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**GEORGE ELLA LYON'S NEW YA NOVEL
ASKS AN INTRIGUING QUESTION ABOUT A TEEN MOM:
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN NO ONE BUT YOU BELIEVES YOUR BABY IS REAL?**

Lexington, KY - *Holding on to Zoe* , the latest book from award-winning author George Ella Lyon, will be published on July 17th, 2012. *Publishers Weekly* had this to say about the book: "Lyon offers a haunting portrayal of a girl's psychological trauma and the defenses she builds in order to feel less alone in the world." From *Kirkus Reviews* : "Sensitively weaving the past and present together, Lyon adroitly describes the texture of the troubled teen's world in the girl's voice."

Jules is a high-school student who discovers she's pregnant and is determined to have her baby, even though her mother and her doctor say she will never come to term. Before too long we realize that something is not quite right with Jules-and with the baby she clings to. As days and weeks pass, Jules's world grows smaller and smaller. Her mother won't give her the support she needs. Her friends shy away from her. Don't they know how much this baby means to Jules? Can't they see Zoe and she together make a whole?

Where did the author find the idea for Jules' story? "Like so much of my writing, *Zoe* began in my journal," Lyon says. "When the character of Jules showed up, I was captivated from the first page. I was deeply moved by the force of Jules's spirit as she struggles to survive and thrive. At the end, she has come triumphantly to her true beginning, a place full of hope for us all."

George Ella Lyon is the author of many books for children and young adults. Her picture books include *Who Came Down That Road?* , *The Pirate of Kindergarten* , and *You and Me and Home Sweet Home* . Her novels for young adults include *With a Hammer for My Heart* and *Sonny's House of Spies* , which received starred reviews in *SLJ* , *Publishers Weekly* , and *The Horn Book* .

She is also the author of numerous novels and poetry for adults; her poem, "Where I'm From," is used as a model by teachers around the world. To learn more about George Ella Lyon and her books, visit www.georgeellalyon.com.

Holding On to Zoe

George Ella Lyon

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