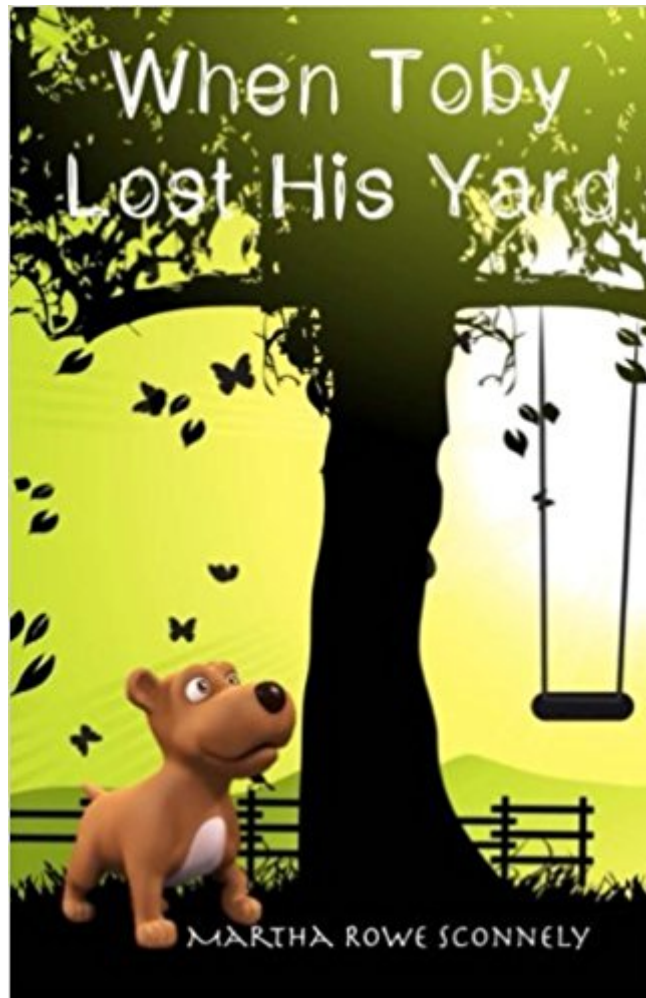




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When Toby Lost His Yard



Synopsis

Taylor Williams is like every other eighth grader... mostly. She has two annoying younger brothers who are obsessed with all sorts of animals. She's starting to notice boys... one in particular is catching her eye. She's facing a mountain of school work, her fear of dancing, oh, and the possibility that her parents might lose their home. In the midst of all this, it is an unlikely friendship with a neighborhood dog named Toby that binds her to her past in Bent Oaks, but likewise, helps her face her future outside of it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Taylor (13) and her family move to Bent Oaks where they end up with Toby, a mostly black English shepherd, through a series of events. Austin is Taylor's escort for her first Upper School Dance. He is a true gentleman and treats her as a boy should a girl. What is going to happen to Austin and Toby when Taylor's dad loses his job and they have to move? Sadly, this story doesn't really have what I would consider a satisfactory ending. We do hear what happens to Toby but it leaves you wondering about the rest. This book is not what I was expecting given the title of the book. Although the story starts and ends with Toby being one of the main characters, the storyline kind of wanders into family issues and Taylor's first boyfriend, Austin in the middle. The author states that this book is for 8-10 year olds but parts of this story are not suitable for that age group. As a parent, I am not going to read a book about a young couple kissing/dating to children of that age. At this time I have an 11 year old boy whose hormones are just beginning to kick in and certainly do not need to be encouraged by reading this! Please note there is nothing dirty in this book at all, it is just young

"love" being explored but I think this story is more suited for older children who then may find some of the rest of the book a little mundane. The positives of this book is that this is a family grounded in the Christian faith. We hear that when something doesn't go as Taylor would like, she keeps quoting Romans 8:28. Austin, as I have already mentioned, treats Taylor and the rest of the family with genuine respect. When Dad loses his job, the family bands together to help out so the example shown is EXCELLENT and cannot be faulted. It is also well written in the fact that there are no spelling errors etc. so there are a good many pluses but I am not sure they outweigh the "negatives" for me hence only a 3 star rating. Please note that I was given this book with no obligation to post a review. What I have written are my own thoughts and honest opinion.

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