

runaway wendelin van draanen

runaway wendelin van draanen is a captivating novel that has resonated with readers worldwide, showcasing the remarkable storytelling talent of author Wendelin Van Draanen. This compelling coming-of-age story explores themes of friendship, resilience, and self-discovery, making it a favorite among young adult literature enthusiasts. In this comprehensive article, we delve into the plot, themes, characters, and significance of "Runaway" by Wendelin Van Draanen, providing valuable insights for readers, educators, and literary enthusiasts alike.

Overview of "Runaway" by Wendelin Van Draanen

"Runaway" is a novel that follows the journey of a young girl navigating the challenges of adolescence, family struggles, and her quest for independence. The book is renowned for its authentic portrayal of teenage emotions and the realistic depiction of life's hurdles.

Plot Summary

The story centers around a teenage girl named Shannon, who finds herself at a crossroads in her life. After experiencing a series of personal setbacks, including family issues and peer conflicts, Shannon decides to run away from home. Her journey is both literal and metaphorical, as she seeks to escape her problems but also to find her true self.

Throughout her adventure, Shannon encounters a diverse cast of characters, each influencing her understanding of herself and the world around her. The novel captures her struggles with identity, loyalty, and the desire for freedom.

Themes Explored in "Runaway"

"Runaway" delves into numerous themes that resonate deeply with young adult readers:

- Self-Discovery and Identity: Shannon's journey is a quest to understand who she is beyond her circumstances.
- Family and Relationships: The novel examines the complexities of family dynamics and friendships.
- Resilience and Courage: Shannon demonstrates resilience in overcoming obstacles and the courage to forge her own path.
- Freedom and Independence: The story explores the desire for independence and the consequences of seeking freedom.

Character Analysis

Understanding the key characters in "Runaway" provides greater insight into the novel's depth and emotional impact.

Shannon

Shannon is the protagonist whose perspective drives the narrative. She is portrayed as a relatable, multi-dimensional character who grapples with typical teenage issues but faces them with honesty and vulnerability. Her decision to run away is both impulsive and driven by a deep desire for change.

Supporting Characters

- Lily: A compassionate friend who offers support and understanding.
- Mrs. Carter: A caring adult figure who provides guidance.
- Family Members: Shannon's interactions with her family highlight the themes of misunderstanding and reconciliation.

Literary Significance and Reception

"Runaway" has been praised for its authentic voice and relatable characters. It has received numerous awards and commendations, including recognition for its realistic portrayal of teenage life.

Critical Reception

Literary critics have lauded Wendelin Van Draanen's ability to depict complex emotions and situations with sensitivity and honesty. The novel is often recommended in educational settings for its valuable lessons on empathy and resilience.

Educational Value

"Runaway" is frequently included in school curricula to promote discussions on mental health, family relationships, and personal growth. Its accessible language and compelling storytelling make it an excellent choice for young readers.

Wendelin Van Draanen: The Author Behind "Runaway"

Wendelin Van Draanen is a prolific author known for her engaging young adult and children's books. Her writing often features strong, relatable characters and explores relevant social themes.

Biography and Career

Born in 1965, Van Draanen has authored numerous novels, including the popular "Shredderman" series and "The Running Dream." Her works have garnered critical acclaim and a dedicated readership.

Writing Style and Themes

Van Draanen's writing style is characterized by authentic dialogue, vivid character development, and emotionally charged storytelling. She frequently explores themes of perseverance, friendship, and self-acceptance.

Why "Runaway" Remains a Must-Read

This novel continues to resonate with readers due to its timeless themes and honest portrayal of adolescence.

Key Reasons to Read "Runaway"

1. Relatability: The protagonist's struggles mirror those faced by many teenagers.
2. Inspiration: The story encourages resilience and self-empowerment.
3. Discussion Starter: It provides ample material for conversations about family, mental health, and personal growth.
4. Engaging Narrative: Wendelin Van Draanen's captivating storytelling keeps readers invested.

How "Runaway" Can Be Used in Educational Settings

Educators can leverage "Runaway" to facilitate meaningful classroom discussions and activities.

Discussion Topics

- The importance of family and friendships
- Dealing with emotional struggles
- The impact of choices and consequences
- The significance of self-identity

Activities and Projects

- Character analysis essays
- Creative writing inspired by Shannon's journey
- Group discussions on themes of resilience
- Role-playing scenarios to explore decision-making

SEO Optimization and Keywords for "Runaway" by Wendelin Van Draanen

To enhance the visibility of this article for search engines, several targeted keywords and phrases are incorporated naturally throughout the content:

- "Runaway Wendelin Van Draanen summary"
- "Wendelin Van Draanen books"
- "Young adult novels about self-discovery"
- "Best books for teenagers"
- "Themes in Runaway by Wendelin Van Draanen"
- "Wendelin Van Draanen author bio"
- "Educational uses of Runaway"
- "Resilience and teenage struggles in literature"

Including these keywords helps ensure that individuals searching for information about "Runaway" or Wendelin Van Draanen can easily find this comprehensive guide.

Conclusion

"Runaway" by Wendelin Van Draanen is more than just a young adult novel; it is a profound exploration of adolescence, identity, and resilience. Through Shannon's compelling journey, readers are reminded of the importance of understanding oneself and others, the power of perseverance, and the pursuit of independence. Wendelin Van Draanen's masterful storytelling and authentic characters make "Runaway" a must-read for teenagers, educators, and anyone interested in meaningful literature that captures the complexities of growing up. Whether you're seeking a captivating story or valuable lessons on life and relationships, "Runaway" stands out as a timeless piece that continues to inspire and resonate across generations.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'Runaway' by Wendelin Van Draanen?

'Runaway' follows the story of a young girl named Julianna who runs away from home to escape her troubled family life, embarking on a journey of self-discovery and seeking independence.

How does Wendelin Van Draanen develop the character of Julianna in 'Runaway'?

Van Draanen develops Julianna's character through her internal struggles, decisions to run away, and her interactions with others, illustrating her growth, resilience, and desire for freedom.

What themes are explored in 'Runaway' by Wendelin Van Draanen?

The novel explores themes of family conflict, self-identity, independence, resilience, and the challenges faced by young people trying to find their place in the world.

Is 'Runaway' suitable for young adult readers?

Yes, 'Runaway' is considered a young adult novel, addressing issues relevant to teenagers, including family struggles and personal growth.

Has 'Runaway' by Wendelin Van Draanen received any notable awards or recognition?

While 'Runaway' has been praised for its honest portrayal of teen struggles, it has not won major awards but remains popular among readers and educators for its relatable storytelling.

Additional Resources

Runaway: An In-Depth Analysis of Wendelin Van Draanen's Compelling Novel

Wendelin Van Draanen's *Runaway* stands out as a poignant and expertly crafted novel that delves into themes of self-discovery, resilience, and the complex nature of human relationships. As a notable entry in contemporary young adult literature, the book offers readers a compelling narrative woven with rich characters, authentic dialogue, and thought-provoking dilemmas. This article aims to provide an in-depth review and analysis of *Runaway*, examining its themes, characters, writing style, and overall impact, positioning it as a must-read for both young adults and seasoned literature enthusiasts.

Overview of Runaway: The Plot and Setting

Synopsis and Narrative Structure

Runaway follows the story of a teenage girl named Gabie, who finds herself caught in a whirlwind of circumstances that challenge her perceptions of family, identity, and belonging. The narrative is presented in a first-person perspective, allowing readers to intimately experience Gabie's internal struggles and evolving worldview.

The plot centers around Gabie's decision to run away from her home after a series of escalating conflicts with her mother. As she embarks on her journey, she encounters a series of characters and situations that test her resilience and shape her understanding of herself and others. The story unfolds with a mix of suspense, emotional depth, and moments of humor, creating a balanced and engaging reading experience.

The novel is structured around Gabie's physical journey and her internal emotional journey, intertwining her external experiences with her introspective reflections. This dual narrative approach ensures that readers are fully immersed in her world, understanding her motivations and fears at each step.

Setting and Atmosphere

Set against the backdrop of a small, seemingly idyllic town, Runaway contrasts the quiet exterior with the tumultuous inner life of its protagonist. The settings shift from familiar home environments to unfamiliar urban landscapes as Gabie runs away, highlighting her feelings of displacement and search for freedom.

The atmospheric details contribute significantly to the novel's mood. Van Draanen employs vivid descriptions of settings—from the comfort of Gabie's home to the starkness of city streets—to evoke empathy and tension. The contrasting environments serve as metaphors for Gabie's emotional states, emphasizing themes of confinement versus liberation.

Character Development and Themes

Gabie: The Protagonist's Journey

At the heart of Runaway is Gabie, a character whose depth and complexity make her both

relatable and compelling. She begins as a typical teenager with a sense of confusion and frustration toward her family life. Through her actions and reflections, readers witness her growth from a girl feeling trapped to someone seeking independence and self-understanding.

Van Draanen masterfully develops Gabie's character through:

- **Authentic Voice:** Her internal monologues and dialogue capture the nuances of adolescence, including insecurities, hopes, and defiance.
- **Growth Arc:** Her experiences challenge her assumptions about family, trust, and herself, leading to moments of vulnerability and strength.
- **Relatability:** Many young readers see parts of themselves in Gabie's struggles, making her journey impactful and memorable.

Supporting Characters and Their Roles

The novel introduces a diverse cast of supporting characters who influence Gabie's journey:

- **Mrs. Lopez:** A compassionate neighbor who offers guidance and understanding, representing kindness and community.
- **Tommy:** A rebellious friend who both challenges and supports Gabie, embodying the complexities of loyalty and peer influence.
- **Gabie's Mother:** A multifaceted character whose actions and motivations are gradually revealed, illustrating themes of misunderstanding and the need for empathy.

Each character serves to highlight different facets of Gabie's personality and the broader themes of the novel, such as forgiveness, trust, and the importance of human connection.

Major Themes Explored

Runaway explores several powerful themes that resonate deeply with readers:

- **Family and Dysfunction:** The novel examines the dynamics of family relationships, highlighting misunderstandings, conflicts, and the possibility of reconciliation.
- **Identity and Self-Discovery:** Gabie's journey is as much internal as external, emphasizing the importance of understanding oneself amid chaos.
- **Resilience and Courage:** Her decision to run away and face the unknown underscores themes of bravery and the human capacity to adapt.
- **Empathy and Judgment:** The story encourages readers to look beyond surface judgments and understand others' perspectives.

Van Draanen's nuanced treatment of these themes elevates the novel from a simple adventure to a profound exploration of adolescence.

Writing Style and Literary Techniques

Narrative Voice and Pacing

Van Draanen employs a compelling first-person narrative that immerses readers in Gabie's thoughts and feelings. Her language is accessible yet evocative, capturing the authenticity of teenage speech and thought processes. The pacing is well-balanced, with moments of tension interwoven with introspective pauses, maintaining engagement throughout the novel.

Use of Symbolism and Metaphor

The novel is rich with symbolism:

- The Runaway Itself: Represents a desire for independence and escape from emotional pain.
- The City Streets: Symbolize the chaos and unpredictability of life outside the comfort zone.
- Gabie's Reflection: Serves as a metaphor for self-awareness and growth.

Van Draanen's use of metaphor enhances thematic depth, allowing readers to interpret the story on multiple levels.

Dialogue and Character Interactions

The dialogue is naturalistic, capturing the nuances of teenage speech and adult conversations. It reveals character personalities, conflicts, and alliances, adding realism and emotional weight. The interactions often serve as pivotal moments that drive the plot forward or deepen character development.

Critical Reception and Impact

Reception Among Readers and Critics

Runaway has been lauded for its authentic portrayal of adolescence and its sensitive handling of complex issues. Critics have praised Van Draanen's skill in creating relatable characters and weaving a compelling narrative. Many reviewers highlight the novel's ability to evoke empathy and understanding, making it a valuable teaching tool in discussions

about family and personal growth.

Educational and Cultural Significance

The novel has been incorporated into many school curriculums due to its relevance and educational value. It encourages open discussions about family dynamics, mental health, and resilience. Its themes are universal, making it accessible to diverse audiences.

Moreover, Van Draanen's portrayal of a girl navigating her world contributes to broader conversations about gender and identity in young adult literature.

Overall Evaluation: Why Runaway Stands Out

Runaway exemplifies Van Draanen's mastery of storytelling, blending authentic characters, engaging plotlines, and meaningful themes. Its nuanced exploration of teenage life, coupled with accessible language and vivid imagery, ensures it remains a relevant and impactful read.

Strengths:

- Deeply developed protagonist with authentic voice
- Thought-provoking themes that resonate with young adults
- Realistic dialogue and rich character interactions
- Skillful use of symbolism to enhance thematic depth
- Balanced pacing that maintains reader engagement

Potential Considerations:

- Some readers might find the emotional intensity challenging
- The urban setting may not appeal to those preferring rural narratives

Conclusion:

In sum, Wendelin Van Draanen's Runaway is a compelling, thought-provoking novel that offers more than just entertainment—it provides insight into the struggles and triumphs of adolescence. Its expert craftsmanship in storytelling, character development, and thematic exploration make it a standout in contemporary young adult literature. Whether for educational purposes or personal reading, Runaway is a highly recommended title that will leave a lasting impression on its audience.

Runaway Wendelin Van Draanen

runaway wendelin van draanen: *Runaway* Wendelin Van Draanen, 2006 After running away from her fifth foster home, Holly, a twelve-year-old orphan, travels across the country, keeping a journal of her experiences and struggle to survive.

runaway wendelin van draanen: Flipped Wendelin Van Draanen, 2003-05-13 A classic he-said-she-said romantic comedy! This updated anniversary edition offers story-behind-the-story revelations from author Wendelin Van Draanen. The first time she saw him, she flipped. The first time he saw her, he ran. That was the second grade, but not much has changed by the seventh. Juli says: "My Bryce. Still walking around with my first kiss." He says: "It's been six years of strategic avoidance and social discomfort." But in the eighth grade everything gets turned upside down: just as Bryce is thinking that there's maybe more to Juli than meets the eye, she's thinking that he's not quite all he seemed. This is a classic romantic comedy of errors told in alternating chapters by two fresh, funny voices. The updated anniversary edition contains 32 pages of extra backmatter: essays from Wendelin Van Draanen on her sources of inspiration, on the making of the movie of *Flipped*, on why she'll never write a sequel, and a selection of the amazing fan mail she's received. Awards and accolades for *Flipped*: SLJ Top 100 Children's Novels of all time IRA-CBC Children's Choice IRA Teacher's Choice Honor winner, Judy Lopez Memorial Award/WNBA Winner of the California Young Reader Medal "We flipped over this fantastic book, its gutsy girl Juli and its wise, wonderful ending." — The Chicago Tribune "Van Draanen has another winner in this eighth-grade 'he-said, she-said' romance. A fast, funny, egg-cellent winner." — SLJ, Starred review "With a charismatic leading lady kids will flip over, a compelling dynamic between the two narrators and a resonant ending, this novel is a great deal larger than the sum of its parts." —Publishers Weekly, Starred review

runaway wendelin van draanen: Strong Girls, Strong World Dale Hanson Bourke, 2023 For too many girls in the world, life is brutally difficult. Even in relatively prosperous countries, girls face more challenges, are more subject to abuse, are less likely to thrive. In this practical and hope-filled book, journalist and advocate Dale Hanson Bourke examines the ways in which so many girls in the world are disadvantaged, highlights where progress is being made--and offers simple, practical steps we can take today to help. You can help girls thrive, right where you are. We all have power through our voices, time, influence, and resources. Choosing to use that power to help girls can and will make all the difference. *Strong Girls, Strong World* is a rallying cry for everyone who wants to understand how the world can be a better place and is willing to take even a small step to help girls soar.

runaway wendelin van draanen: 200 Themes for Devising Theatre with 11-18 Year Olds Jason Hanlan, 2024-02-22 Shortlisted for Outstanding Drama Education Resource at the 2025 Music & Drama Education Awards A unique resource for drama teachers providing 200 stimuli and age-appropriate individual topics within those to help inspire and guide young people in devising performance. It contains useful information on devising techniques, workshops, schemes and lesson ideas for introducing devising and guidance on how to analyse the work and give feedback. Following on from his successful book *200 Plays for GCSE and A-Level Performance*, author Jason Hanlan has once again solved one of drama teachers' most frequently encountered problems: how to unlock the best devised performance with their students. Devising as a group requires a level of collaboration, which - without a strong framework - often descends into wild flights of fancy and a myriad of dead ends. Excellent ideas can be lost or diluted in an often-awkward attempt to tie it all together to fit a narrative. The main body of this book is a unique numbered listing of 200 stimuli, designed to both inspire and focus the mind, with an example of a possible topic and 'ways in' that would be suitable for each level: Civil rights Each stimuli is given its own page dedicated to exploring its possibilities as a piece of devised theatre for different age groups, and offering suggestions for plays, films and books to look at; artefacts and images to examine; ideas to consider; and further research you can draw on.

runaway wendelin van draanen: The Peach Rebellion Wendelin Van Draanen, 2023-08-01

From the author of *The Running Dream* comes a heart-swelling historical tale of friendship, family, and the power of sisterhood to help heal the wounds of the past and step boldly into the future. Ginny Rose and Peggy were best friends at seven, picking peaches on hot summer days. Peggy's family owned the farm, and Ginny Rose's were pickers, escaping the Oklahoma dust storms. That didn't matter to them then, but now, ten years, hard miles, and a world war later, Ginny Rose's family is back in town and their differences feel somehow starker. Especially since Peggy's new best friend, Lisette, is a wealthy banker's daughter. Still, there's no denying what all three girls have in common: Families with great fissures that are about to break wide open. And a determination to not just accept things as they are anymore. This summer they will each make a stand. It's a season of secrets revealed. Of daring plans to heal old wounds. Of hearts won and hearts broken. A summer when everything changes because you're seventeen, and it's time to be bold. And because it's easier to be brave with a true friend by your side.

runaway wendelin van draanen: Strange Relations Sonia Levitin, 2009-04-14 A summer in paradise. That's all Marne wants. That's all she can think of when she asks her parents permission to spend the summer in Hawaii with Aunt Carole and her family. But Marne quickly realizes her visit isn't going to be just about learning to surf and morning runs along the beach, despite the cute surfer boy she keeps bumping into. For one thing, Aunt Carole isn't even Aunt Carole anymore—she's Aunt Chaya, married to a Chasidic rabbi and deeply rooted in her religious community. Nothing could be more foreign to Marne, and fitting into this new culture—and house full of kids—is a challenge. But as she settles into her newfound family's daily routine, she begins to think about spirituality, identity, and finding a place in the world in a way she never has before. This rich novel is a window into a different life and gets to the very heart of faith, identity, and family ties.

runaway wendelin van draanen: Sammy Keyes and the Wild Things Wendelin Van Draanen, 2008-12-09 The most winning junior detective ever in teen lit. (Take that, Nancy Drew!) —Midwest Children's Book Review This is not the summer camping trip of Sammy's dreams. She imagined shady glades, meandering streams, a deer or two. What she gets are scrubby shrubs, blazing sun, rattlesnakes, ticks, and scorpions. Her fellow campers are desperate to catch a rare glimpse of an endangered condor. To Sammy, the trip is nothing more than the painful in pursuit of the unspeakably ugly. But when she and two other girls find an injured condor, Sammy's intrigued at last. As they track down a clue, they stumble onto two classmates and wind up lost. Which leaves three girls and two boys in a canyon with one tent and six billion biting flies. Oh—and an armed and dangerous highstakes poacher. S'mores anyone? The Sammy Keyes mysteries are fast-paced, funny, thoroughly modern, and true whodunits. Each mystery is exciting and dramatic, but it's the drama in Sammy's personal life that keeps readers coming back to see what happens next with her love interest Casey, her soap-star mother, and her mysterious father.

runaway wendelin van draanen: The Running Dream Wendelin Van Draanen, 2012-01-10 When Jessica is told she'll never run again, she puts herself back together—and learns to dream bigger than ever before. The acclaimed author of *Flipped* delivers a powerful and healing story. Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? As she struggles to cope, Jessica feels that she's both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say act like she's not there. Jessica's embarrassed to realize that she's done the same to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her. With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself—she wants to take Rosa with her. "Inspirational. The pace of Van Draanen's prose matches Jessica's at her swiftest. Readers will zoom through the book just as Jessica blazes around the track. A lively and lovely story." —Kirkus Reviews

runaway wendelin van draanen: The Secret Life of Lincoln Jones Wendelin Van Draanen, 2018-05-29 A fresh and funny story about a boy learning to become the brave hero of his own life,

perfect for fans of *Counting by 7s* and *The Fourteenth Goldfish*. My secret life is filled with psychic vampires, wheelchair zombies, chain-rattlin' ghosts, and a one-eyed cat. But they're nothing compared to my real-life stalker: a sixth-grade girl named Kandi Kain. . . . Lincoln Jones is always working on the latest story he's got going in his notebook. Those stories are his refuge. A place where the hero always prevails and the bad guy goes to jail. Real life is messy and complicated, so Lincoln sticks to fiction and keeps to himself. Which works fine until a nosy girl at his new school starts prying into his private business. She wants to know what he's writing, where he disappears to after school, and why he never talks to anybody. . . . *The Secret Life of Lincoln Jones* is a terrifically funny and poignant story about a boy finding the courage to get to know the real characters all around him—and to let them know him. Praise for *The Secret Life of Lincoln Jones*: Winner of the Josette Frank Award Van Draanen's engaging story is characterized by clever writing, a palpable affection for her characters, and a deep understanding of what's important about life. Readers will love Lincoln Jones.—Kirkus Reviews Van Draanen skillfully wraps up her tale, offering a realistically happy ending. A story with a perfect balance of mirth and poignancy. -- School Library Journal Lincoln is a delightful narrator. -- Booklist

runaway wendelin van draanen: Mr. Whiskers and the Shenanigan Sisters Wendelin Van Draanen, 2024-11-19 Now in paperback! A paw-some new dog detective from an Edgar Award winning author. Mr. Whiskers is on the trail of a kidnapped dad, pirate treasure, and a place to call home... Mr. Whiskers is a street-wise stray dog with a nose for trouble and a fondness for two girls he calls the Shenanigan Sisters. So when Misty and Zelda's professor father is kidnapped, Mr. Whiskers follows that car, picking up vital clues. Then the two intrepid girls and one great dog follow the trail through the streets of San Francisco, discovering hidden passageways, buried secrets, and even pirate treasure. But will they be able to rescue Dad? You bet your best biscuit, they will! Wendelin Van Draanen's new mystery is the ulti-mutt kid-pleasing caper.

runaway wendelin van draanen: Confessions of a Serial Kisser Wendelin Van Draanen, 2009-12-22 Does the perfect kiss exist? This smart and funny modern romance from the author of *Flipped* explores the pleasures and perils of love. Perfect for fans of Jenny Han's *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*. Evangeline Logan wants a kiss. Not just any kiss—a "crimson kiss," like the one in a romance novel she's become obsessed with. But the path to perfection is paved with many bad kisses—the smash mouth, the ear licker, the "misser," the tentative tight lipper. The phrase "I don't kiss and tell" means nothing to the boys in her school. And worse: someone starts writing her name and number on bathroom walls. And worst of all: the boy she's just kissed turns out to be her best friend's new crush. Kissing turns out to be way more complicated than the romance novels would have you believe. . . . "Evangeline's strong, entertaining voice will pull plenty of readers, who will root for their heroine as she begins to piece together a grown-up life." —Booklist "The pacing is near-perfect: readers realize, just when Evangeline does, that it is not a kiss she is [really] after. In the end, the playful title and premise are matched by tender and convincing storytelling." —Publishers Weekly

runaway wendelin van draanen: Hope in the Mail Wendelin Van Draanen, 2021-09-28 Want to write a novel? This book is the motivation you need! Part writing guide and part memoir, this inspiring book from the author of *Flipped* and *The Running Dream* is like *Bird by Bird* for YA readers and writers. Wendelin Van Draanen didn't grow up wanting to be a writer, but thirty books later, she's convinced that writing saved her life. Or, at least, saved her from a life of bitterness and despair. Writing helped her sort out what she thought and felt and wanted. And digging deep into fictional characters helped her understand the real people in her life better as well. Wendelin shares what she's learned--about writing, life, and what it takes to live the writing life. This book is packed with practical advice on the craft: about how to create characters and plot a story that's exciting to read. But maybe even more helpful is the insight she provides into the persistence, and perseverance, it takes to live a productive, creative life. And she answers the age-old question Where do you get your ideas? by revealing how events in her own life became the seeds of her best-loved novels. *Hope in the Mail* is a wildly inspirational read for anyone with a story to share.

runaway wendelin van draanen: *Swear to Howdy* Wendelin Van Draanen, 2008-12-18 A funny friendship turns serious in this haunting book about secrets, lies, and what it means to be a true friend. "Rusty, I swear to howdy, if you tell a soul..." Joey Banks is a walking adventure. He's funny, daring, mischievous—and frequently in trouble. Or he would be if anyone found out about half the stuff he's done. But Rusty Cooper knows how to keep a secret. And Joey's the best friend he's ever had. But then comes a secret that is at once too terrible to tell and too terrible to keep. A secret so big it threatens to eat them alive. What would a true friend do now? Wendelin Van Draanen has written a richly layered book that offers a thought-provoking look at the boundaries of friendship and what it really means to be true.

runaway wendelin van draanen: *Sammy Keyes and the Sisters of Mercy* Wendelin Van Draanen, 2008-12-24 Sometimes it's hard to tell the saints from the sinners... Sammy was supposed to be in church to get out of trouble, not into more. But while she's at St. Mary's working off some school detention time, a valuable cross goes missing and Sammy becomes the prime suspect. She knows she's innocent, and also what it feels like to lose something important. Her treasured catcher's mitt has been stolen—heartless Heather must have taken it to throw Sammy off her game in the upcoming softball play-offs. Trouble is, it's working. Sammy needs that glove back. Throw in nuns in feather boas, a homeless girl in high-tops, a carrot-chomping dog, and a safe that needs cracking, and you've got just another week in the life of Sammy Keyes. Praise for the Sammy Keyes series: "Sammy Keyes is feisty, fearless, and funny. A top-notch investigator!" —New York Times bestselling author Sue Grafton "The sleuth delights from start to finish. Keep your binoculars trained on Sammy Keyes." —Publishers Weekly "Sammy Keyes is the hottest sleuth to appear in children's books since Nancy Drew."—The Boston Globe

runaway wendelin van draanen: *Wild Bird* Wendelin Van Draanen, 2019-01-22 From the award-winning author of *The Running Dream* and *Flipped* comes a remarkable portrait of a girl who has hit rock bottom but begins a climb back to herself at a wilderness survival camp. 3:47 a.m. That's when they come for Wren Clemmens. She's hustled out of her house and into a waiting car, then a plane, and then taken on a forced march into the desert. This is what happens to kids who've gone so far off the rails, their parents don't know what to do with them anymore. This is wilderness therapy camp. Eight weeks of survivalist camping in the desert. Eight weeks to turn your life around. Yeah, right. The Wren who arrives in the Utah desert is angry and bitter, and blaming everyone but herself. But angry can't put up a tent. And bitter won't start a fire. Wren's going to have to admit she needs help if she's going to survive. I read *Wild Bird* in one long, mesmerized gulp. Wren will break your heart—and then mend it. —Nancy Werlin, National Book Award finalist for *The Rules of Survival* Van Draanen's Wren is real and relatable, and readers will root for her. —VOYA, starred review

runaway wendelin van draanen: *Sammy Keyes and the Search for Snake Eyes* Wendelin Van Draanen, 2008-12-24 The most winning junior detective ever in teen lit. (Take that, Nancy Drew!) —Midwest Children's Book Review Sammy's softball team is in contention for the Junior Slugger's Cup, and all she wants to do is hunker down behind the home plate and catch strikes. But Heather Acosta brings new meaning to the term foul ball as she schemes to get Sammy kicked off the team. Then Sammy is thrown a wild pitch by a frantic girl at the mall. The girl asks Sammy to watch her bag and dashes off before Sammy discovers that the bag she's left holding contains a baby! When the girl doesn't return, Sammy decides to go find her. A heart-pounding search ensues, and leads to some situations that are definitely not covered in the softball playbook. The Sammy Keyes mysteries are fast-paced, funny, thoroughly modern, and true whodunits. Each mystery is exciting and dramatic, but it's the drama in Sammy's personal life that keeps readers coming back to see what happens next with her love interest Casey, her soap-star mother, and her mysterious father.

runaway wendelin van draanen: *Sammy Keyes and the Curse of Moustache Mary* Wendelin Van Draanen, 2001-02-13 The most winning junior detective ever in teen lit. (Take that, Nancy Drew!) —Midwest Children's Book Review When Sammy and her friends meet Lucinda Huntley walking her 200-pound pig down the middle of the road, their quiet weekend in the country quickly

becomes an adventure. Lucinda tells them a true tale of the Wild West, her great-grandma Moustache Mary, and a century-old family feud. But this feud is hardly ancient history. Past and present collide—and combust!—when Mary's pioneer cabin burns to the ground. Sammy thinks the cause of the fire may be a hundred years old, but still, the gas can she finds near the scene of the crime is shiny and new. . . . The Sammy Keyes mysteries are fast-paced, funny, thoroughly modern, and true whodunits. Each mystery is exciting and dramatic, but it's the drama in Sammy's personal life that keeps readers coming back to see what happens next with her love interest Casey, her soap-star mother, and her mysterious father.

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