



On the Outskirts of Normal: Forging a Family Against the Grain

Debra Monroe

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After moving to a humble cottage outside of a tiny Texas town, Debra Monroe rids herself of an abusive husband, battles sexist contractors and workers as she renovates her home, and finally, after several disheartening letdowns, is able to adopt her beautiful baby daughter, Marie. Though elated that her dream is coming true, Monroe faces trials that befall her not just as a single mother but as a white mother of a black child. In *On the Outskirts of Normal*, two-time National Book Award nominee Monroe's heart creaks "like china with hairline cracks" each time a racist comment rolls their way or stares linger a little too long in their direction. Though she and her daughter face serious undiagnosed illnesses leading to innumerable, painful doctor visits, Monroe remains steadfast in her dedication to Marie and their small but tight family.

Reading *On the Outskirts of Normal* at times feels like driving through an unwieldy thunderstorm at night on the unlit country roads that snake their way to Monroe's house in the woods; readers will feel her exhaustion but will be buoyed by her ever-present faith and fiery love. Pulitzer Prize winner Madeleine Blais writes that *On the Outskirts of Normal* is the "real deal: both a literary triumph and a triumph of the heart."

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From reader reviews:

Neil Williams:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you wish 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 the entire day to reading a e-book. The book On the Outskirts of Normal: Forging a Family Against the Grain it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book possesses high quality.

Carolyn Fletcher:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always aim to and must have the extra time or they will get great deal of stress from both way of life and work. So , once we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer will unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, the book you have read is definitely On the Outskirts of Normal: Forging a Family Against the Grain.

William Meadows:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love On the Outskirts of Normal: Forging a Family Against the Grain, you may enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Tony Hogan:

Is it an individual who having spare time after that spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something new? This On the Outskirts of Normal: Forging a Family Against the Grain can be the answer, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a geek activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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