In the book, Aven soon finds herself starting her life all over again. Everyone avoids her because of her lack of arms, and whenever they talk to her it’s to ask what happened to them.

Aven had experienced this before, but she would normally feel funny and obviously fake lies about her arms.

However, this time she doesn’t feel like telling people that she had been in an alligator wrestling match, in a wildlife in Tanzania, or had saved a puppy tied to a train track.

While exploring the outskirts of the old park, Aven encounters a large cactus. She is intrigued by it and visits it as often as she can, calling it a show-off for its seven large arms.

“Aven’s thinking that it’s probably 200 years old and she’s thinking about all the things that would have happened in the saguaro’s life,” Bowling explains.

“So she thinks, ‘I shouldn’t really feel so bad about all this hard stuff I’m going through because really, I’m an entirely insignificant event in the life of this cactus.’ ”

She and her parents never meet Joe Cavanaugh, and Aven discovers that nearly every trace of him and his family at Stagecoach Pass have been removed, as though they suddenly disappeared along with almost all evidence of them ever being there.

Aven makes friends with Connor, a boy who everyone makes fun of for having Tourette’s Syndrome, “Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus” is a terrific story for everyone, especially for kids who have disabilities.

It made me think about what the lives of people with disabilities are like in a completely new way.

“It’s really targeted for ages 8 to 12-ish, but I do think that it has wide appeal,” Bowling says. “Adults seem to enjoy it as well.”

Mayor Michael B. Hancock unveils the 2018 Youth One Book, One Denver (YOBOD) program selection at Force Elementary School. Force students each got a copy of the book, making them the first to begin the program. (Photo/ Sterling Children’s Books)

Mayor Michael B. Hancock unveils the 2018 “Youth One Book, One Denver” program selection at Force Elementary School. Force students each got a copy of the book, making them the first to begin the program. (Photo/ Sterling Children’s Books)
**Search for aliens takes new direction**

Scientists have no problem believing that, as huge as the Universe is, and as many star systems and planets are out there, it’s likely we aren’t the only place where life exists. But how to find it? As we build better telescopes, it becomes easier to find exoplanets. But the more exoplanets we find, the more important it becomes to decide which ones are a waste of time and energy. Scientists are now trying a new way to sort the possibilities: By analyzing the chemicals present in a planet’s light spectrum. This makes it easier to eliminate a lot of possibilities, but an early clue suggests life may be quite rare. One critical element for life is phosphorous, which is created in supernovas. This makes it easier to eliminate a lot of possibilities, but an early clue suggests life may be quite rare. One critical element for life is phosphorous, which is created in supernovas.

**The Heart and Mind of Frances Pauley**

In “The Heart and Mind of Frances Pauley,” by April Stevens, the title character is a different sort of person from her family, and the people who go to her school. Frances, as, or she is likely to be called, Figgrotten, is very different than her sister. Her mom says that “she is going through changes” but Figgrotten still doesn’t understand. She loves nature.

Instead of the perfectly clean and kept up room Figgrotten’s sister has, she has transformed her room into the most natural place it could be. Her room is lined with rocks and Figgrotten had brought multiple tree branches in to her room. Not to mention that she always sleeps with her window open, even when it’s freezing outside. And she always sleeps in her jacket. Meaning that she is completely rejected by her sister. Her mom says that “she is going through changes” but Figgrotten still doesn’t understand. She loves nature.

**Big Nate**

Many people bullied Frances for being different, but she always kept her head and mind of a true fighter. The heart and mind of Frances Pauley.

**Very different girl in a very different novel**

Oh, and maybe that new boy that transferred to her school.

“The Heart and Mind of Frances Pauley” is a very good book and I would definitely suggest reading it. The description in this book is extraordinary, and the point of view is something very special that you can’t find in most books. Author April Stevens truly showed a spark of imagination while writing this. This book was fairly long, though, which is why I recommend it for people who have the time and patience to read something longer, and I would probably recommend this for 9 or 10 up. Many people bullied Frances for being different, but she had the heart and mind of a true fighter. The heart and mind of Frances Pauley.

By Katherine Gagner, a CK Reporter from Denver

By Marcia Cossu, editor of a CK Reporter from Boulder

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Search for aliens takes new direction
Too much beauty leads to too much sewage

In 2012, Boracay was named the best island in the world by the magazine "Travel and Leisure," and it has always been at the top of the list of destinations for visitors of "Conde Nast Traveler." And well before that, the island’s white sand beaches and tropical climate lured tourists from around the world. But there is such a thing as being too popular, and the Philippine government has had to declare Boracay closed to tourists for six months, starting April 26, so that the island can be cleaned up and made ready to handle its popularity.

This bay on Boracay Island looks lovely, but too many tourists and too much development has turned it into a disaster zone.

Rules: Every row across, every column down and each of the six smaller boxes must contain the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, once and only once. The solution to this week’s puzzle is on Page 4.

Sudoku

Brainteaser

Arbor Day is celebrated on many dates around the world, depending on when it is best to plant trees in each place, but the first American Arbor day was on April 10, 1872, so our answers this week will begin with "T" for "tree."

1. African nation whose capital is Dar es Salaam
2. A Jewish church
3. The Greek hero who slew the Minotaur
4. He became president when Franklin Roosevelt died
5. Member of the percussion family, sometimes called a kettle drum
6. Metal cup worn over the finger while sewing to protect against the needle
7. Herb used in cooking; it starts with "th" when you spell it, but not when you say it.
8. The Boy King whose tomb was discovered in 1922. We'll take the short version of his name or the long, uncommon version.
9. A grass grown for hay, or one of the people St. Paul wrote letters to.
10. Croatian-born electrician and inventor, he lived for a time in Colorado Springs

(update) It’s “Baby Ruth’

Last month, CK Reporter Ben Vannurak wrote about the new baby sloth at the Denver Zoo, but reported that it’s not possible to know a sloth’s sex without a blood test, and that the baby’s mother was not letting go of her yet. Denver Zoo just revealed that the Lennie-twod-toed sloth is a girl and her name is Baby Ruth. She was born on January 28 to Charlotte, the Zoo’s 27-year-old male, Eliot, however animal care staff had to wait until very recently to conduct a more thorough examination to determine her sex.

Charlotte and Baby Ruth continue to thrive, and can be found in their habitat in Bird World at Denver Zoo.

This day on Boracay Island looks lovely, but too many tourists and too much development has turned it into a disaster zone.
I Will Come Home

Chapter Four: Kindness

(Our story so far: Jimmy was able to smuggle a letter out of the POW camp at Andersonville. He and John Kelley are fine, but conditions there are very bad and Charlie Stout has died.)

I was a kindness for him to say all that about Charlie,” Mrs. Baxter said. “Your brother is a kind and thoughtful man.” She had done laundry that day and, when Betsy came from school, they hung the sheets on the line together. Now they were sitting on the porch, shelling peas and drinking cambric tea while the baby napped beside them in a basket of clean diapers and towels.

Betsy kept her eyes down at the bowl in her lap as she spoke. “I don’t know that he said anything very comforting,” she replied. “Poor Charlie couldn’t even eat. It seemed very sad.”

“No, it was a kindness,” Betsy declared. “And I don’t care about anything else. I just want Jimmy to come home! Nothing else. Nothing else will ever make me glad again, ever!”

But now little Tommy began to cry, too. Mrs. Baxter wiped her eyes, and laughed, and picked him up from the laundry basket. “Did we wake you up, little fellow?” she asked. “Did those foolish girls wake you up with their caterwauling?”

“Of course you did!” Mrs. Baxter said. “Of course you meant it!”

And she put her bowl on the table, and took Betsy’s bowl, and then reached over and the baby napped while the woman and the young widow held each other and wept. It was the first time Betsy had cried since the day Jimmy’s first letter arrived and they knew he was a prisoner.

Betsy kept her eyes down at the bowl in her lap as she spoke. “I don’t know that he said anything very comforting, “ she said. “I thought I would never smile again. And then I looked at little Tommy and I patted his back.

“I’m glad John is there,” Betsy looked up for a moment, but didn’t say anything. “Goodness knows, I don’t miss him, but I’m glad John is in prison,” Mrs. Baxter went on. “But I’m glad Jim isn’t alone. John was never a close friend, Jim and Tom and Charlie were always together while John was always working at his family’s store. Still, he’s from home. I’m glad Jim has a friend for company.”

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Mrs. Baxter’s eyes began to fill with tears and Betsy suddenly realized the terrible thing she had said. Her brother might yet come home, but Mrs. Baxter’s husband never would.

“Tut or Tutankhamen,” Mrs. Baxter insisted. “I don’t care about anything else. I just want Jimmy to come home! Nothing else. Nothing else will ever make me glad again, ever!”

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