

Variety of books have local ties

Sandra Matuschka | Special to The Daily News Nov 18, 2013

FICTION

“Come Here, Go Away” by Elizabeth Laytin

As the book cover notes, this first novel by Laytin is set in two places close to her heart: Crozet, Va., where she rode horses as a teenager, and Newport, R.I., where her parents moved when she was 19. The book has a haunting quality, partly to do with the author’s writing style. The storyline revolves around Marlee, a 14-year-old girl who is taken from Virginia — or kidnapped (we’re never quite sure) — by her father to Rhode Island.

Many of the chapters are preceded by short descriptions about the life of lobsters, a book that Marlee discovers in her new home, which is with her father’s brother and wife. The descriptions play into the incidents that occur to Marlee as she tries to make sense of her situation, and plans to run away back to Virginia to find her mother. The writing has a brevity and directness that makes you want to find out what happens next.