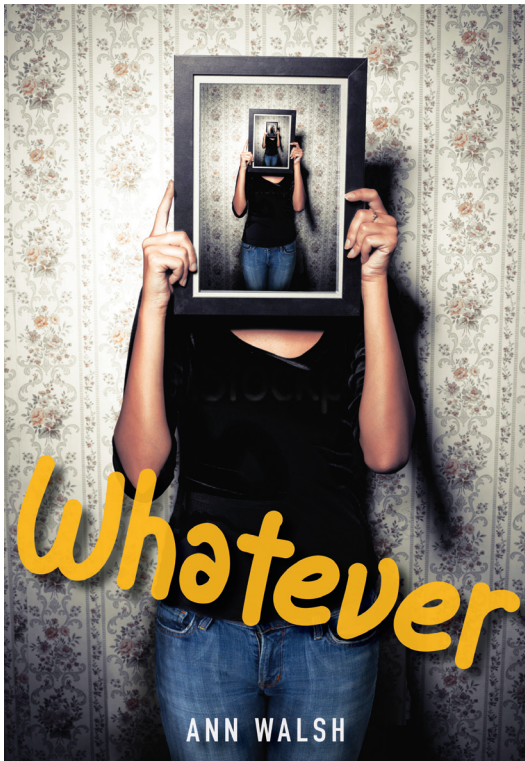


Whatever

by Ann Walsh



Sixteen-year-old Darrah is in trouble. She lost her temper and, as a result, Mrs. Johnson was hurt. Now her parents want her to go to something called a “Restorative Justice” circle that the RCMP suggested. Darrah has to face her parents, Mrs. Johnson, a policewoman, and a “facilitator” who all sit in a circle and decide on Darrah’s “sanctions.” Sanctions aren’t punishments, the facilitator tells her. At first Darrah doesn’t believe this—helping Mrs. Johnson two afternoons a week feels like punishment. But then Darrah realizes that she likes helping the older woman, especially when Mrs. Johnson teaches Darrah how to cook and bake (her recipes are included in the book). It turns out, however, that Mrs. Johnson is hiding a secret. . .

AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 2013

print ISBN: 978-1-55380-259-4
e-book ISBN: 978-1-55380-260-0
pdf ISBN: 978-1-55380-261-7

5-1/4 x 7-5/8 200 pp
trade paper \$11.95
YA NOVEL, AGES 12 AND UP

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