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*A missing father. A lost home. A dangerous and moving mystery
from the New York Times bestselling and acclaimed author of **Chasing Vermeer***

Hold Fast

By Blue Balliett

★ “Wonderful...will pierce all readers.”— *Booklist*, starred review

★ “Enthralling and satisfying.”— *Kirkus*, starred review

★ “Engaging. The author shows that the fight to hold fast to your dreams
rewards those who persevere. Excellent.”
— *School Library Journal*, starred review

“[Balliett’s] most heart-rending novel.”— *New York Times Book Review*

Hold Fast by award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author Blue Balliett tells the story of an 11-year-old girl who falls into Chicago’s shelter system and from there must solve the mystery of her father’s strange disappearance. With her signature, singular love of language and sense of mystery, Balliett spins a story that takes readers from the cold, snowy Chicago streets to the darkest corner of the Chicago Public Library. Weaving in an old Langston Hughes book of rhythms with a family of four who find themselves in the midst of a spiraling nightmare, *Hold Fast* takes readers on an unforgettable hunt for deep truths and a reunited family.

The mystery begins with a bizarre accident on a deserted, wintery street in Chicago. Where is Early’s father? He’s not the kind of father who would disappear. But he’s gone...and he’s left a whole lot of trouble behind. As danger closes in, Early, her mom, and her brother have to flee their apartment. With nowhere else to go, they are forced to move into a city shelter. Once there, Early starts asking questions and looking for answers—because her father hasn’t disappeared without a trace. There *are* patterns and rhythms to what’s happened, and Early might be the only one who can use them to track her father down...and make her way out of a very tough place.

Blue Balliett is the award-winning author of the bestselling art mystery novels *Chasing Vermeer*, *The Wright 3*, *The Calder Game*, and *The Danger Box*. Her debut novel, *Chasing Vermeer* (2004), soared onto the *New York Times* best-seller list shortly after publication and garnered numerous awards including the Edgar Award, a Book Sense Book of the Year Award, and was named a *New York Times* Notable Book and a *Publishers Weekly* Flying Start. Additionally, Balliett has been awarded the *Chicago Tribune* Prize for Young Adult Fiction, Chicago Public Library Foundation’s 21st Century Award, the Agatha Award, and the *Chicago Tribune*’s 2010 Chicagoan of the Year for Literature. She has appeared twice on NBC’s *The Today Show* and has garnered international praise and coverage for her mystery novels. Balliett’s books have been translated in 35 languages. Blue Balliett grew up in New York City, studied art history at Brown University, and has lived in Chicago for many years. She was a classroom teacher at The University of Chicago Laboratory School but now writes full-time, working in the laundry room of the Hyde Park home she shares with her husband.

Hold Fast

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