



The Star Shepherd

Dan Haring

MarcyKate Connolly

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In Dan Haring and MarcyKate Connolly's fantasy novel with elements of a mystery and a touch of magic, *The Star Shepherd*, a boy races to save the stars before their light is forever extinguished.

Ever since Kyro's mother died, his father has been obsessed with the night sky. He is a Star Shepherd—one of the few who make it their life's duty to rehang fallen stars before they go out. But times have changed since the Elders first gave their hearts to the sky, and the Shepherds are met with increasing hostility.

Kyro is tired of the villagers' mistrust and his father's distance. A series of mysterious events force him to embark on a dangerous journey with his trusty dog and spunky best friend to try and stop those who want darkness to return. Kyro wrestles with his identity in an engaging way, while kindhearted Andra illustrates the power of friendship and importance of making the right, if not popular, choice.

The book's action enhances each of the novel's themes and speaks to the importance of perseverance. All of Kyro's battles and quests are centered on saving the stars, but it becomes apparent that true light comes from within, and is all about personal willingness to make sacrifices. The writing is direct and short on descriptions; illustrations fill in the gaps.

Uplifting and inviting from beginning to end, *The Star Shepherd* is a fantasy that's focused on kindness, courage, and constellations of possibilities.

VIVIAN TURNBULL (September / October 2019)

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