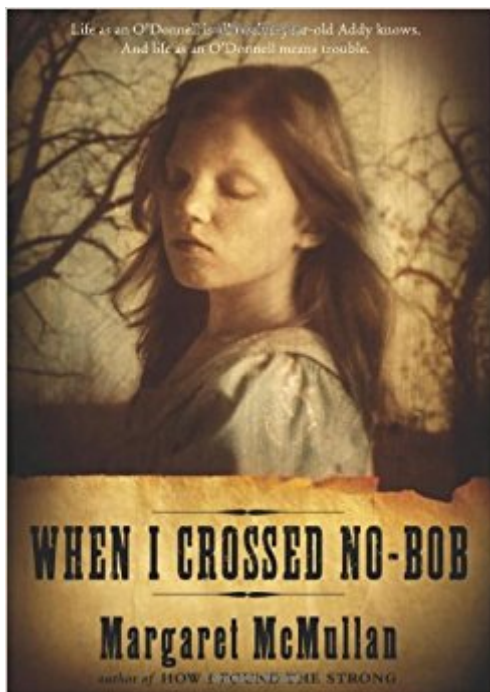


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# When I Crossed No-Bob



## Synopsis

Life as an O'Connell is all twelve-year-old Addy knows, and life as an O'Connell means trouble. Tucked away in a gray patch of woods called No-Bob, the O'Connell clan has nothing but a bad reputation. So when Addy's mama abandons her on the afternoon of Mr. Frank Russell's wedding celebration, nobody is very surprised. A reluctant Mr. Frank and his new wife take Addy in, and Addy does everything she can to prove that at least one O'Connell has promise. But one day, Addy witnesses a terrible event that brings her old world crashing into the new. As she finds herself being pulled back into No-Bob and the grips of her O'Connell kin, Addy is faced with the biggest decision of her life. Can she somehow find the courage to do what's right, even if it means betraying one of her own?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"McMullan again proves herself to be a superb prose stylist, creating a haunting portrait..." Kirkus Starred 10/01/07 Kirkus Reviews, Starred "This will make a fine addition to libraries seeking to expand their historical fiction offerings." SLJ November 2007 STARRED School Library Journal, Starred "The simple prose can be pure poetry." Booklist 10/01/07 Booklist, ALA "[A] deeply philosophical, first-person account of life...uplifting and heartbreaking as the same time." Bookpage, November 2007 Bookpage "McMullan allows Addy to tell her own tale in an ingenuous present tense." The Horn Book Jan/Feb 2008 Horn Book "Addie's voice is likable and she embodies the common theme in YA literature of rising above." KLIATT 11/01/07 KLIATT "Suspenseful plotting and

language...very appealing characters...a compelling portrait of life in Mississippi during Reconstruction." Bulletin February 2008 Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "This first-person, present-tense narrative makes Addy's story vibrant and realistic." VOYA February 2008 VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Margaret McMullan is the acclaimed author of *When I Crossed No-Bob* and *How I Found the Strong*, as well as the adult novels *In My Mother's House* and *When Warhol Was Still Alive*. Her work has appeared in such publications as *Glamour*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and *Michigan Quarterly Review*. She is a professor and the chair of the English department at the University of Evansville in Indiana.

If I had read books like "When I Crossed No-Bob" when I was a teen, I would have learned so much about history. It's really too bad that I waited this long. This was a beautifully written book. The main character's voice shines through. I swear you can hear her voice and her accent. I am a middle school Language Arts teacher and have already passed this book on to students who are enjoying it just as I did. I think that modern society sometimes takes for granted the simple things in life and how education is so important. It's also a good reminder for all educators that technology is constantly changing the way students learn. The technology in this book was in the form of maps and books. Mr. Frank's students hadn't seen maps before. It warmed my heart to see the students so excited over the maps and I was reminded how much students love anything digital. Beautiful book! This will stay with me for a long time.

Addy is abandoned by her mother when she is only 12, yet she has her head on straight enough to muddy through the forces of good and evil which close in around her. Not unlike Scout in "To Kill a Mockingbird," Addy rises to the truth when she needs to and acts with courage and determination, with a maturity that most adults around her fail to exhibit. Torn between her family's bad reputation and her own need for independence, Addy shows that being abandoned by your family can be a positive when the right surrogate parents are at hand. Great post-Civil War snapshot of the Deep South, complete with white sheets and very mean men. Suitable for middle- or high schoolers and an easy airplane read for me.

I have read "How I Found the Strong" by Ms. McMullan and enjoyed this book even more. My grandchildren loved it. The author's writing skills get better and better. Write one for us older

readers!

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