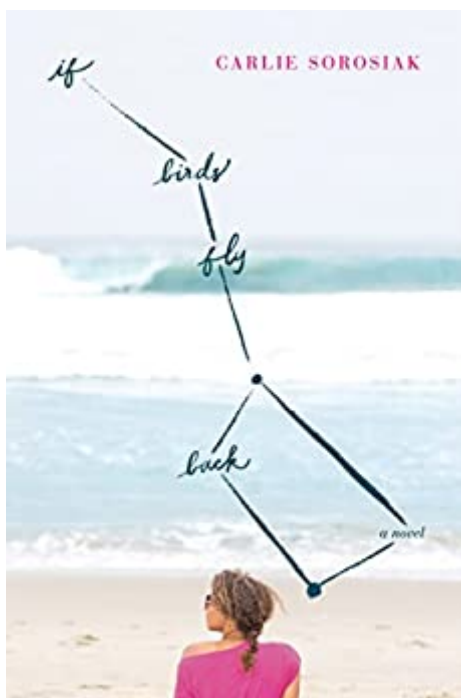


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# If Birds Fly Back



## Synopsis

A sparkling debut about love, family, and the mysteries of the universe, perfect for fans of Jandy Nelson and Nicola Yoon. Linny has kept a journal of famous disappearances ever since her sister Grace ran away in the middle of the night. Sebastian is an aspiring astrophysicist with a working theory for everything—but the one thing he can't figure out is the identity of his birth father. They haven't met yet—but Linny and Sebastian have one thing in common: an obsession with famous novelist and filmmaker Álvaro Herrera, who went missing three years ago and has just reappeared. As their lives converge around the mystery of Álvaro, they begin to uncover the answers they've been looking for. With humor and heart, debut author Carlie Sorosiak weaves a story of searching for those who leave—and loving those who stay. "If Birds Fly Back feels like that last hazy, sun-drenched summer of high school, when you know you'll need to find your place in the world, but you're busy laughing and falling in love under starlit skies. It's the rarest author who can pull off laugh-out-loud hilarious, profound, and breathlessly romantic, all in the most sparkling prose. That shortlist includes Rainbow Rowell, Nicola Yoon, and now, Carlie Sorosiak." —Jeff Zentner, acclaimed author of *The Serpent King* and *Goodbye Days*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Cleverly written coming-of-age story that will suck you in regardless of age. It was the perfect vacation read. What makes this novel unique is the multi-dimensional story-telling: the narrative is alternately told from the two main characters points of view, then you have a parallel screenplay weaving into the mix along with physics theorems that are actually relatable (ha!). This unusual variety makes for rich plot development, no doubt complimented by the author's witty, colorful humor sprinkled throughout. Highly recommend!

Great read! Enjoyed this book tremendously and passed it on to a friend who enjoyed it as well.

If *Birds Fly Back* was entirely super cute! It featured a bunch of nerds and an adorakble friendship-turned-romance with plenty of bantering dialogue. • HERE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS BASICALLY. The only downside of my reading experience was dropping it on my face while being absorbed by these delicious words. Thank you to all the universe, stars, and pebbles upon the shores that I read a paperback and didn't die or lose my eyes over a hardcover. Life can be kind. It's dual narrated by both Linny and Sebastian. And I can't even pick a favourite! THEY'RE SO CUTE. Linny is totally obsessed with film and Sebastian is into astrophysics. I love how their individual chapters included either scientific facts or snippets of a screenplay being written. It turned them into individuals and made their passions really interwoven with the plot line. My only problem was since they're both 1st person, I felt their voices were pretty similar. But Linny was a bit anxious and Sebastian was an absolutely exploding piece of rainbow confetti. So I loved them! They were both diverse, too, with Sebastian being Mexican and Linny biracial with a Nigerian mother. The story is basically all about missing people. And birds. But more like metaphorical birds. Except for the part where a bird poops in Sebastian's hair and duuuuuude. I feel so bad for you. Birds are nasty. Linny's sister disappeared and Sebastian is looking for his never-before-met-dad. But since the tone of the book was pretty happy and quirky and light, I did actually fail to feel like really emotionally caught up in the missing people. I can see

Linny's suffering with her sister just having vanished, but the rest of the story was so funny?!?? I was thoroughly enjoying it, but my heart strings didn't get pulled. I loved the scenes where Sebastian and Linny just hung out and were DORKS together. Putting stars on ceilings. Making terrible Mexican food. Being super awkward. IT WAS SO SWEET! Most of the book is set in an old-people's home where they're volunteering for the summer and caring for an old famous writer, which didn't really interest me? But it was never boring! I had SUCH fun reading! Until, you know, I brained myself with this book. Then I read on, slightly bitter, but still pleased at least they were having a nice time. I will definitely say this is a super cute tale! It reminded me of Katherine meets When Dimple Met Rishi. And THE NERDOM LEVELS WERE GREAT. I loved the snippets of Linny's screen play and I learned SO many science facts thanks to Sebastian. Like I've totally forgotten them all now, but my memory is akin to a dead french fry. So. It was great at the time. Fun dialogue! Fun banter! Their relationship was so well done, with ups and downs and awkward cuteness and I rooted for them! Definitely chase this one day if you're after a summery fun read that is like popsicles and sprinkles with a side dish of NICE PAIN. Also chase after it if you want to read about two dorks who hide in a cupboard rather than socialise at a party. #Relatable

Loved it!!! I read a lot, especially books that make me think and transport me into the writer's world and that's what happened. I saw some reviews before this book came out and thought I'd give it a shot. The love story is really sweet and believable. Like others have said, Sebastian is adorable and I can relate to Linny. I think other readers will relate to Linny too because everyone, at least everyone I know, has experienced family pressures, loneliness, and loss. The author did a great job of handling several hard topics (I won't give them away). At times the narrative is laugh out loud funny (I especially love the line about the pizza). I also LOVED how the author handled the science parts. Plus I really liked getting to know who Linny is and who Sebastian is, and who the other characters are, without being outright told who they are by the author. (The author required me to really think about the characters as I would think about people I was getting to know in person. I think it's a gamble that the author took, and it worked for me.) Looking forward to reading more books by this author.

I am not even sure where to start with this book. You know, where you are so happy and emotional, that you are simultaneously laughing and crying. That was totally me. I immediately fell in love with

the characters in this book. Both Linny and Sebastian were so cute and unique. Linny was an aspiring filmmaker, who was trying to come to terms with her sister's disappearance. She felt like her world had dimmed without her sister in it, but Linny just did not see herself the way others saw her. She was vibrant, sweet, and charming. And Sebastian! He was the geek that you could not resist. His mother had finally revealed the identity of his father, and he was in Miami trying to connect with said father trying to solve that puzzle of why his father left him. Sebastian was a lover of astrophysics, who always felt like there was a piece of him that was missing, when in fact, he was a perfect package of loving son, awesome friend, and quirky genius. These two were awesome on their own, but even better together. This story really won my heart, because both Linny and Sebastian were searching for someone, but along the way, they found themselves and each other. This type of story always pierces my heart and brings me joy, and *If Birds Fly Back* was no exception to this rule. This tale masterfully blends so many themes together. Sorosiak tackles family, first love, identity, and friendship. I obviously latched onto the love story with both hands, as I always do, but it was made better by all the other parts of the story. Something which enhanced my reader experience was the way Sorosiak told the story. The book alternates between Linny and Sebastian's POV. Linny's chapters contain excerpts from her *Journal of the Lost and Found*, as well as scenes from her screenplay, *The Left-Behinds*. Sebastian's chapters contain quotes from *A Brief Compendium of Astrophysical Curiosities*, as well as his own very well named theories. Each excerpt and quote was used thoughtfully and fit properly in the part of the story it was placed. They provided interesting background information, and also helped me focus on important ideas in that chapter. I especially loved *The Left-Behinds*. These snippets spoke so much as to the feelings Linny kept deep down inside, and were filled with gorgeous imagery. This book was the perfect blend of fluff and substance, hard and soft, heavy and light, happy and sad. It took me through just about every emotion, and left me with my heart bursting with joy. If Sorosiak continues to write books like this, I will read every one of them.

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