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## **Laws & Policies Create Barriers Between Children and the Foster Families Who Love Them**

Foster children often live in limbo—between parents who do not want them or cannot care for them; strangers who become their temporary family; and institutions in between. Some fortunate children will find long-term loving homes yet others will wander aimlessly between short-term solutions. ***White Balloons for Sarah*** is a story that is completely opposite of the typical foster care situation. Instead of a story about a child being placed in a loving home, ***White Balloons for Sarah*** is the story of the removal of a mentally retarded girl from a loving foster family.

A compelling story centered on an issue that is clearly close to the author's heart, ***White Balloons for Sarah*** reveals the bureaucratic nightmare of the foster care system and its administrators. "After reading ***White Balloons for Sarah***, I want people to question what is being thought when the fate of a child is decided," explained Ms. Laurent. "The fate of any foster child is too important to ignore."

***White Balloons for Sarah*** is a fictionalized account of Sarah, abandoned by her birth mother and placed by authorities in an institution as a newborn. When Sarah was two years old, Ellen and Jeff Jansen became Sarah's foster parents and took her into their home and their hearts. For eight years, Sarah lives an idyllic life until an unexpected letter arrives that spins her life into turmoil. Who will win the heart wrenching battle that will decide Sarah's fate? Her loving foster parents? Her erratic birth mother? Or Bill Black, the egocentric director who has power of attorney?

In ***White Balloons for Sarah***, author Jacqueline Laurent decries the illogic of laws and policies that put up barriers between children and the foster families who love them. Readers find the plight of Sarah is both appalling and believable, giving a sense of what it is like to live as a foster child in limbo.

### **About the Author**

Lieve Jacqueline Laurent Olivera was born in Antwerp, Belgium. After completing a degree in languages, she taught for several years before moving to Australia. Besides a love for literature and languages, Lieve is passionate about gymnastics and taught the sport to children for many years at her gymnastics school on the Gold Coast, Australia. In 1985 she earned the prestigious license of International Gymnastics Judge (FIG) and traveled throughout the world, judging numerous international competitions. Lieve currently lives with her husband in Sarasota, Florida. ***White Balloons for Sarah*** is her first novel. For more information, visit [www.jacquelinelaurent.com](http://www.jacquelinelaurent.com).



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