

WITHOUT YOU HERE

A NOVEL BY JODY HOBBS HESLER

Eight-year-old Noreen has a special connection to her Aunt Nonie. What Noreen can't see is that Nonie is spinning out of control, her grasp on reality slipping, her personal life in shambles. The only thing Nonie can hold onto is her niece, whom she loves more than anything. When Noreen is playing on a tire swing under Nonie's supervision, there's an accident, sending Noreen to the hospital and Nonie into a spiral from which she will not recover.

Now twenty-seven, Noreen is a young mother trapped in a marriage with a controlling, manipulative husband—or is she? Haunted by her aunt, she is afraid her own grasp on reality is slipping away. In the end, she must find the strength to confront what may be her fate, asking: Will her life be defined by her aunt's zest for life or her untimely death? And can she stop history from repeating itself?

"Exquisitely written, this is a debut with precise maturity, a necessary and timely story."—**Louise Marburg, author of *You Have Reached Your Destination***

"...Hesler captures the way memory weaves itself inextricably through the present."—**Paulette Livers, author of *Cementville***

"...Heartfelt, redemptive..."—**Sharon Harrigan, author of *Half***

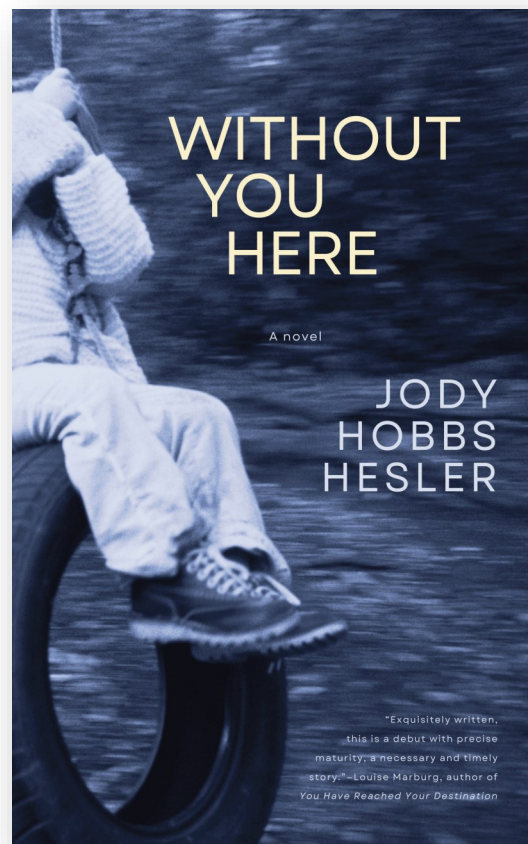
"...Intricately composed ... deeply moving."—**Jane Alison author of *Meander, Spiral, Explode; The Sisters Antipodes***

"...A moving and tender debut novel."—**Julia Ridley Smith, *Sex Romp Gone Wrong***

"...A masterful storyteller, both honest and hopeful."—**Lori Ostlund, author of *After the Parade***



Jody Hobbs Hesler lives, writes, and teaches in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. She is the author of the story collection *What Makes You Think You're Supposed to Feel Better* from Cornerstone Press, and her words also appear in *Necessary Fiction*, *Gargoyle*, *Valparaiso Fiction Review*, and many other journals. She teaches at WriterHouse in Charlottesville, Virginia; writes and copy edits for *Virginia Wine & Country Life* and *Charlottesville Family Magazine*; and serves as assistant fiction editor for the *Los Angeles Review*.



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