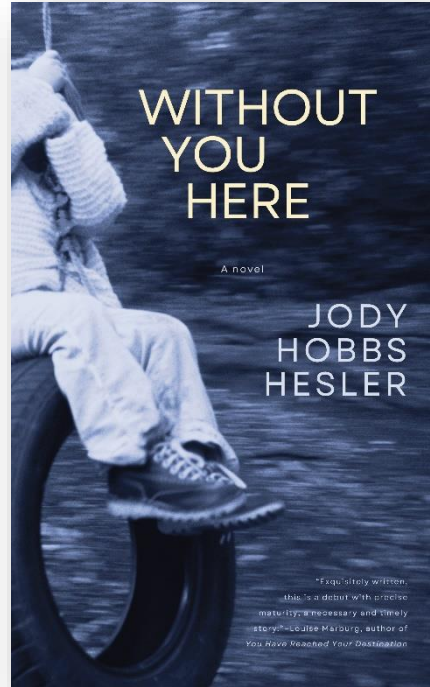




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# Without You Here

A novel by Jody Hobbs Hesler

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

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

## ***ABOUT WITHOUT YOU HERE***

**Noreen, twenty-seven, is the same age as her beloved Aunt was when she committed suicide.**

When Noreen was little, she had a special connection to her Aunt Nonie, her namesake and kindred spirit. They seem to understand each other in a way that no one else could. What Noreen is too young to understand is that her aunt is spinning out of control, her grasp on reality slipping, her alcohol use accelerating, her personal life in shambles. Noreen's mom, Nonie's sister, tries to help—jobs, housing, counselors—but Nonie is not getting better.

The only thing Nonie can hold onto is her niece, whom she loves more than anything in the world. But one day 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 an adult, Noreen is a young mother trapped in a marriage with a controlling, manipulative husband. Or is she? She is haunted by the memory of her aunt, and she is afraid her own grasp on reality slipping away. In the end, she must find the strength to challenge what may be her fate, asking: Will her life forever be defined by her aunt's zest for life or her untimely death? And can she stop history from repeating itself?

## **MORE ADVANCE PRAISE**

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

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

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

"...intricately composed as it is deeply moving."—Jane Alison author of *Meander, Spiral, Explode; The Sisters Antipodes*

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**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*, *Atticus Review*, *Writer's Digest*, *Electric Literature*, *CRAFT*, *Arts & Letters*, 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*.

