



Follow the Stars Home: A Novel

By Luanne Rice

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Follow the Stars Home: A Novel By Luanne Rice

Acclaimed novelist Luanne Rice "touches the deepest, most tender corners of the heart" (Tami Hoag, author of **A Thin Dark Line**). Her stories remind us how precious and fragile life can be—and that we must risk our hearts every day to know happiness. **Follow the Stars Home** is just such a novel: a story of poignancy and heartbreak, grace and courage.

Being a good mother is never simple: each day brings new choices and challenges. For Dianne Robbins, being a devoted single mother has resulted in her greatest joy and her darkest hours. Weeks before her daughter was born, she and her husband, Tim McIntosh, received the news every parent fears. Tim had not reckoned on their child being anything less than perfect, and abruptly fled to a solitary existence on the sea, leaving Dianne with a newborn—almost alone.

It was Tim's brother, Alan, the town pediatrician, who stood by Dianne and her exceptional daughter. Throughout years of waiting, watching, and caring, Alan hid his love for his brother's wife. But one of the many hard choices Dianne has made is to close her heart toward any man—especially one named McIntosh. It will take a very special twelve-year-old to remind them all that love comes in many forms and can be received with as much grace as it is given.

As lyrical and moving as the poetry of nature, **Follow the Stars Home** is a miracle of storytelling that will take your breath away. If words alone can dare us to confront our fears and to choose joy over sorrow, then Luanne Rice's magnificent novel is a benediction and a call to celebrate our lives.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

With a startling sensitivity for human tragedy and the ability of the heart to heal, Luanne Rice has written a moving account of one woman's internal journey in *Follow the Stars Home*. Married young to Tim McIntosh, a passionate and charismatic fisherman with a troubled heart, Dianne Robbins expects a future full of happiness, security, and love. But when tests reveal that their unborn baby is severely disabled, Tim sails off for calmer waters. Faced with the responsibilities of raising her daughter Julia, Dianne finds support in Tim's brother Alan and her own mother Lucinda.

A decade later, Dianne has mastered the demands of nursing Julia and swears her life is completely fulfilled by these tasks. When Alan introduces Amy Brooks, a young and troubled girl, into Dianne's life, Dianne finds her heart opening and stretching in new and positive ways. As her mother Lucinda explains, "The biggest mistake any of us can make is thinking that love is a feeling, an emotion. It's not that at all. It's an action." And Dianne struggles over the choice to love again.

Beautifully written with exquisite moments of tranquility, *Follow the Stars Home* describes the multiple ways that love can be acted. With a dash of suspense included, this novel will keep readers' fingers flipping through the pages as fast as they can. --Nancy R.E. O'Brien

From Publishers Weekly

Sufferers are transformed by the transcendent power of love in Rice's (Cloud Nine) uplifting if flawed new family relationship drama. Life has not proved easy for single mom Dianne Robbins, of Gull Point, Conn. Abandoned by her husband, lobsterman Tim McIntosh, just before their daughter Julia was born with spina bifida and Rett syndrome--a debilitating physical condition and an autism-like disorder, respectively--Dianne supports herself and Julia by building children's playhouses. At the age of 11, Julia weighs 29 pounds, and there is no guarantee she will live much longer; yet she has a magical radiance. Despite the difficulties of caring for a severely disabled child, Dianne is never bitter, and her relationship with Julia is hope filled and loving. Dianne had also believed that her strong love would repair Tim's damaged self-esteem and save their marriage. Now she is wary of getting involved with a man again. But Tim's brother, Alan, who also happens to be Julia's pediatrician, has been secretly in love with Dianne for years, and his steadfast devotion may be just what she needs. Meanwhile, Amy Brook, an adorable 12-year-old from a troubled family (and a familiar device in Rice's novels), finds sanctuary in the Robbins household and becomes Julia's best friend; through Amy's example, Dianne finally understands what true love means. The author takes an unaccustomed shortcut when she reveals the plot's conclusion through heretofore silent Julia's thoughts. Had Rice interwoven Julia's reactions throughout the book, the final chapter would not seem a quick device to tie up loose ends. Still, the novel's theme--love's miraculous ability to heal--has the ingredients to warm readers' hearts. Major ad/promo. (Feb.) FYI: Rice's Cloud Nine will be released as a mass market paperback in January.

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From Library Journal

Dianne Robbins is a devoted single mother whose daughter, Julia, was born with spina bifida and Rett syndrome. Unfortunately Dianne's strength and devotion were not mirrored by her husband, Tim, who fled upon hearing the news of their daughter's condition. Fortunately, Tim's brother, Alan, is the local pediatrician. While Dianne struggles to care for Julia, Alan struggles to hide his growing feelings for his brother's former wife. Overwhelmed by the responsibilities of caring for her daughter, Dianne has no time

for men, especially those who look like her ex-husband. Drawn together by Julia's worsening condition and their love for her, Dianne and Alan work to overcome their past. Rice (Cloud Nine) has once again created a tender story of a new family unit, where love and loyalty are more important than biology and where learning to trust again opens the door to happiness. Recommended for public libraries.

-Kathy Ingels Helmond, Indianapolis-Marion Cty. P.L.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Martin Sanchez:

This Follow the Stars Home: A Novel book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This particular Follow the Stars Home: A Novel without we comprehend teach the one who looking at it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Follow the Stars Home: A Novel can bring once you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even cell phone. This Follow the Stars Home: A Novel having very good arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

Homer Smith:

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Jonathan Sanders:

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