

Fearless


By *Tim Lott*




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A Whitbread Award-winning novelist tells a chilling dystopian tale about a heroic girl prepared to risk everything in the pursuit of justice.

In the not-too-distant future, the world is safe from terrorists, the streets are clean, and girls labeled "juvies" or "mindcrips" have been hidden away behind the smartly painted exterior of the City Community Faith School. Their birth names are forgotten and replaced with a letter and number, but they give each other nicknames like Tattle or Stench or Little Fearless. As they slave away at chores, Little Fearless, who is actually the bravest girl in the school, tells the other girls stories, stories about the day their families will return for them. Little Fearless's own hope and conviction spur her on a dangerous adventure — a bold and unthinkable plan that will either save the imprisoned girls or mean the end of Little Fearless herself, or both.

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Fearless By Tim Lott Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

The girl could hear sobbing in the front room. Her mother was always crying about something or other, so the girl didn't take much notice. She just kept staring at the vidscreen in the corner of her bedroom. It was playing a vacation ad, all blue sea and white waves and sand like a field of honey. She wished she could just climb into the vidscreen and stretch

out on the sand, dip her toes into the water, and never return. She would stay there and watch the world from the other side of the screen.

Then the knocking on the front door began. The girl thought that was odd, because they had a perfectly good doorbell. The knock seemed almost like a message. It went rap-rap-rappety-rap, as if it was a friend or a neighbor who always did their own special knock. But friends never came after dark, and the neighbors kept to themselves.

The girl heard a noise behind her. She turned and saw her mother. A dark birthmark the size of a fingernail and the shape of a star protruded from her hairline. Her cheeks were still damp from crying; her eyes were red and scrunched up like meat from a butcher's shop. She hadn't answered the door. Instead she lifted the girl up and pressed their faces together. The girl kissed her mother and tasted salt. Her mother smiled, as if to tell her that everything was OK. Then she said she had some presents for her. The girl didn't understand. Her birthday was months away.

Her mother produced a small cloth bag and brought out three objects. The first was a picture of the girl's grandmother and grandfather, mounted in a bronze frame. Her grandfather wore a black suit with a cravat, and her grandmother wore a long pale dress and a floppy dark hat.

The second was a beautiful old silver watch with a fine leather strap that she said had once belonged to the girl's father. She said she ought to have something to remind her that she did once have a father.

Finally she gave the girl one more thing: a golden locket containing a tiny photograph of her mother on her wedding day. She hung it gravely around the girl's neck. Then she put the framed photo and the watch back into the little cloth bag, handed it to the girl, and kissed her.

The knock on the door came again, louder this time. Rap-rap-rappety-rap.

Her mother left the room. The girl heard the door catch being released, and then her mother began to shout. She heard a man's voice, stern and official sounding.

A few seconds later, a man wearing a uniform and a black peaked cap walked into the girl's room and, without a word, lifted her up. She could hear her mother crying. The man didn't pause to let her say good-bye to her mother. He started to carry her down the stairs. The girl went limp. She felt unable to speak.

The door closed behind her. Then she heard her mother's voice through the thin panel of wood.

"The locket. Read the words. Never forget the words on the locket."

In the harsh light of the street, the girl studied the back of the locket. She could just make out three lines of

faint engraving. The girl pushed the locket inside her blouse and closed her eyes. She didn't resist as the man bundled her into the back of the ugly gray car with no side windows, started the engine and drove away into the darkness.

FEARLESS by Tim Lott. Copyright (c) 2007 by Tim Lott. Published by Candlewick Press, Inc., Cambridge, MA. "Powerful, haunting, and utterly original. . . . I think it will become an immediate children's classic." — Jacqueline Wilson, British Children's Laureate

About the Author

Tim Lott has written many books for adults, including *WHITE CITY BLUE*, winner of the Whitbread First Novel Award, and *RUMOURS OF A HURRICANE*, short-listed for the Whitbread Novel Award.

FEARLESS is his first novel for young readers. He lives in London.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Inge Reader:

This Fearless book is just not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is usually information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This specific Fearless without we recognize teach the one who examining it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Fearless can bring when you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Fearless having good arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Gerald Warfield:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be up-date about what going on or information even knowledge to make these keep up with the era which can be always change and make progress. Some of you maybe may update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which one you should start with. This Fearless is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

Debra Rubino:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day every day to reading a publication. The book Fearless it is quite good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book features high quality.

Roberto Garcia:

As we know that book is essential thing to add our know-how for everything. By a guide we can know everything we would like. A book is a set of written, printed, illustrated or maybe blank sheet. Every year was exactly added. This book Fearless was filled in relation to science. Spend your time to add your knowledge about your technology competence. Some people has different feel when they reading a book. If you know how big advantage of a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a guide. In the modern era like now, many ways to get book which you wanted.

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