

Quag's fierce independence may rub people the wrong way, but that's their problem, not his. It's not like he's trying to impress anyone.

So why did he just lie to Cassie (about being a bird watcher, of all things)? And what's with agreeing to go to art camp with her? How's he even supposed to make that happen with his mom skipping work again and showing signs of going into one of her full-out spins? He can usually ride her up-and-down moods, but this time feels different.

When his mom disappears, Quag is forced to find shelter with an uncle he didn't know he had. Bluffing to buy time and to cover for his mom's unstable mental health, Quag needs a plan. But where to start? His uncle's Nebraska ranch is a far cry from Quag's usual life in upstate New York. Should he just come clean to his uncle? Or can he keep the bluff going long enough to find his mom and get home?

With wry humor and sharp insight, Mylisa Larsen captures the distinctive outlook of a young teen with formidable survival skills rethinking his world and discovering the power of found family.

**MYLISA LARSEN** was born in Idaho, has lived in eight states and two countries, and now lives in upstate New York with her family and a sweet but suspicious dog who is convinced that pirates are trying to break into the house at all hours. She is the author of several picture books, including *How to Put Your Parents to Bed*.

The characters Quagmire and Cassie were first introduced in Mylisa's debut novel, *Playing Through the Turnaround*. You can learn more about that book, and about Mylisa herself, at [mylisalarsen.com](http://mylisalarsen.com).

READ BY JAMES FOUHEY

 Harper Audio

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The Playaway format is recommended for children ages 5 and up.



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