



Standing on Neptune **A Young Adult Novel in verse by Valerie Sherrard**

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Ages: 12+

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Am I pregnant?

This question shatters the peace of seventeen-year-old Brooke Palinder's life one Monday morning when she realizes her period is late. Although shaken, she is determined to hide her feelings and go about her daily routine as though nothing is wrong. Brooke's boyfriend Ryan handles the news poorly and is unable to offer Brooke much in the way of support. Yet, in spite of a growing sense of isolation, she cannot bring herself to confide in anyone else, not even her best friend.

In an effort to distract herself, Brooke throws herself into a school project about Neptune, which leads her to some startling discoveries and a surprising sense of connection to the distant planet. In fractured vignettes, Brooke begins to examine her life from a new perspective, but by Saturday, she knows she must face the answer to the question that began her week.

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.

Praise for previous works:

Birdspell

"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*

The Rise and Fall of Derek Cowell

"Sherrard has created another captivating tale of family life and middle-school angst, filled with humour and heart." – Lisa Doucet, *Atlantic Books Today*



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