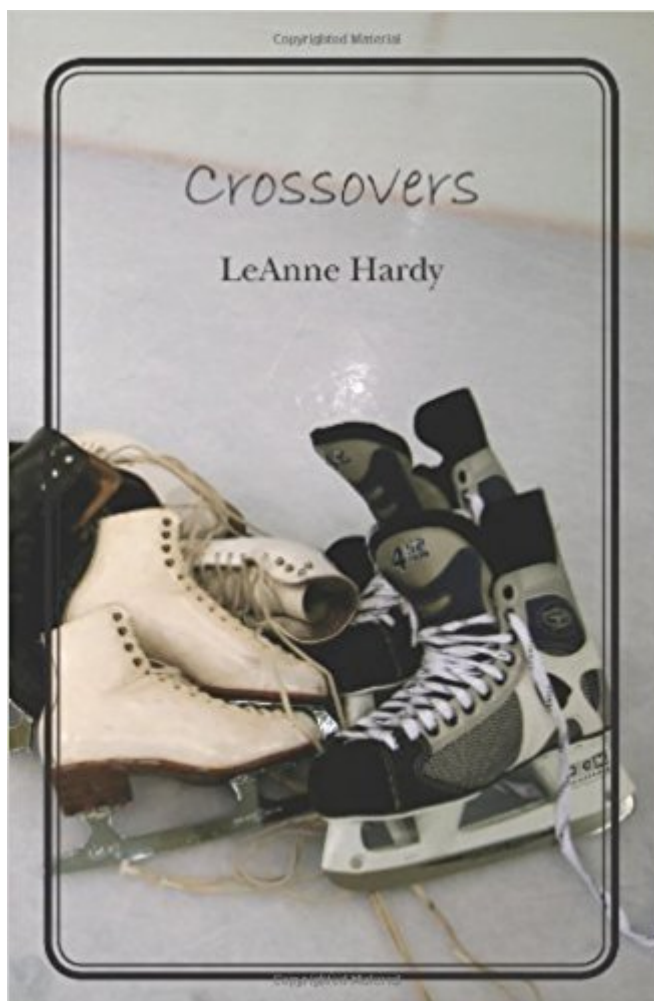


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# Crossovers



## Synopsis

All the Bradleys play hockey—even Ben’s older sister Denise who hopes to go to hockey camp and become the first girl on the Rum River High School varsity team. But thirteen-year-old Ben wants to learn to jump and spin. If the guys find out, Ben will never hear the end of it. And he doesn’t even want to think about what his former hockey star dad would say.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

LeAnne Hardy has lived in six countries on four continents. She currently hangs her skates in Northwest Wisconsin. For more information on the places she has lived and books that have come out of them, visit [www.leannahardy.net](http://www.leannahardy.net).

Thank you! It made me think of my forgotten dreams. Should remind them for myself.

my wife had me order this book and loved it so much i read it also i`m not into skating like she is but i enjoyed it also

Dreams! What does a boy do when his dream crosses over into a new territory? A territory that seems to be a girl’s place? In *Crossovers* by LeAnne Hardy we meet Ben Bradley who loves to skate and is the star hockey player on his team. But when Ben’s sister wants to go to hockey camp, where no other girl has gone before, it seems that girls are always allowed to "crossover" and fulfill their dreams! But Ben, who is in junior high, has a dream too. He wants to figure skate. He loves the

music and can hear the beat. This is a great juvenile fiction read that shows that although girls have dreams so do boys. In our society do we forget about the boys and how they want to branch out and crossover to something that interests them? This read shows that dreams are made of hard work and gumption. A great read to encourage youth to follow their dreams! \*This book was provided by the author for review\* I was not required to write a positive/negative review just my thoughts.

I enjoyed this little book quite a bit. Hardy uses the gender roles we associate with figure skating and hockey to explore what it is to be brave when you are learning to be an adult. Who are your friends, and what does fitting it cost you? What is it like to fall in love with something you feel ashamed of? One of the strongest parts of the writing in this book is the love of skating that comes through. Ben is an awesome kid. He works hard for the things he wants to do, and he doesn't whine about the fact that it's work. So all the time he spends on the ice comes through clearly, and he seems like a great role model for other kids. I really appreciated the family dynamics that the story presents. The parents are supportive, but they also want respect and effort from the kids. For instance, the kids have to mow lawns or babysit to earn half the money for their camps and equipment. That's a nice balance of supportive with wanting the kid to have some skin in the game. And I'm glad his sister wanted to play hockey. That was a nice contrast. I chuckled pretty hard when Ben found out how much a pair of figure-skating boots costs. I have figure skaters of my own, and it's no joke. Also, in my head, Grandma teaches Ben to sew his own foofy costumes, and it's a nice bonding activity. But that may be my prejudice since I sewed all my kids' costumes. However, I think this book is pretty firmly in the mid-grade camp. Although Ben learns to explore his own prejudices about masculinity, gayness, and figure skating, it seemed like he had very little understanding of why the three of those are not necessarily in conflict. I thought the addition of questioning his sexuality actually distracted from the contemplation of masculinity, like it was too many axes to handle in the story. I wanted Ben to think about what it was that caused his peers and himself to recoil from things that challenged their assumptions. I thought that his definition of masculinity (and femininity didn't really move, just got a bit bigger to account for himself and his sister as exceptional. Still, I would recommend it as a nice starting place to talk about gender roles and also the value of hard work in sports. Read if: You love ice skating in any form. You were a student athlete. You wish you had gotten to play the "wrong" sport for your gender. Skip if: You are looking for a more advanced treatment of gender politics. Also read: Dairy Queen, a more nuanced and mature look at gender roles and sexuality and hard work. However, Dairy Queen is certainly for older readers than Crossovers.

Thirteen year old Ben Bradley loves to be on the ice. His whole family plays hockey - even his older sister and mom. He's a good hockey player too. But what he really wants to do is learn to jump and spin. He's been going to the ice arena early in the morning watching Shannon and taking lessons from Mr. B. Ben is careful to be finished by eight when the hockey practice starts. If the guys saw him figure skating, well, they'd make fun of him. As if life wasn't complicated enough for Ben, his sister wants to go to hockey camp. Hockey camp -with the guys! And she wants to try out for the varsity hockey team. The guys will never let him live that down. And his parents. How will he ever tell his hockey playing parents he wants to dance on the ice? Hardy has crafted a youth novel dealing with many of the issues facing young people today. Ben wants to be accepted by the guys but is it worth it to not follow his heart? Ben's sister wants to be on the hockey team. Should she try for it even though she is convinced she would have to be twice as good as a guy? Ben wants to support his sister but does that mean fighting the bullies who make fun of her? When Ben's bicycle is trashed, has his best friend betrayed him? Should Ben be nice to Norman Skagway? Skag is a nice kid but the guys call him a name that rhymes with his nickname. What will the guys think if Ben is seen with Skag? Is Ben lying to his parents when he does not tell them about his dreams or his early morning practices at the arena? Is lying just with words or do you do it with your actions too? This is a great novel for kids 10 to 13 years old. A good Discussion Guide helps readers discuss fears, peer pressure, lying, the roles girls and boys are expected to follow, being true to your faith and being accepted by your peers, and more. This would be a good novel for parents too. You will get a pretty good idea of what your kids are going through in middle school and early high school. I received a complimentary copy of this book from the author for the purpose of this review.

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Crossovers

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