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Heat



Synopsis

The #1 Bestseller! Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat along with aspirations of leading his team all the way to the Little League World Series. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year-old brother Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system—or worse, sent back to Cuba. Together, the boys carry on alone, dodging bills and anyone who asks too many questions. But then someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources. Perfect for any Little Leaguer with dreams of making it big—as well as for fans of Mike Lupica's other New York Times bestsellers Travel Team, The Big Field, The Underdogs, Million-Dollar Throw, and The Game Changers series, this cheer-worthy baseball story shows that when the game knocks you down, champions stand tall.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #25,131 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino #38 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball #59 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8-When Michael Arroyo is on the baseball diamond, everything feels right. He's a terrific

pitcher who dreams of leading his South Bronx All-Stars to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA. It's a dream he shared with his father, one they brought with them as they fled Cuba and wound up living in the shadow of Yankee Stadium. Michael's ultimate dream is to play in the major leagues like his hero, El Grande, Yankee star and fellow Cuban refugee. Tragically, Papi died of a heart attack a few months back, leaving Michael and his older brother, Carlos, to struggle along on their own. Afraid of being separated, they hide the news of their father's death from everyone but a kindly neighbor, Mrs. Cora, and Michael's best friend, Manny Cabrera. When a bitter rival spreads rumors that Michael is older than he appears, the league demands that he be benched until he can produce a birth certificate. As he did in *Travel Team* (Philomel, 2004), Lupica crafts an involving, fast-paced novel peopled with strong, well-developed characters. Readers will find themselves rooting for Michael as he struggles with the loss of his father, stumbles into his first boy-girl relationship, and yearns to play baseball. The sports scenes are especially well written; fittingly, the euphoric finale takes place at Yankee Stadium. At times, the author veers toward melodrama but he keeps his lively plot on course with humor, crisp dialogue, and true-to-life characters. Lupica scores another hit with this warmhearted novel. -Marilyn Taniguchi, Beverly Hills Public Library, CA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review Gr. 6--9. Michael Arroyo is a 13-year-old Cuban American who lives in the shadow of Yankee Stadium. Yes, he is a Little League ballplayer, and, yes, he has a dream: to pitch in the Little League World Series. To do so, his South Bronx All-Stars will need to beat the best the greater New York area has to offer in the regional championship, to be played in--you guessed it--Yankee Stadium. This setup sounds like yet another *Rocky* meets *Bad News Bears* tearjerker: the immigrants from the Bronx take on the white-bread rich kids from the suburbs. It is that (with some notable twists), but it's much more, too. Michael and his brother, 17-year-old Carlos, have a problem: their beloved father is dead, and the boys are hoping to avoid a foster home by pretending Papi is visiting a sick relative in Miami. Lupica wrings plenty of genuine emotion from the melodramatic frame story, but he sidesteps the slough of social significance by building characters who speak for themselves, not the author, and by enlivening the story with a teen version of street humor. The dialogue crackles, and the rich cast of supporting characters--especially Michael's battery mate, catcher and raconteur Manny--nearly steals the show. Top-notch entertainment in the Carl Hiaasen mold. Bill Ott Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Heat is a book about two brothers, Carlos and Michael, and the challenges they have to conquer in order to succeed. The story is a drama about both friendship and baseball. There are many things I liked and I didn't like in the book. First of all, I enjoyed how the book did not let you know what would happen next. I had no idea if any of the plans to stay together as a family after their dad died would work. When it came to the main characters, I really liked them. I was glad the book was not written from Justin's point of view, who was a mean kid Michael played against. I liked how the storyline was original and bold in that it did not have a regular fairytale ending. I did not like how the writer did not talk about the boys' mother very much. It seemed like their mother was a ghost, and I wanted to know more about her. I found the beginning of the book confusing to figure out what was happening. The author did not give a lot of detail to the locations of the baseball games and exactly who some of the characters they mentioned were to the boys. I have some lingering questions about the book, like: How did Papi, Michael, and Carlos arrive in New York City? How come the government did not figure out the main characters were illegal immigrants? How did El Grande's family successfully make it to the USA if they were being tailed by the police so closely? Heat was fascinating to me because it cannot be compared to any book or movie that I have read or seen before. There are a lot of little league baseball movies and books but none compare to this book. The storyline of Heat sets it apart from other baseball books because you really see where the characters are coming from. I have three favorite quotes from Heat. The first is from page 143, when Manny's uncle, Uncle Tio, says, "Silencio, no hay que gritas, no se vaya a despectar." This is funny because Uncle Tio is telling Michael not to scream and wake up the cat. Michael is glad Mr. Gibbs does not speak Spanish because Mr. Gibbs may realize that Uncle Tio is not the boy's dead father. Another good quote is when Michael and Uncle Tio hug when Uncle Tio is faking being Papi. They are both acting like father and son in front of Mr. Gibbs. Uncle Tio says, "My son," then whispered in Michael's ear saying, "Top that, dude." The best quote of all is when Manny and Michael are in the security check area of Yankee Stadium with El Grande and Ellie, who is El Grande's daughter and Michael's crush. Then Ellie asks Manny and Michael, "Are you ready?," asking them about playing in a tournament at Yankee Stadium. Manny says, "Are you kidding? We were born ready." I would almost definitely recommend this book to all ages, from little league to big league baseball players, to anyone person from any sport because it helps all athletes realize what they are playing for.

Reasonably priced book purchased for my son's summer reading assignment.

Excellence!

perfect

Enjoyed!

Purchased to read as part of graduate school class on diversity and ELL students. This would be an enjoyable read for your kids or students of your own. Perfect for a baseball fan, but the likable and diverse characters make this a fun book for any middle school aged boy/girl.

I bought this book for my grandson who loves reading books about baseball. It is a novel written by a famous writer. My grandson has not read it yet but he says he will soon. He said it looks like a good story. Recommend!

I'm a massive baseball fan, I (account owners son) even play baseball. The story as whole was awesome. It just kept getting better. I highly recommend this for any baseball or sports fans.

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