



Make Lemonade (Make Lemonade, Book 1)

By Virginia Euwer Wolff

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Make Lemonade (Make Lemonade, Book 1) By Virginia Euwer Wolff

An award-winning novel about growing up and making choices

Virginia Euwer Wolff's groundbreaking novel, written in free verse, tells the story of fourteen-year-old LaVaughn, who is determined to go to college?she just needs the money to get there. When she answers a babysitting ad, LaVaughn meets Jolly, a seventeen-year-old single mother with two kids by different fathers. As she helps Jolly make lemonade out of the lemons her life has given her, LaVaughn learns some lessons outside the classroom.

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Make Lemonade (Make Lemonade, Book 1) By Virginia Euwer Wolff Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Poetry is everywhere, as Wolff (*The Mozart Season*) proves by fashioning her novel with meltingly lyric blank verse in the voice of an inner-city 14-year-old. As LaVaughn tells it, "This word COLLEGE is in my house, / and you have to walk around it in the rooms / like furniture." A paying job will be her ticket out of the housing projects, so she agrees to baby-sit the two children of unwed Jolly, 17, in an apartment so wretched "even the roaches are driven up the wall." Jolly is fired from her factory job and her already dire situation gets worse. Through her "Steam" (aka self-esteem) class, LaVaughn decides that it isn't honorable to use Jolly's money to prevent herself becoming like Jolly, so she watches the kids for free while Jolly looks for work. But there are few opportunities for a nearly illiterate dropout, and LaVaughn sees that her unpaid baby-sitting is a form of welfare. Heeding her mother, LaVaughn decides that the older girl has to "take hold." She prods Jolly to go back to school, where the skills she learns not only change her life but save that of her baby. Radiant with hope, this keenly observed and poignant novel is a stellar addition to YA literature. Ages 11-14.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 7-12-Narrator Heather Simms brings to life 14-year-old LaVaughn, a powerful character in the novel by Virginia Euwer Wolff (Holt, 1993). Living in the projects but determined to be the first person in her family to go on to college, LaVaughn takes a job babysitting for Jolly, the teenage mother of two-year-old Jeremy and baby Jilly, whose life is the epitome of disorganization. With warmth, humor, and a voice blending street smarts and innocent naivete, Simms' melodious words draw listeners into the world of unwed parenthood, the struggle for a better life, and the deepening friendship between LaVaughn and Jolly. Written in the first person, the 66 short chapters of this powerful coming-of-age story portray life in all its gritty and sometimes heartbreaking reality, while at the same time conveying a message of inspiration and hope captured in the saying "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Wolff's writing leaves listeners with no option but to root enthusiastically for both LaVaughn and Jolly, and to rush to the shelves for the sequel, *True Believer* (Atheneum, 2001). This stunning work belongs in every public and high school library.

Cindy Lombardo, Orrville Public Library, OH

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From Kirkus Reviews

Wolff follows her rich portrait of a gifted young musician (*The Mozart Season*, 1991, ALA Notable) with a spare, beautifully crafted depiction of a 14-year-old whose goal of escaping poverty is challenged by friendship with a single teenage mother. With the support of her widowed mom, who's always made ends meet, LaVaughn sets her sights on college but knows she'll have to come up with the money herself. Taking a job caring for Jolly's babies while Jolly works, she's soon enmeshed in the young woman's problems--especially after Jolly is fired for spurning a harassing boss. Deeply concerned for the feckless, near-illiterate 17-year-old's welfare, LaVaughn is tempted to give her the money she's saved; yet (as marvelously encapsulated in LaVaughn's internal debate) she makes the tough decision that "That won't help...I feel very mixed but my eyes stay steady." With difficulty (Jolly's too proud to ask for welfare and fears losing her children), she persuades her to enter a high-school program for young mothers. It's best for both--Jolly begins to "take hold" of her life--but bittersweet: while LaVaughn's grades go back up, she must relinquish her beloved charges. LaVaughn's narrative--brief, sometimes ungrammatical sentences in uneven lines, like verse--is in a credible teenage voice suited to readers like Jolly herself; yet it has the economy and subtlety of

poetry. These girls could be from more than one ethnic group and almost any inner city--the setting is deliberately vague; but their troubles--explored in exquisite specificity--are universal. Hopeful--and powerfully moving. (Fiction. 10+) -- *Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Miller:

Exactly why? Because this Make Lemonade (Make Lemonade, Book 1) is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap it but latter it will shock you with the secret this inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such amazing way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have got such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking way. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Thomas Schulz:

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Frankie Evans:

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Beulah Scherr:

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for the Make Lemonade (Make Lemonade, Book 1) when you necessary it?

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