

Fearless

By Tim Lott

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A Whitbread Award-winning novelist tells a chilling dystopian tale about a heroic girl prepared to risk everything in the pursuit of justice.

In the not-too-distant future, the world is safe from terrorists, the streets are clean, and girls labeled "juvies" or "mindcrips" have been hidden away behind the smartly painted exterior of the City Community Faith School. Their birth names are forgotten and replaced with a letter and number, but they give each other nicknames like Tattle or Stench or Little Fearless. As they slave away at chores, Little Fearless, who is actually the bravest girl in the school, tells the other girls stories, stories about the day their families will return for them. Little Fearless's own hope and conviction spur her on a dangerous adventure — a bold and unthinkable plan that will either save the imprisoned girls or mean the end of Little Fearless herself, or both.

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Fearless By Tim Lott Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2028554 in Books
- Published on: 2007-10-09
- Released on: 2007-10-09
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.98" h x 1.02" w x 5.79" l, .99 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 272 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

The girl could hear sobbing in the front room. Her mother was always crying about something or other, so the girl didn't take much notice. She just kept staring at the vidscreen in the corner of her bedroom. It was playing a vacation ad, all blue sea and white waves and sand like a field of honey. She wished she could just climb into the vidscreen and stretch

out on the sand, dip her toes into the water, and never return. She would stay there and watch the world from the other side of the screen.

Then the knocking on the front door began. The girl thought that was odd, because they had a perfectly good doorbell. The knock seemed almost like a message. It went rap-rap-rappety-rap, as if it was a friend or a neighbor who always did their own special knock. But friends never came after dark, and the neighbors kept to themselves.

The girl heard a noise behind her. She turned and saw her mother. A dark birthmark the size of a fingernail and the shape of a star protruded from her hairline. Her cheeks were still damp from crying; her eyes were red and scrunched up like meat from a butcher's shop. She hadn't answered the door. Instead she lifted the girl up and pressed their faces together. The girl kissed her mother and tasted salt. Her mother smiled, as if to tell her that everything was OK. Then she said she had some presents for her. The girl didn't understand. Her birthday was months away.

Her mother produced a small cloth bag and brought out three objects. The first was a picture of the girl's grandmother and grandfather, mounted in a bronze frame. Her grandfather wore a black suit with a cravat, and her grandmother wore a long pale dress and a floppy dark hat.

The second was a beautiful old silver watch with a fine leather strap that she said had once belonged to the girl's father. She said she ought to have something to remind her that she did once have a father.

Finally she gave the girl one more thing: a golden locket containing a tiny photograph of her mother on her wedding day. She hung it gravely around the girl's neck. Then she put the framed photo and the watch back into the little cloth bag, handed it to the girl, and kissed her.

The knock on the door came again, louder this time. Rap-rap-rappety-rap.

Her mother left the room. The girl heard the door catch being released, and then her mother began to shout. She heard a man's voice, stern and official sounding.

A few seconds later, a man wearing a uniform and a black peaked cap walked into the girl's room and, without a word, lifted her up. She could hear her mother crying. The man didn't pause to let her say good-bye to her mother. He started to carry her down the stairs. The girl went limp. She felt unable to speak.

The door closed behind her. Then she heard her mother's voice through the thin panel of wood.

"The locket. Read the words. Never forget the words on the locket."

In the harsh light of the street, the girl studied the back of the locket. She could just make out three lines of

faint engraving. The girl pushed the locket inside her blouse and closed her eyes. She didn't resist as the man bundled her into the back of the ugly gray car with no side windows, started the engine and drove away into the darkness.

FEARLESS by Tim Lott. Copyright (c) 2007 by Tim Lott. Published by Candlewick Press, Inc., Cambridge, MA. "Powerful, haunting, and utterly original. . . . I think it will become an immediate children's classic." — Jacqueline Wilson, British Children's Laureate

About the Author

Tim Lott has written many books for adults, including *WHITE CITY BLUE*, winner of the Whitbread First Novel Award, and *RUMOURS OF A HURRICANE*, short-listed for the Whitbread Novel Award.

FEARLESS is his first novel for young readers. He lives in London.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Coleen Isabel:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book might be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the publication untitled Fearless can be excellent book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Reta Zimmer:

The reason? Because this Fearless 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 the idea inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such wonderful way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking means. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Kayla Congdon:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book specifically book entitled Fearless your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unknown for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a publication then become one type conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get previous to. The Fearless giving you yet another experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful data for your better life in this particular era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

April Harry:

You will get this Fearless by browse the bookstore or Mall. Just simply viewing or reviewing it can to be your solve problem if you get difficulties for the knowledge. Kinds of this book are various. Not only by written or printed but also can you enjoy this book by e-book. In the modern era just like now, you just looking of your mobile phone and searching what their problem. Right now, choose your personal ways to get more information about your publication. It is most important to arrange you to ultimately make your knowledge are still update. Let's try to choose proper ways for you.

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