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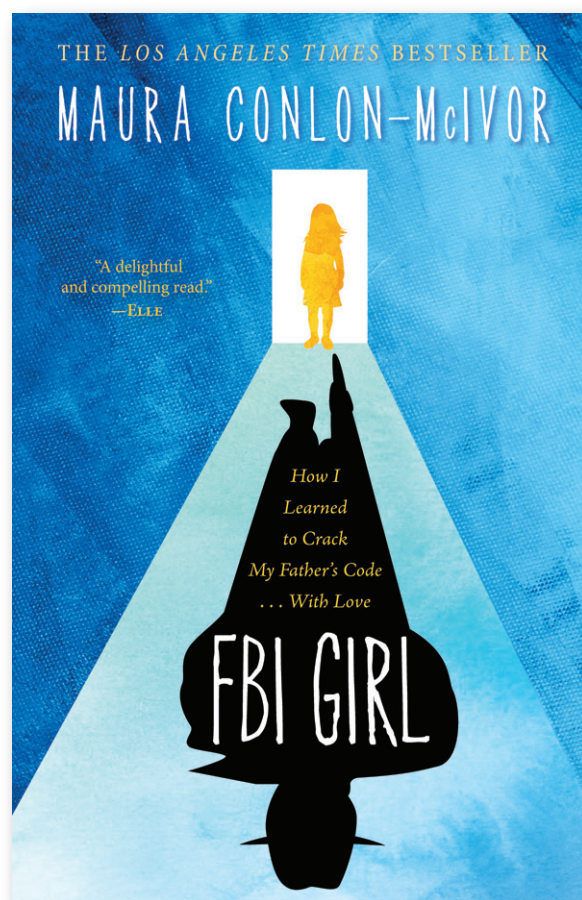
THE LOS ANGELES TIMES BESTSELLER

# FBI GIRL



*How I Learned to Crack My Father's Code . . . With Love*

MAURA CONLON-McIVOR



ISBN: 978-1-5326-1862-8  
318 pp. | forthcoming

"A delightful and compelling read."  
—ELLE

IN A HOUSE TEEMING WITH LIFE, young Maura, voted the Most Quiet Girl in Catholic school, notices everything but says little. Eager to penetrate the secret world of her father, FBI agent Joe Conlon, she is drawn to the bureau drawer where he places his badge at night.

The time is the late 1960s, and Vietnam and the Cold War are fomenting unrest outside Maura's suburban Los Angeles home. Inside, the Conlons and their five children are still bound by tradition: baseball games, Sunday dinners of roast beef and mashed potatoes, and *The FBI* on TV. Under the watchful gaze of J. Edgar Hoover's picture, Maura's mother, a former New York bathing beauty, remains a housemaker even as she slips out for assertiveness training.

And there's the one unshakable rule of all: Joe Conlon never talks about his job. In fact, he rarely speaks at all. Believing that he communicates in code, Maura is determined to crack it. She uses clues gleaned from Nancy Drew mysteries, eavesdrops on adult conversations, and spins larger-than-life fantasies in her head, with her younger brother, Joey, who has Down syndrome, at her side.

But her flights of fancy turn sober with a murder in the family. Suddenly her father's silence speaks volumes, and she learns a lesson from him about fierce love during a time of devastating loss.

Bathed in luminous nostalgia, resonating with hilarious and painful memories, *FBI Girl* is the coming-of-age story of a highly imaginative girl and a passionate homage to family bonds, the trials that test them, and the triumphs that make them stronger.

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