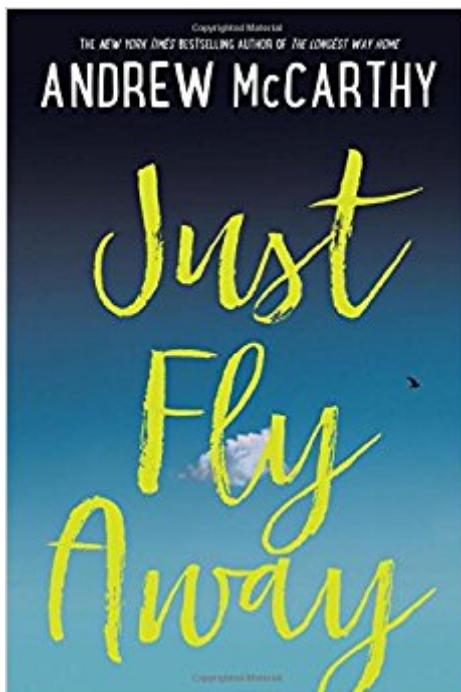


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# Just Fly Away



## Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller “Ever wish that you could just fly away?” When fifteen-year-old Lucy Willows discovers that her father has a child from a brief affair, an eight-year-old boy who lives in her own suburban New Jersey town, she begins to question everything she thinks she knows about her home and her life. How could Lucy’s father have betrayed the entire family? How could her mother forgive him? And why isn’t her sister rocked by the news the way Lucy is? As her father’s secret becomes her own, Lucy grows more and more isolated from her friends, her family, and even her boyfriend, Simon, the one person she thought understood her. When Lucy escapes to Maine, the home of her mysteriously estranged grandfather, she finally begins to get to the bottom of her family’s secrets and lies. Just Fly Away is a debut novel about family secrets, first love, the limits of forgiveness, and finding one’s way in the world from an award-winning writer, actor, and director.

## Book Information

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Romance > Contemporary

## Customer Reviews

“A poignant, character-driven coming-of-age novel.” —Kirkus Reviews

Andrew McCarthy is the author of the New York Times bestselling travel memoir, *The Longest Way Home*. He is an editor at large at *National Geographic Traveler* magazine. He is also an actor and director. He lives in New York City with his wife, three children, two fish, and one dog. *Just Fly Away*

is his first novel.Ã Â You can find him online at [andrewmccarthy.com](http://andrewmccarthy.com) or on Twitter:

@AndrewTMcCarthy. Ã Â

I loved this book. I had been looking forward to it coming out as I was curious about how Andrew McCarthy's YA novel would be after having read his memoir. And I really enjoyed it. It is an absolute page-turner about a teenage girl who finds out a secret about her father. I don't want to spoil what happens but it really made me understand something about my own teenage years and how I used to react to situations with my father and my brothers. It made me see all of that in a whole new light.

JFA was delivered this a.m. and I "flew" through the novel. Excellent literature that is applicable in all our lives regardless of age. I am a teacher and will be sharing passages with my high school underclassmen. I am also eager to share video interviews with them as they become available. Important story, important author, important actor/director. I would recommend this as a gift for YA's. When they discover literature they can relate to, they will read!

I read this book with great interest knowing that Mr. McCarthy was an award winning travel writer. I always found his travel pieces captivating. I read this book in 2 days because it was hard for me to put down. I tried to understand Lucy's feelings, as most of the hurt and anger I've experienced were from wives who found out they had a spouse who cheated on them. Honestly, I hope Mr. McCarthy puts out a sequel to this book, as I am curious about Lucy's healing process and the dynamics of her family. If I make it to a book talk, I am definitely going to ask that question. As far as downsides, I think Mr. McCarthy referring to the "shore" as opposed to the beach may have bewildered some people, as "The Shore" is a very regional term for those who live near or in New Jersey (as I do). I certainly enjoyed the book and loved the references to Journey and Bruce Springsteen (as classic rock...am I that old?), especially Journey given their induction into the R&R Hall of Fame. All in all, I enjoyed the book, which allowed me to wonder how I would feel if I were Lucy and if the family secret devastates the family once they were reunited.

I absolutely loved this book. After beginning it, I could not put it down! The story about a young girl finding a family secret is incredibly witty, engaging and thoughtful. The voice of the rebellious yet still naive teenager is perfectly captured in the beautiful writing and makes the story even more relatable. I am so excited to recommend this book to everyone I know, especially teenage friends of mine who I am sure will connect to the many coming-of-age themes that run throughout the novel.

I definitely have a new favorite author now. I had never read any of Andrew's work prior to this book and I fell in love with his style. The story is sweet, hopeful and I literally didn't put the book down until I finished it. It gave me hope, as a grandmother that isn't allowed a relationship with my grandchildren, that one day they might seek a relationship with me. This story portrays realistic family trials and reconciliation. It is beautifully written and a super easy read. I will definitely be reading everything this talented man has written. Bravo!!!

Compelling read...Lucy seems very protected to live in today's world. My assumption is that kids are exposed to a lot of split families; families with a lot of issues; through their peers and society. She seems very naive to live where she does and when she does. Loved the relationship with her grandfather. Nice lesson in forgiveness, passed from grandfather to granddaughter, from granddaughter to father.

Page turner and engaging, the family saga from the viewpoint of a 15 year old is well written. Each character adds a layer to the young girl's life and thoroughly enjoyed the story. Also, the editor/author has great grammar and spelling, a personal distraction to me with too many new novels. Well done and look forward to more from the author.

Reading this story propelled me backwards to my own teenage years. Lucy's first love experience was so pure and sweet. Her relationships with her parents and grandfather were portrayed with feelings, hurts and subtle joys. The portrayal of Simon was so adequately explained in this novella. Andrew McCarthy hopefully will continue writing additional novels for his readers.

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