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# Once Upon A Toad



## Synopsis

A girl gets into a mouthful of trouble in this "toadally" fractured fairy tale, from the author of the Mother-Daughter Book Club series. Once upon a time, Cat Starr lived with her astronaut mom in Houston. But when her mother gets sent on a long-term mission, Cat has to move to a faraway land—her dad's house, halfway across the country—and share a room with her real-life evil stepsister, Olivia. Just when Cat can't take it anymore, Great Aunt Abyssinia comes to the rescue. And things go from bad to cursed. The next morning, Cat opens her mouth and a toad hops out! What's more, when Olivia speaks, diamonds and flowers appear. How unfair is that? Before you can say "happily ever after," the girls are on the run from jewel thieves and a government agency. Can Cat save the day—and get rid of all those toads? This is an enchanting fractured fairy tale from acclaimed Mother-Daughter Book Club author Heather Vogel Frederick.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760 (What's this?)

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (April 23, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416984798

ISBN-13: 978-1416984795

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.9 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #443,671 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #101 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Stepfamilies #4357 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths #7535 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4—Cat Starr is a 12-year-old bassoon player from Houston, TX, whose mother is an astronaut on the International Space Station. Sent to live with her father in Oregon while her mother is in space, Cat struggles to get along with stepsister Olivia and her friends. When her

great-aunt Abyssinia shows up unexpectedly, strange things start happening to the girls, leading to a kidnapping, a robbery, evil government agents, and a fairy godmother. Frederick gives new life to an old story by creating believable characters in this modern-day fairy tale. Known for her popular "Mother-Daughter Book Club" series, the author explores the difficulties of a blended family with comedic plotlines and witty dialogue. Narrator Tara Sands adds her own flair with great character voices. VERDICT This delightful offering is recommended for middle grade listeners who enjoy updated fairy tales. ["For fans of fantasy and fairy tales, this is a gem": SLJ 5/12 review of the S. & S. book.]  
—Alice Davidson, Indianapolis --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

"For fans of fantasy and fairy tales, this is a gem."—"School Library Journal""In this enjoyable twist on a Charles Perrault fairy tale . . . Frederick keeps readers entertained with an action-packed, zany plot and an even wackier cast." --"The Horn Book Magazine""Recommended for fans of pure wackiness." ---Booklist"Fans of Frederick's "The Mother-Daughter Book Club" should thoroughly enjoy this modern version of an old fairy tale." --"Library Media Connection""A light-hearted read, sure to entertain no matter what your taste--flowery or toad-ally gross."--Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan

This book is so great! I read the Mother Daughter Book Club books and Absolutely Truly, and they were all really good so when I heard about this book I thought, oh, well it's by Heather Vogel Frederick so it should be good. And I was right!! It's better than good though, it's awesome. I would recommend this for 9-13 year old girls because nothing inappropriate happens or anything. I'm 13 and I liked it. The main story is this: a girl named Cat, who's 12, has to go live with her dad, stepmom, stepsister, and half brother in Oregon for three months while her mother (who's an astronaut) is in space on a last minute mission. A bunch of weird stuff happens to her and Olivia (that's her stepsister) and they have to figure out why and how to stop it. That's about all I can say without giving the ending away. But if you like mysteries and adventure books then you should read this! If you've already read it, and liked it, then you might like the Willow Falls series by Wendy Mass (and others by her) or Absolutely Truly by Heather Vogel Frederick, or Best Friend Next Door by Carolyn Mackler. I hope this helped :)

We love Heather Vogel Frederick as an author. We were first introduced to her through her Mother Daughter Book Club Series. This was another hit with my teenage daughter who is an avid reader. It was very funny and a great read. It's tough to find good, happy, positive books these days for

teenagers to read (girls or boys). During school she is required to read so much that is heavy and dark, we really work to find books that are upbeat and positive or just plain fun for down time reading. This hit the spot!

What do two step-sisters who despise each other and are forced to sleep in the same bedroom end up having in common when one of the sister's mothers has to go on a trip to the international Space Station before her twelfth birthday and she forgets to tell her the real story about Great Aunt Aby? Why after Aunt Aby's visit is Cat having toads come from from her mouth every time she speaks and her nasty step-sister has flower's and diamonds? Everything seems to just get worse for Cat and the toads keep coming from her mouth while her step sister becomes Diamond Girl. The resolution to this story is a fun pack adventure. As the two girls battle out the toads, flowers and diamonds and try and avoid a trip to Area 51. This is a great and fun read!

This author does such a great job with these books.

Wow that book was a lot different than I thought it would be! When I pictured once upon a toad I saw it completely differently!!!

I LOVE LOVE LOVE THIS BOOK!!!! Heather vogel fredericks works are absolutely stunning!!! To everyone who questions whether or not to get this book I say that without this book you will be lost.all of her books are amaxing. this book and the series: the mother daughter book club is the best series ever!!!! I wish it didnt have to end. i wish heather vogel frederick would make books or even short storys from like annabelles (a.k.a stinkerbelle) or stewarts or even the moms point of view!!! if you meaning heather is reading this feel free to use these ideas. just put this reviewon tge front or vack of the book please or i can write a more professional one thx-fan of books everywhere!!!!

Thoroughly enjoyed this magical-realism fairy tale retelling. A very well-done Portland setting, and adults who are there but don't interfere overmuch. I would really like that necklace, sans magical powers. This book is definitely going on the gifts-for-nieces list.

I love the writing style. It's such a fun idea. I love how she worked 'Area 51' into the plot! A great read for tween girls.

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