



## **Birdspell** **A Middle Grade Novel by Valerie Sherrard**

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Ages: 9+

Rights available: World ex-Canada, US; Audio; Film and tv

Corbin Hayes has felt alone for as long as he can remember. His mom's illness means lost jobs, constant moves, new schools and friendships that never get to grow. There's a gap in his life that's been waiting to be filled.

So, when a classmate offers Corbin the talking bird she can no longer keep, he's stoked.

But when things begin to spiral out of control, Corbin can no longer get his mom – or himself – through the dark period. At his lowest moment, he's forced to do the one thing he fears the most.

### **Reviews**

"Honest and straightforward, with no sugar-coating of the challenges of bipolar disorder, *Birdspell* offers remarkable insight to young readers unfamiliar with mental-health issues. At the same time, it provides rare validation for those children who struggle with it in their daily lives. ... Despite the gravity of the subject matter, *Birdspell* is a very readable book laced with humour and grace." – Charis Cotter, *Quill & Quire*

"*Birdspell* is a deep and beautifully written title that once begun is hard to put down. Despite the tragedy of the circumstances, the novel is a compelling story of strength, hope and compassion. Highly Recommended." – *CM Magazine*

"... Sherrard does an excellent job of lacing humour into the story without making light of what Corbin's going through. She also keeps the story hopeful and optimistic and reminds readers that there's nothing wrong with asking for help. Highly recommended for middle-grade readers." – Rachel Seigel, *Canadian Children's Book News*

### **The Author**

Valerie Sherrard is an award-winning author of picture books and young adult novels. Her novel *The Glory Wind* won the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction and the Ann Connor Brimer Award. Sherrard's first novel in verse, *Counting Back from Nine* was shortlisted for a Governor General's Literary Award. Her works have been chosen as Red Maple and White Pine Award Honour Books, and she has been nominated for Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Awards and Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Awards. Born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, she now lives in Miramichi, New Brunswick.



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