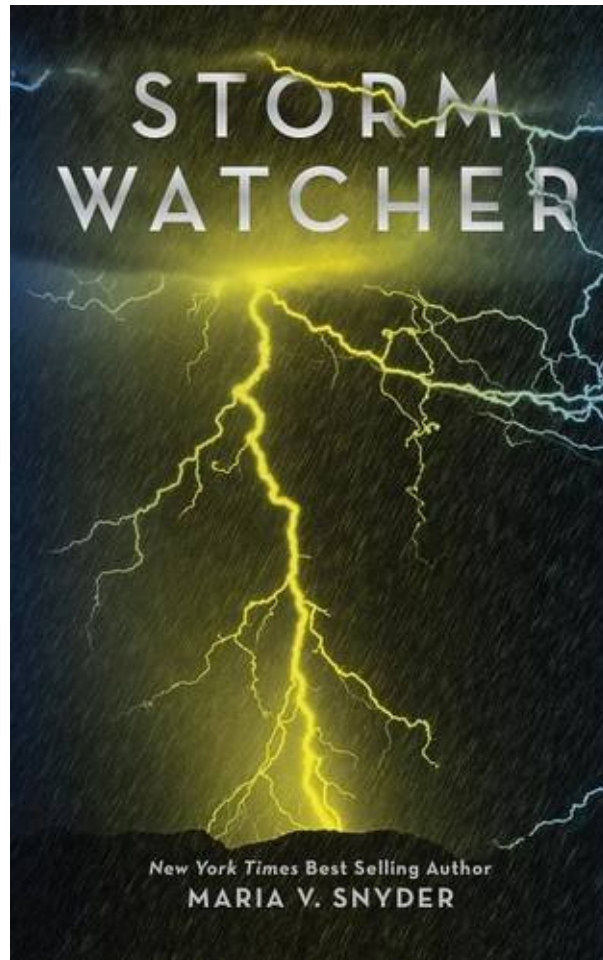
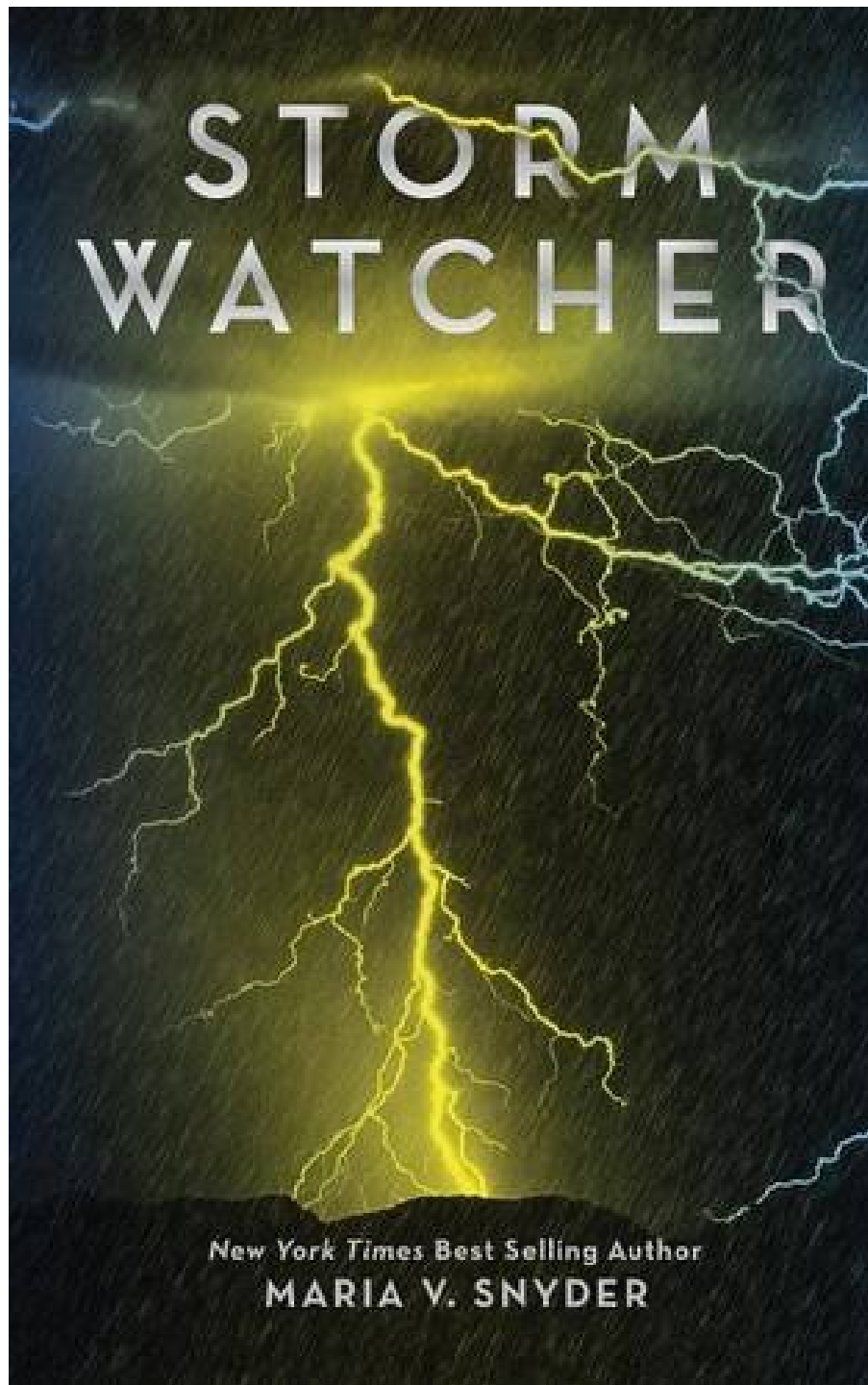


STORM WATCHER BY MARIA V. SNYDER



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Review

"STORM WATCHER is a brilliant and beautiful tale of how the simple, honest love of a dog can help a lonely boy find his way out of the darkness. Subtle, powerful and highly recommended." Jonathan Maberry, New York Times bestselling author of *Flesh and Bone*.

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"Snyder's lightning strikes again with STORM WATCHER's tale of ordinary people fighting to become heroes in the face of things they fear most. Luke's story is by turns funny, touching, and achingly real, as Snyder harnesses a lifetime of expertise about meteorology, dogs, and life in small towns." Morgan Keyes/Mindy Klasky, author of *Darkbeast*.

"This deftly plotted story will engage readers of both genders with its fresh storyline. When 12-year-old Luke Riley's mother is killed in a lightning-related accident, Luke's fear of severe weather is heightened and his grief is exacerbated by guilt, as he believes it was his panicked phone call to his mother that caused her to be out in the storm...Intertwining family relationships, weather science and search-and-rescue dog training, this coming-of-age story relays themes of friendship, grief, challenge, fear and responsibility without didacticism or melodrama." Kirkus Reviews

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Lightning Never Strikes Twice, Does It?

Luke Riley is lost. His mother's recent death has set Luke and his family adrift. Even though his father, twin brothers, and their three Bloodhounds are search and rescue volunteers, they have been unable to rescue themselves and become a family again. The summer after sixth grade looms in Luke's mind as a long, lonely three months where the only thing he can look forward to is watching The Weather Channel. Luke is fascinated with the weather, but since his mother's death in a storm, he is also terrified. Even the promised 13th birthday present of a Bloodhound puppy fails to lift Luke's spirits. He would rather have a different breed - a petite Papillon, but his father insists he get a Bloodhound.

When Luke decides to get the Bloodhound from Willajeane, a dog breeder who owns Storm Watcher Kennel, he works out a deal to help at her kennel in exchange for the expensive dog. Thrilled to have a summer with a purpose, Luke befriends Willajeane's daughter, Megan and together they plan how Luke can get a Papillon puppy instead of a Bloodhound. But nothing seems to work as they struggle with stubborn fathers, summer storms, unhelpful siblings, and hidden guilt. Can one little white dog really save both families?

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- 228 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

for teens

By Kevin E. Davis

I was not the target audience for this book, but because it was by Maria Snyder, I bought it. It is about a 13 year old boy and his family. There is no magic here, just kids, adults, and dogs. It expresses very well the frustration of being a teen. There is adventure, love, conflict, and fun. I recommend it to teens and adults who enjoy YA fiction.

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

A great read!

By Kimberly C

I wasn't sure what to expect from the synopsis. I knew it was written by one of my favorite writers, Maria V. Snyder. (If you haven't checked out her Healer series, my personal favorite, then you should run out and grab them now!) I knew it was middle grade, and it was about dogs and the weather. It turned out to be so much more.

Having just lost his mother, Luke and his brothers live with their father who is a famous Search and Rescue leader. There's a lot of family dynamics that are brewing just under the surface. Whether that's Luke struggling with his own guilt and demons, or his interactions with his bullying brothers, or even his thin relationship with his father, there is a lot of emotion going on in this book. Luke blames himself for his mother's death and is sure that his family blames him too. That's certainly a lot to place on a young kid, who has no friends and a large anxiety towards thunderstorms.

But Snyder handles gentle Luke's character gracefully, allowing his insecurities and flaws to shine through. The family's grief is dark cloud, floating in and out of the atmosphere of the tale, making the family and their challenges very real to me. I wanted to slap awake Dad and tell his brothers to shut up. And that's the beauty of the story. It resonated with me because the characters are so real, their motivations so clearly sprung from their loss.

The secondary characters are fun and full of life. The story brought me in and held me there, my heart cracking slowly for Luke and warming for the dogs. I am a dog person. Yes, I have rabbits. But I am a dog person. Snyder brings all of the sweet dogs to the forefront, loyal heroes who add yet another layer of warmth to this world.

I really enjoyed Storm Watcher, reading it in two nights as soon as I got home from work. It's a satisfying book about family, love and grief.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

... book I think my reluctant middle grade son will like. Luke is a likable character

By MStutzgirl

I'm so excited to have found another book I think my reluctant reader middle grade son will like. Luke is a likable character, and I cared about him. The emotions were authentic without getting too mushy. The dogs, search-and-rescue missions, and weather tower add interest. I thoroughly enjoyed the story.

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