



***Summer of Brave* by Amy Noelle Parks**

Albert Whitman & Company, 2021

ISBN: 9780807576601 (HC); 9780807576700 (PB)

*Age Range: 9–12 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: Gr 5-8 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A heartfelt coming-of-age story set in the time of academic pressure, divorce, and the #MeToo movement.

Twelve-year-old Lilla Baxter-Willoughby doesn't lie. She's just a little bit...selective. To keep her parents happy, Lilla hides how much she hates moving back and forth between their houses, and she stomps down her doubts about that elite high school they're pushing her toward. To keep peace with her best friend Vivi, Lilla doesn't share that she got the junior camp counselor job that Vivi wanted. And even though—no, especially because—he seems into it, Lilla does not tell the boy she grew up with about all the little sparks that flared up inside her the day she noticed his Suddenly Adorable Freckles.

So when Vivi dares Lilla to start telling the truth as part of their Summer of Brave, Lilla hesitates. Because if she says out loud what she really wants, her whole life might crash down around her. And she doesn't need that. Except maybe she does.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

“With compassion, wry humor, and pinpoint accuracy, Parks weaves the multiple challenges facing adolescent girls into a compelling, seamless narrative. Timely, insightful, and highly recommended.” —[Kirkus Reviews](#) starred review

“[W]hile the novel starts out as a friendship and family story, it takes a strong turn midway through to address street harassment and standing up to people who make work and other situations feel scarier than they should. This story line adds depth and allows Lilla to shine through and grow as a character while providing an excellent example for middle grade readers of how to speak up when that is the scariest thing imaginable...A first purchase for middle grade collections as well as book clubs for this age range.” —[School Library Journal](#) starred review

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Junior Library Guild Selection
- School Library Journal Best Middle Grade Books 2021
- Kirkus Best Middle-Grade Family Stories of 2021
- The Best Children's Books of the Year 2022, Bank Street College

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***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that 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 age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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