

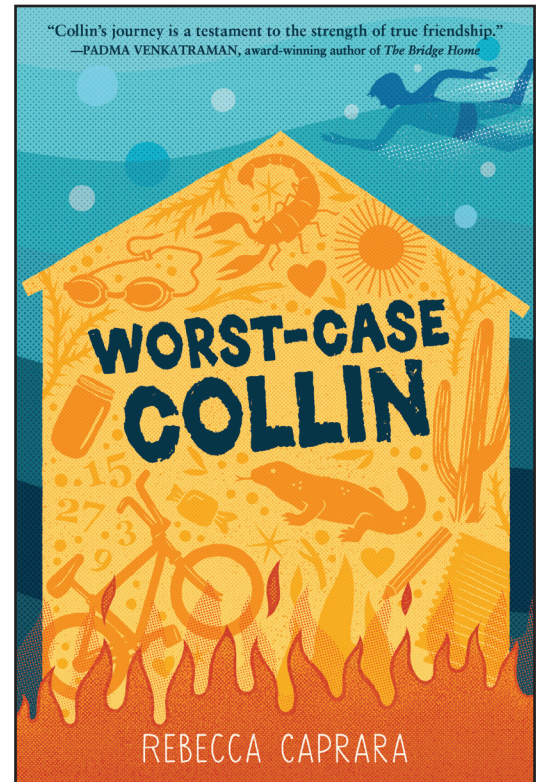
THE WORST IS YET TO COME.

About the Book

Twelve-year-old Collin is always prepared for something to go wrong. Ever since he lost his mom in a car accident, he's filled his journal with careful research on how to survive any disaster: avalanches, riptides, even halitosis. Too bad there's no guidebook on what to do when your dad starts hoarding.

Determined to hide his increasingly messy home life from his friends, Collin navigates middle school alongside the hilarious and clueless Liam as well as Georgia, Collin's maybe-crush. Can Collin learn to be vulnerable around those he loves, even when he can't control every possible scenario?

"Poignant, timely, and altogether affecting."—*Kirkus Reviews*



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About the Author



Rebecca Caprara has been writing stories since she was a little girl. What she enjoys the most is writing across genres and form for middle-grade readers. *The Magic of Melwick Orchard* was her debut novel.

Poetry & Writing

- Most of the poems in this book are free verse, but some are concrete ("8," "The State of My Heart," "Lost," etc). Why do you think Rebecca Caprara chose to write those particular poems as concrete poems?
- The poems in this book are interspersed with "Worst-Case Scenarios" from Collin's orange book. Do you have a favorite of these worst-case scenarios? Write a scenario in the same style for an emergency or disaster of your choice.
- Nicknames play a big role in *Worst-Case Collin*. Do you have a favorite nickname from the book? What do you think makes a good nickname? If you could pick your own nickname, what would it be?

Mental Health

- Compare "T-Minus 119 Days" with "T-Minus 81." In the poems between the two, what have you learned about Collin's attitude towards school and summer vacation? Does his position make more sense to you by the time you read "T-Minus 81"?
- Read "Collections," "A Better Goodbye," "Going Back," and "Keeping Busy" aloud. What do you learn in these poems about Collin and his dad? Why do you think these poems are spaced the way they are?
- In "The Hoard Is Born," Collin begins to personify his dad's hoard as the Hoard. How does positioning the stuff as an entity affect the way Collin copes with his dad's illness?
- Collin studies his orange book as a coping mechanism for his anxiety and grief. What do you think of this choice? Did you notice other characters using coping mechanisms in the book?

Family & Friendship

- "T-Minus 24" marks a pivot point in Collin's relationship with Tyson. What do we learn in this poem?
- Read the poems "Perfect" and "Leaving" aloud. What was Collin's mom like? What was her relationship with her husband and son like?
- Why does Collin reach out to Aunt Lydia? Why do you think he doesn't ask someone closer to home, like Liam's mom?
- What is the significance of the shoelace-tying gesture Collin shares with Georgia?

Water & Fire

- Swimming plays an important role in Collin's life. Does he actually enjoy swimming? Why does he swim?
- Why is Collin's class so excited about the rainfall during recess in "Rain"?
- Collin provides an evocative description of the humidity in his cluttered bathroom in "Churn." How does this compare to other descriptions of the Hoard?
- The house fire is briefly foreshadowed in "Churn" when Collin fantasizes about burning down his house. Why do you think he specifically imagines fire and not, for example, taking a bulldozer to the stacks of stuff or sucking it all up with a giant vacuum? Discuss the use of fire as a symbol throughout the book and specifically in this poem.