

MARLEY WON'T GIVE UP!

by Blanche R. Dudley, Ed.D.

www.blanchedudley.com

Kirkus Reviews: "A charming, if occasionally familiar, story that does the work to make its characters memorable ...fine tale of a girl who finds strength amid many setbacks."

Marley, a twelve-year-old middle school student, shows great faith and bravery in the face of bullying and a looming family tragedy. She is already struggling with cruelty from classmates when she learns that her mother has gone missing during a secret military mission.

Marley's unusual way of dealing with her mother's absence, including befriending the town's supposed witch and her strange son, sets her up for increased bullying and more than a few raised eyebrows, even among family and friends. Still, she refuses to back down, choosing instead to meet each challenge with faith and friendship.

Blanche R. Dudley, Ed.D., earned a doctorate in education at West Virginia University and wrote a dissertation on enhancing the self-esteem of middle-school students. An educator for over fifteen years, she enjoyed teaching expository and creative writing. MARLEY WON'T GIVE UP! is her debut novel for pre- and young teens. She is the author of several children's books on bullying and promoting positive self-esteem, including SIGGY AND THE BULLIES; BUMBLE'S SURPRISE: THE GIFT OF KINDNESS; and SIGGY'S PARADE. Dr. Dudley is a former West Virginia Teacher of the Year. She and her husband, Bill, live in McLean, VA.

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