



BOOK RESUME: THE STARS BENEATH OUR FEET

BOOK SYNOPSIS

It's Christmas Eve in Harlem, but twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul and his mom aren't celebrating. They're still reeling from his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting just a few months earlier. Then Lolly's mother's girlfriend brings him a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos. Lolly's always loved Legos, and he prides himself on following the kit instructions exactly. Now, faced with a pile of building blocks and no instructions, Lolly must find his own way forward.

His path isn't clear—and the pressure to join a "crew," as his brother did, is always there. When Lolly and his friend are beaten up and robbed, joining a crew almost seems like the safe choice. But building a fantastical Lego city at the community center provides Lolly with an escape—and an unexpected bridge back to the world.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Moore tells Lolly's story of survival with the right mix of humor and hope to balance violence, fear, denial and deprivation. That's a tall order. To succeed is a celebration. The power of adults as influencers and confidants, nurturing by words, deeds and acts of kindness large and small, fuels every page of this novel. It's a book in which art is celebrated, being different is an act of resistance, and acceptance, not resignation, is the answer." —*The New York Times*

★ "This well-honed debut novel paints a vivid picture of Lolly and the choices that he must make, but beyond that, it introduces a cast of memorable, fully realized characters, each of whom will stay with readers long beyond the closing page." —*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "Readers will marvel at the grandeur of what Lolly and Rose are able to build and learn together and will find comfort in the intimacy of Lolly's introspective narration." —*Bulletin*, starred review

★ "A debut that serves as a powerful instructive for writing from and reading the intersections—125th Street-size intersections for all readers to enjoy." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "Debut author Moore delivers a realistic and at times brutal portrait of life for young people of color who are living on the edge of poverty. At the same time, Moore infuses the story with hope and aspiration, giving Lolly the chance to find salvation through creativity." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

Title: The Stars Beneath Our Feet

Author: David Barclay Moore

Imprint: Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

Publisher: Random House Children's Books

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ISBN: 9781524701246 and 9781524701277

Format: Hardcover and Paperback

Age Range*: 10 Up

Grade Range: Gr 5 Up
(Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

★"Moore's work with the Harlem Children's Zone and Quality Services for the Autism Community serve him well in creating this debut, slice-of-life narrative with an authentic adolescent voice and strong adult supports, all of whom are true to their urban world." —VOYA, starred review

★"Magnificent." —*Shelf Awareness*, starred review

"Realistic problems and vivid depictions of family and city life make this middle-grade debut stand out." —*Booklist*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Winner A Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award
- Selection A YALSA Quick Pick
- Selection An ALA Notable Book
- A Publisher's Weekly Best Book of the Year
- A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year
- A Shelf Awareness Best Book of the Year
- Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award
- Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award
- Indiana Young Hoosier Book Award
- North Carolina NCSLMA YA Book Award
- Tennessee Volunteer State Book Awards
- Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award
- Wisconsin 2018-2019 Read On Wisconsin Book Club, Grades PK-12

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Interview with David Barclay Moore](#)
- [NPR Interview](#)
- [The Horn Book Interview](#)
- [Educators' Guide](#)

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