds that there are limits to his powers—he has enormous power to shape the course of history. He can foil terrorists, prevent assassinations, or just make some fast money at the racetrack. And if he doesn't like the results of the change, he can simply go back in time and talk himself out of making it! But Dan soon finds that there are limits to his powers—and forces beyond his control.

Magic to the Bone

This revised edition includes a New Intergalactic Introduction by the Author. Mary Daly's New Intergalactic Introduction explores her process as a Crafty Pirate on the journey of Writing Gyn/Ecology and reveals the autobiographical context of this "Thunderbolt of Rage" that she first hurled against the patriarchs in 1979 and no huris again in the Re-Surging Movement of Radical Feminism in the Be-Dazzling Nineties.

A Taxonomy of Love

An honest and groundbreaking guide to understanding the complicated emotions that develop between stepmothers and children. When faced with often overwhelming challenges, what woman with stepchildren is unfamiliar with that "stepmonster" feeling? Half of all women in the United States will live with or marry a man with children. To guide women new to this role—and empower those who are struggling with it—Wednesday Martin draws upon her own
experience as a stepmother. She’s frank about the harrowing process of becoming a stepmother, she considers the myths and realities of being married to a man with children, and she counteracts the cultural notion that stepmothers are solely responsible for the problems that often develop. Along the way, she interviews other stepmothers and stepchildren and offers up fascinating insights from literature, anthropology, psychology, and evolutionary biology that explain the little-understood realities of this unique parent-child relationship and—in an unexpected twist—shows why the myth of the Wicked Stepmother is the single best tool for understanding who real stepmothers are and how they feel.

But I’m NOT a Wicked Stepmother!

Create a Loving and Safe Environment for Your Blended Family Blended families face unique challenges, and sadly, good intentions aren’t always enough. With so many complex relationships involved, all the normal rules for family life change, even how you apply something as simple as the five love languages. That’s why Gary Chapman, the bestselling author of The 5 Love Languages® and national expert on stepfamilies, Ron Deal, join together in this book to teach you how the five love languages can help your blended family. They’ll teach you: About the unique dynamics of stepfamilies How to overcome fear and trust issues in marriage How to develop healthy parenting and step-parenting practices How the love languages should—and should not—be applied You’re going to face many challenges, but with the right strategies and smart work, your family can be stronger and healthier together.

When I Was the Greatest

Introduction to Protein Science provides a broad introduction to the contemporary study of proteins in health and disease, suitable for students on biological, biochemical, and biomedical degrees internationally. The book relates the study of proteins to the context of modern high-throughput data streams of genomics and proteomics.

Remarried with Children

Released in paperback in 1999 by the now-defunct Open City and praised everywhere in the then-ascendant print press industry (including names that still make waves today like The New Yorker and GO), David Berman’s first (and only) book of poetry was and is a journey though shared and unreliable memory. Uncannily inspired, Berman’s poems walk through doors into rooms where where one might hear “I can’t remember being born / and no one else can either / even the doctor who I met years later / at a cocktail party” (from “Self-Portrait at 28”), or praise “the interval called hangover / a sadness not co-terminous with hopelessness” (from “Cassette Country”) and “that moment when you take off your sunglasses / after a long drive and realize it’s earlier / and lighter out than you had accounted for” (“The Charm of 5:30”). At that time, Berman was called a modern-day Wallace Stevens and a next-wave John Ashberry, with his own logic, awareness of pop culture and sensitivity to the details of the post-postmodern world in his poems. Alongside his lyrics to a half-dozen infamous Silver Jews records, Actual Air endeared Berman to lovers of poetry, prose, and music alike. Poet James Tate said it best: “It is a book for everyone.” And poet laureate Billy Collins could only add, “This is the voice I’ve waited so long to hear.” The second edition of the hardcover version of Actual Air is limited to 1000 copies. Features of the second edition are: new larger dimensions and enlarged typeface, new dustjacket artwork variant, delicate cloth boards, updated full-color endpapers, dust-jacket featuring a photo of the artist around the time of publication, and of course the poems that inspired all this fuss in the first place.

The Forever Woman

A new voice in comics is incisive, funny, and fiercely feminist. “The mental load. It’s incessant, gnawing, exhausting, and disproportionately falls to women. You know the scene—you’re making dinner, calling the plumber/doctor/mechanic, checking homework and answering work emails—at the same time. All the while, you are being peppered with questions by your nearest and dearest ‘where are my shoes?, ‘do we have any cheese?’” --Australian Broadcasting Corp on Emma’s comic In her first book of comic strips, Emma reflects on social and feminist issues by means of simple line drawings, dissecting the mental load, ie all that invisible and unpaid organizing, list-making and planning women do to manage their lives, and the lives of their family members. Most of us carry some form of mental load—about our work, household responsibilities, financial obligations and personal life: but what makes up that burden and how it’s distributed within households and understood in offices is not always equal or fair. In her strips Emma deals with themes ranging from maternity leave (it is not a vacation!), domestic violence, the citizen, the violence of the medical world on women during childbirth, and other feminist issues, and she does so in a straightforward way that is both hilarious and deadly serious. If you’re not laughing, you’re probably crying in recognition. Emma’s comics also address the everyday outrages and absurdities of immigrant rights, income equality, and police violence. Emma has over 300,000 followers on Facebook, her comics have been shared 215,000 times, and have elicited comments from 21,000 internet users. An article about her in the French magazine L’Express drew 1.8 million views—a record since the site was created. And her comic has just been picked up by The Guardian. Many women will recognize themselves in THE MENTAL LOAD, which is sure to stir a wide ranging, important debate on what it really means to be a woman today.

Stepping Up to a Happy Stepfamily

Damsel in Distress Audrey needed someone on her side for once and Elliot Knight appointed himself. But playing gallant rescuer for someone as vulnerable as Audrey—fresh on the rebound and tempting as sin. Audrey knew she was deliberately playing on Elliot’s capacity for compassion, but she couldn’t let him walk out of her life, good deed done. The oh-so-brief feel of his lips on hers had been heaven. Somehow she had to convince her enigmatic hero that this was no fairy tale—but the real thing.

A Discovery of Witches

Devon Monk is casting a spell on the fantasy world Using magic means it uses you back, and every spell exacts a price from its user. But some people get out of it by Offloading the cost of magic onto an innocent. Then it’s Allison Beckstrom’s job to identify the spell-caster. Allie would rather live a hand-to-mouth existence than accept the family fortune—and the strings that come with it. But when she finds a boy dying from a magical Offload that has her father’s signature all over it, Allie is thrown back into his world of black magic. And the forces she calls on in her quest for the truth will make her capable of things that some will do anything to control.

Stepmoms on a Mission

A leading authority on abusive relationships offers women detailed guidelines on how to improve and survive an abusive relationship, discussing various types of abusive men, analyzing societal myths surrounding abuse, and answers questions about the warning signs of abuse, how to identify abusive behavior, how to know if one is in danger, and more. Reprint.

The Happy Stepmother

The trophy wife When Gabbi married Benedict Nicos, it was the wedding of the decade, uniting two prominent, wealthy families. To the outside world, it seemed the perfect match. No one would guess Gabbi’s secret heartache: that she loved her husband, but to him she was simply a social accessory. Benedict also expected Gabbi to provide him with a son and heir. If she didn’t, her glamorous stepmother was only too eager to give Benedict everything he wanted! Suddenly, Gabbi had a fight on her hands to save her marriage…. And Benedict was definitely a man worth fighting for! Helen Bianchin creates “tantalizing sexual tension.” —Romantic Times

Damsel Distressed

Love may be sweeter the second time around, but once the bliss of a newfound relationship wears off a little, the reality of being part of a stepfamily sets in. If
you are one of the millions of remarried Americans facing the challenge of blending two existing families into one cohesive whole, you are part of a stepcouple—and you know all too well how hard it can be to make your marriage work in sometimes tough terrain. Different parenting styles, finances, relationships with ex-spouses, legal matters, and even seemingly simple issues such as the kinds of chores assigned to children can chisel away at your union if you don’t always make your marriage a priority. Stepcoupling offers advice for stepcouples on how to do just that—ail the while strengthening their blended family with a healthy marriage. Susan Wisdom and Jennifer Green provide tips and strategies on dealing with the issues remarried couples face, with a wealth of advice from real-life stepcouples, such as:* Learning to tailor your expectations of your spouse or children and remembering that no family is perfect* Knowing where your boundaries are, whether involving a hostile ex-spouse or a stepchild who demands too much attention* Realizing that traits like flexibility, tolerance, forgiveness, and openness are especially essential in a stepfamily situation* Making “us” time for talking, problem-solving, weekends away, and enjoying your marriage to constantly renew and strengthen your bond as a couple Let this invaluable remarriage manual help you make your stepcouple the foundation of a strong, happy, and successful stepfamily.

An Ideal Marriage?

This book is a long-awaited definitive instruction manual for the most difficult role you never imagined having, and couldn’t possibly prepare for—being a Stepmom. Cathryn Bond Doyle became a stepmother in 1996. Cathryn has developed specific techniques and insights to help stepmothers handle the stress and relationship challenges that may arise with their families. In addition to learning from her own journey, she has worked with thousands of stepmothers, through her support group at smoms.org (which she founded in 2000), to build this collection of proven and practical approaches and tools. Cathryn shows you how to recognize, compassionately acknowledge and understand your own reactions to potentially upsetting stepfamily situations, resist the urge to over-give, resolve your resentments, strengthen your relationship skills, build your connections with your partner and stepkids, and deal with any difficulties that may crop up if the bio-mom of your stepkids is neither kind nor civili. The Table of Contents is designed as your guide to getting specific info on a wide spectrum of common stepmothering “dilemmas.” The chapters are written to stand alone in support of each topic so you can get right to the answers most important for you and your situation. Additionally, there are thirty-one proactive tips included to help you and your partner improve daily stepfamily life and so much more. Peppered throughout the forty-one chapters of the book are stories from twenty veteran stepmothers. They share their personal challenges and how they’ve handled them through working with Cathryn and using her strategies. Each describe how they’ve become more savvy, confident and self-aware women as a result. These women join Cathryn as Stepmoms on a Mission (SMOMS) and all believe-wholeheartedly—that any woman in the role of stepmother can benefit from this book and the hard-earned wisdom it imparts.

My One and Only

The Premed Playbook: Guide to the Medical School Personal Statement helps guide students in crafting their stories for the medical school Admission Committees. It’s not only a collection of essays from students who got into top schools, but is a showcase of essays that started badly and were honed to tell great stories. Ryan Gray, MD shares the stories of students who likely didn’t have a shot, but ultimately succeed, in part because of the advice laid out in The Premed Playbook: Guide to the Medical School Personal Statement. They had to fight their way into medical school—and told a great story to do it.

The Joy Luck Club

The #1 International Bestseller & New York Times Bestseller This beautiful, illuminating tale of hope and courage is based on interviews that were conducted with Holocaust survivor and Auschwitz-Birkenau tattooist Ludwig (Lale) Sokolov—an unforgettable love story in the midst of atrocity. “The Tattooist of Auschwitz is an extraordinary document, a story about the extremes of human behavior existing side by side: calculated brutality alongside impulsive and selfless acts of love. I find it hard to imagine anyone who would not be drawn in, confronted and moved. I would recommend it unreservedly to anyone, whoever his views on the Holocaust history are.”—Johannes Simon, internationally-bestselling author of The Rosie Project In April 1942, Lale Sokolov, a Slovenian Jew, is forcibly transported to the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. When his captors discover that he speaks several languages, he is put to work as a Tätowierer (the German word for tattooist), tasked with permanently marking his fellow prisoners. Imprisoned for over two and a half years, Lale witnesses horrific atrocities and barbarism—but also incredible acts of bravery and compassion. Risking his own life, he uses his privileged position to exchange jewels and money from murdered Jews for food to keep his fellow prisoners alive. One day in July 1942, Lale prisoner 32407, comforts a trembling young woman waiting in line to have the number 34902 tattooed onto her arm. Her name is Gita, and in that first encounter, Lale vows to somehow survive the camp and marry her. A vivid, harrowing, and ultimately hopeful re-creation of Lale Sokolov’s experiences as the man who tattooed the arms of thousands of prisoners with what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust, The Tattooist of Auschwitz is also a testament to the endurance of love and humanity under the darkest possible conditions.

Primal Loss

In this volume of 15 articles, contributors from a wide range of disciplines present their analyses of Disney movies and Disney music, which are mainstays of popular culture. The power of the Disney brand has heightened the need for academics to question whether Disney’s films and music function as a tool of the

Uprooted

A YA romance—with a sparkling commercial voice and a dash of science—that explores a relationship over six years The moment Spencer meets Hope the summer before seventh grade, it’s something at first sight. The pair become fast friends, climbing trees and planning world travels. After years of being ostracized by his older brother and teased because of his Tourette syndrome, Spencer finally feels like he belongs. But as Hope and Spencer get older and life gets messier, the clear label of “friend” gets messier, too. Through sibling feuds and family tragedies, new relationships and broken hearts, the two grow together and apart, and Spencer, an aspiring scientist, tries to map it all out using his trusty system of taxonomy. He wants to identify and classify their relationship, but in the end, he finds that life doesn’t always fit into easy-to-manage boxes, and it’s this messy complexity that makes life so rich and beautiful.