

Dear Reader,

DOWN TO EARTH is about Henry, a homeschooled boy who witnesses an enormous meteorite land in his family's hayfield in Northern Maine.

For someone who loves rocks the way Henry does, what could be better than a giant space rock with properties never before seen here on earth? But the meteorite's arrival sets off a chain of events Henry could not have foreseen. The most exciting thing that ever happened to Henry puts him in the limelight (a place he'd rather not be) and causes trouble he never saw coming—for his family, his best friend and his town.

This story is also about how the universe can throw you exactly what you need right when you need it. In Henry's case, not throwing, but *crashing* a meteorite in his backyard. Literally, a very big message! There's also a rare bird, an unexpected visitor and something outside of science between these pages.

Part of the inspiration for this book came from seeing and touching the ten thousand year old Ahnighito meteorite in the Museum of Natural History in New York City when I was a child. The landscape comes from what is right outside my front door— fields cleared and stone walls made by generations long gone, and streams curving their way across the land.

Water, its presence, its absence and its value is a theme that flows throughout the book. I spent many years hand pumping water from a well that went dry every summer. And now that I can turn a tap and fill my glass with water from a deep well, I have a true appreciation for the talented Maine water dowsers and well drillers like the ones in Henry's family!

Happy reading!

Betty Culley