

OUT ON A LIMB: HOW I SURVIVED A CRACK IN THE WORLD

by Paula Newcomer

“There’s a crack in everything
That’s how the light gets in.”
Leonard Cohen

Abby Moon has just turned twelve and is old enough to midwife the birth of twin goats in her neighbor’s barn. Her love for the natural world is matched only by her fondness for little brother, P.J., and neighbor Henrietta Deerhorn. Abby’s best friend, Janine, is squeamish about almost everything “in the wild,” but still tags along blueberry picking, feeding bugs to Abby’s pet bird, and helping Abby create sculptures from her junk collection in the barn. When Abby’s familiar life on the farm is threatened, she turns to the people she’s always relied on to help right her world, but suddenly Janine would rather hang out at the mall. Henrietta, who has always understood Abby best of all, might be moving away. And P.J. thinks Abby has sabotaged his project for the school’s Science Fair.

With a heart still aching from the loss of her mother, it looks like Abby’s world is cracking open, until she learns to stop blaming others, and fights to keep the people she loves, and the magic of nature, in her life.

The Hale-Bopp comet, a pet cardinal named Peepers, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Crow on his treetop perch, and Ursula, the potato-chip-eating cat, combine in this tale of a girl and her unlikely sidekicks who join forces in a courageous battle to save something more precious to Abby than all the money in the world.

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Middle-grade novel, ages 9 – 12, 139 pages, 35,000 words.

I am actively marketing this completed book. You may contact me at www.paulajnewcomer.com for more information.