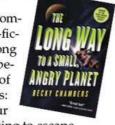


he holidays are about spending time with the ones you love. For many, that usually means family, but for some, spending time with family is challenging or emotional. That's why found family – or family of choice – can be so rewarding during the holiday season.

Here are some recommendations for books featuring found families:

'The Long Way to a Small Angry Planet' by Becky Chambers

As always, my reviews aren't complete without at least one science-fiction novel, and I chose "The Long Way to a Small Angry Planet" because it reminded me of one of my favorite found-family movies: "Guardians of the Galaxy." Our



heroine, Rosemary Harper, is looking to escape from her past by joining the crew of the Wayfarer. Family is the last thing she is seeking, but a dangerous mission to create wormholes teaches her about love and trust with an oddball crew that might just become her new family.

'Every Heart a Doorway' by Seanan McGuire

I had to include this one because I absolutely love the writing of McGuire (aka Mira Grant). This is a young-adult book for adults somewhat in the vein of "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children." Instead of children with special abilities, the children's home in this novel is meant for those who have ventured into fantasy worlds, like Alice to Wonderland or Max to the Land of the Wild Things. Miss West's Home for Wayward Children is for those who have seen the fantastical and returned to the mundane. Throw in a murder plot, and this book is one you can't put down.

'The House in the Cerulean Sea' by T.J. Klune

I began seeing this book everywhere after it came out last year and just had to pick it up. I was not disappointed. What if you had to determine whether six children would bring about the end of the world? What if

those six children were a gnome, a sprite, a wyvern, an unidentifiable green blob, a were-Pomeranian and the Antichrist? That is Linus Baker's job in this novel. But instead of bringing about the end of the world, what if these six children open up an entirely new one for Linus? Maybe these characters will open up something entirely new for you, too.