



How to Steal a Dog: A Novel

By Barbara O'Connor

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Half of me was thinking, Georgina, don't do this. Stealing a dog is just plain wrong. The other half of me was thinking, Georgina, you're in a bad fix and you got to do whatever it takes to get yourself out of it.

Georgina Hayes is desperate. Ever since her father left and they were evicted from their apartment, her family has been living in their car. With her mama juggling two jobs and trying to make enough money to find a place to live, Georgina is stuck looking after her younger brother, Toby. And she has her heart set on improving their situation. When Georgina spots a missing-dog poster with a reward of five hundred dollars, the solution to all her problems suddenly seems within reach. All she has to do is "borrow" the right dog and its owners are sure to offer a reward. What happens next is the last thing she expected.

How to Steal a Dog is a 2008 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year. This title has Common Core connections.

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How to Steal a Dog: A Novel By Barbara O'Connor Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 3-7— Georgina and her family have been living in their car since her father left and they were evicted from their apartment. Mama is working two jobs to earn rent money and trying hard to hold things together. Desperate to help out, Georgina decides to steal a dog for the reward money, laying out the details of her plan in a diary. However, the dog's owner can't afford to offer a reward, and Georgina ends up feeling sorry for the lonely woman. The girl also makes friends with another adult named Mookie, a kindhearted wanderer who is camped out at the abandoned house where she is keeping the dog. He shares his wisdom and offers help, whether she wants it or not. Georgina's narrative is honest and deeply touching, as she recounts how she and her brother try to survive their circumstances. Washing off in a gas station restroom and turning in grease-stained homework become fairly normal occurrences. Readers will identify with the agony and the embarrassment caused by being different, as well as Georgina's struggles with her conscience. The book's endearing humor smoothes out the more poignant moments, and the unfolding events will keep youngsters totally engaged. The gem in the story is Mookie, who manages to sparkle even when sadness threatens to devour the moment. Though set inside a heavy topic, this novel's gentle storytelling carries a theme of love and emphasizes what is really right in the world.—*Robyn Gioia, Bolles School, Ponte Vedra, FL*

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From [Booklist](#)

One day Georgina has a home, a best friend, and plenty to eat. The next, she's living in a car with her mother and brother. Carrying on as usual isn't possible: washing up in a restaurant bathroom, doing homework by flashlight, losing her friend. Mom works two jobs, but it's not enough, so impatient Georgina decides to steal a dog, hoping to collect a reward. She picks her furry victim and makes careful plans—but she doesn't count on her conscience. In stripped-down, unsentimental prose, Georgina tells her own story, her words making clear her vulnerability and heartbreak as well as her determination and pride. It's puzzling why Mom doesn't seek outside help for her desperate family, and the appearance of wise Mookie, a sort of transient *deus ex machina*, verges on excess. Yet in the end, this is truly Georgina's story, and to O'Connor's great credit, it's Georgina herself who figures out what's right and does it. The myriad effects of homelessness and the realistic picture of a moral quandary will surely generate discussion. *Stephanie Zvirin*
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Review

“Will keep youngsters totally engaged. This novel's gentle storytelling carries a theme of love and emphasizes what is really right in the world.” *School Library Journal, Starred Review*

“This is truly Georgina's story, and to O'Connor's great credit, it's Georgina herself who figures out what's right and does it. The myriad effects of homelessness and the realistic picture of moral quandary will surely generate discussion.” *Booklist*

“A suspenseful and achingly realistic story.” *Kirkus Reviews*

“O'Connor knows how to spin a touching story, and reading this novel is its own reward.” *The Horn Book*

“O'Connor once again smoothly balances challenging themes with her heroine's strength and sense of humor.” *Publishers Weekly*

“Will give a more privileged audience much to ponder.” *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

“A must-have for a classroom library.” *IRA*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sally Watts:

This book untitled *How to Steal a Dog: A Novel* to be one of several books which best seller in this year, here is because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book store or you can order it through online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, since you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this book from your list.

Carol Pyles:

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their very own reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the story that share in the books. But also they write about advantage about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write to the book. One of them is this *How to Steal a Dog: A Novel*.

Richard Dutton:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read any book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the entire day to reading a publication. The book *How to Steal a Dog: A Novel* it is very good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

Jay Klein:

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fantastic as the outside as well as cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly direct you to pick up this book.

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