

Foster Care

One Dog's
Story of Change



by Julia Cook

illustrations by Marcela Calderón



My name is
Foster.

I used to live in a big, red, dog house with
my real mom and my sometimes dad.

Now I have to live here with Rex, Simpson, Daisy,
Zeke, and a woman named Miss Beulah.

Everyone acts like I'm supposed to be OK with this...but I'm NOT!

"You're better off here," they say.

"I don't want to be here! I don't want to be in foster care!



I miss my mom!

I miss my sometimes dad!

I miss my Oliver!"



"What's your
'Oliver'?"

"Oliver is my purple giraffe. I got him when I was little.
When I left my doghouse, I couldn't find him anywhere.

➤ **Now he's lost forever!** ➤

"Well, I don't exactly love it here, either.
In fact, I don't think any of us do.

But it's probably the best
place to be right now.

There's so much stuff to think through."



"My mom had a hard time taking care of me. See, she's kind of a wild cat.
They told her she needed to get her fur straight, and she couldn't handle that."

Everyone acts like I'm supposed to be OK with this...but I'm NOT!

In this heartfelt story from the bestselling author of *My Mouth is a Volcano!*, Foster meets new friends and a kind foster mom who help him navigate the fears and feelings associated with going into foster care. Foster has lived with his mom and "sometimes dad" all his life...until now. And like so many others entering foster care, he has more questions than answers and so many new feelings to deal with.

***"I don't know what's going to happen to me.
Will I end up being like Zeke?
Will I have a new forever mom?
Can I visit my mom once a week?"***

***"I have so much going on inside me right now.
I feel angry, guilty, scared, hurt, and sad.
But maybe the others are right.
Maybe being here isn't so bad."***

Written in an honest, approachable way, *Foster Care* will encourage children entering or already in foster care and help them understand that they are not alone. Foster, Daisy, Zeke, Simpson, and Rex all have different circumstances which brought them into foster care. Together they talk through their stories and realize this is right where they need to be for now, under the caring watch of foster mom, Miss Beulah.

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Julia Cook, M.S. is a national award winning children's author, counselor and parenting expert. She has presented in thousands of schools across the country and abroad, regularly speaks at national education and counseling conferences, and has published children's books on a wide range of character and social development topics. The goal behind Cook's work is to actively involve young people in fun, memorable stories and teach them to become lifelong problem solvers. Inspiration for her books comes from working with children and carefully listening to counselors, parents, and teachers, in order to stay on top of needs in the classroom and at home. Cook has the innate ability to enter the worldview of a child through storybooks, giving children both the "what to say" and "how to say it".

Marcela Calderón is a veteran children's book illustrator who has a fondness for bright colors and quirky characters. Her work includes projects with Hachette, Harper Collins, and McGraw Hill. She lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



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