



**Freeing Finch by Ginny Rorby**

Starscape, Tor Publishing Group, 2020

ISBN: 9781250293749 (Trade Paperback)

\*Age Range: 10-14 (Suggested by Publisher)

---

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

From Ginny Rorby, the author of *Hurt Go Happy*, winner of ALA's Schneider Family Book Award, comes *Freeing Finch*, the inspiring story of a transgender girl and a stray dog who overcome adversity to find love, home, and a place to belong.

When her father leaves and her mother passes away soon afterward, Finch can't help feeling abandoned. Now she's stuck living with her stepfather and his new wife. They're mostly nice, but they don't believe the one true thing Finch knows about herself: that she's a girl, even though she was born in a boy's body.

Thankfully, she has Maddy, a neighbor and animal rescuer who accepts her for who she is. Finch helps Maddy care for a menagerie of lost and lonely creatures, including a scared, stray dog who needs a family and home as much as she does. As she earns the dog's trust, Finch realizes she must also learn to trust the people in her life—even if they are the last people she expected to love her and help her to be true to herself.

---

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Note to readers: get tissues ready—there couldn't have been more tears!"—Terry Hong, *Booklist Reader*

"No matter their gender identity, young readers will identify with Finch's struggle to find the relationships she needs to heal her grief and to be who she knows she is in a sometimes scary world. Finch discovers, in her struggle to find the support she needs after her loving mother dies, that forcing the connections we think we need can make us miss the special ones we already have. Finch's story is *The Higher Power of Lucky* meets *Shiloh*."—Tim Capehart, children's librarian and head of youth services at Dayton Metro Library, author of *Shadowangel* and *Summer Stranger than Fiction*, and two-time Newbery Medal selection committee member

---

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Unleashing Readers Author Interview](#)

---

## \*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.

**Updated August 19, 2025**

Anthony Parisi

Anthony.Parisi@Tor.com