

LISTENING TREE: WALKING BACKWARDS INTO THE WORLD

by Paula Newcomer

Fourteen-year-old Kit is a loveable, funny kid with good friends, but he lacks finesse and polish. He blurts out things, and then pays the price. He lies when he tells Twig, a girl he's known since Kindergarten, he's landed a job at the local Indian Museum. He knows she'll be impressed, and he wants a friendship upgrade. But this lie he weaves to win Twig over leads to one problem after another, including a run-in with a feisty skunk, and an angry bunch of bees. When Kit and his best friend, Anthony, are chased by some bullies from school, they knock over old man Whitehead's beehives and must go to work at his farm to pay for damages.

Things are looking up for Kit as he begins to learn about trust and friendship from the old beekeeper. But eventually, that messy little lie catches up with him again, and he is dumped by Twig, Anthony and his other friends. Even his parents wonder if he'll ever succeed at anything.

In a final risky event, Kit is faced with the difficult choice of how to save his new friend and mentor. It's something Kit would never have considered a few weeks before. Will Kit rise above himself to emerge a reluctant hero? Will he do the right thing and ultimately change into the kind of young man he's been wanting to be all along?

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I am actively marketing this completed book. You may contact me at
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