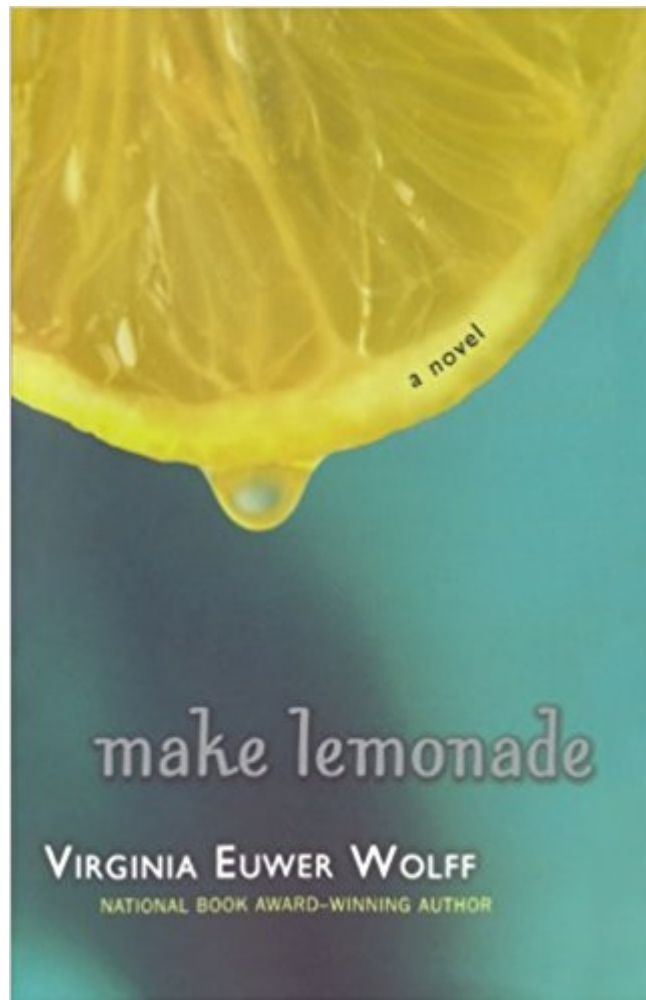




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Make Lemonade (Make Lemonade, Book 1)



Synopsis

An award-winning novel about growing up and making choices Virginia Euwer Wolff's groundbreaking novel, written in free verse, tells the story of fourteen-year-old LaVaughn, who is determined to go to college—she just needs the money to get there. When she answers a babysitting ad, LaVaughn meets Jolly, a seventeen-year-old single mother with two kids by different fathers. As she helps Jolly make lemonade out of the lemons her life has given her, LaVaughn learns some lessons outside the classroom.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 124 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

"Radiant with hope, this keenly observed and poignant novel is a stellar addition to YA literature," said PW in a starred review, praising Wolff's use of "meltingly lyric blank verse" to tell of two inner-city teenage girls struggling toward better lives. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Grade 7-12-Narrator Heather Simms brings to life 14-year-old LaVaughn, a powerful character in the novel by Virginia Euwer Wolff (Holt, 1993). Living in the projects but determined to be the first person in her family to go on to college, LaVaughn takes a job babysitting for Jolly, the teenage mother of two-year-old Jeremy and baby Jilly, whose life is the epitome of disorganization. With warmth, humor, and a voice blending street smarts and innocent naivete, Simms' melodious words draw listeners into the world of unwed parenthood, the struggle for a better life, and the deepening friendship between LaVaughn and Jolly. Written in the first person, the 66 short chapters of this

powerful coming-of-age story portray life in all its gritty and sometimes heartbreaking reality, while at the same time conveying a message of inspiration and hope captured in the saying "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Wolff's writing leaves listeners with no option but to root enthusiastically for both LaVaughn and Jolly, and to rush to the shelves for the sequel, True Believer (Atheneum, 2001). This stunning work belongs in every public and high school library. Cindy Lombardo, Orrville Public Library, OH Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

14-year-old LaVaughn needs money to start saving for college. And 17-year-old Jolly has two kids who need babysitting. As LaVaughn begins to watch over Jeremy and Jilly, Jolly's two children, she finds that she cares for the children and their well-being as well as Jolly's own well-being. LaVaughn discovers what it is like to be selfless as well as smart as she helps Jolly to turn her life around, and in the end, find herself. Wolff helps to solidify the fact that your life does not have to be perfect in order to live. She uses the motif of lemons and lemonade throughout the entire story to show that 1) while somebody may have handed you a lemon without you realizing it at the beginning, you can still turn it into lemonade, and 2) even if you have to wait months and months for the lemon seeds to bloom, they will bloom. Jolly has been handed some of the hardest lemons imaginable, but she is still able to find the humor in her life. LaVaughn is able to see this in Jolly and benefit from this. Wolff's writing is great. It is a pretty easy read, and she splits up her writing well that helps the reader to not get overwhelmed. She spaces out her thoughts well and is very good at helping the reader get inside the head of the protagonist. I love Wolff's writing and would recommend this read to anybody who wants an interesting storyline and a good read.

I read this book when I was in elementary school and I have never forgotten this story. I decided to find it and read it again. I still enjoyed it even though I remembered it a little bit differently. I also had no idea that this book was a three part series. I'm looking forward to reading the other two books in the series because I really enjoy this writer's style.

Book arrived in pristine condition. I first fell in love with this book in the 9th grade. I have thought about it often over the course of the last almost 20 years. It is such a wonderful book with many life lessons. I think every young girl should read this book. I think I might even buy a copy of it for my niece as well.

Bought Make Lemonade for my granddaughter's summer reading, and thought I'd sneak a peek myself. Very nice! Easy reading - and interesting plot! I know nothing about the author, but was searching for recommended reading online. I'm anxious to see what my granddaughter has to say about it after she reads it this summer.

My Resource class is reading "Make Lemonade." I felt that it was a subject that they can possibly identify with, and they are enjoying seeing the way La Vaughn and Jolly handle situations that arise. It is definitely a teachable moments book.

This book is a wonderful introduction to issues in real life. I read the book with my grand daughter and it made it easy to talk about issues I would otherwise wait to even breach with her.

Loved this book as a teen so I got it for my niece. Mature book they displays real world problems.

LaVaughn needs to save money to be a first generation college student. She finds part time work babysitting for teen mom of two and high school dropout, Jolly. Often urban youth are grouped together as like-minded; however, through poetic verses Wolff explores the differences between these teens' attitudes toward effort, efficacy, and education, as well as LaVaughn's internal struggle to keep separate from the drama of Jolly's life and maintain academic success.

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