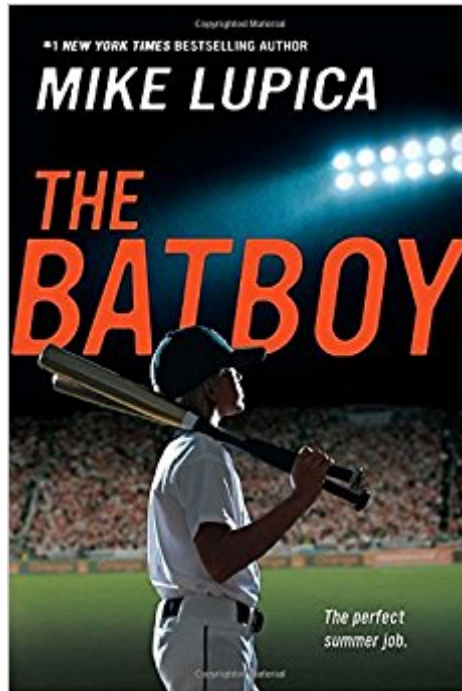




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The Batboy



Synopsis

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Heat*, *Travel Team* and *Million-Dollar Throw*. Brian is living every baseball kid's dream: he is a batboy for his hometown Major League team. Brian believes that it's the perfect thing to bring him and his big-leaguer dad closer together. And if that weren't enough, this is the season that Hank Bishop, Brian's baseball hero, returns to the Tigers for the comeback of a lifetime. The summer couldn't get much better! Until Hank Bishop starts to show his true colors, and Brian learns that sometimes life throws you a curveball.

Book Information

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Boys & Men

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-10 • Brian's dad, a former big league pitcher, left Brian and his mom years earlier, and the boy still longs for his return. This summer, Brian has won a coveted spot as a batboy for the Detroit Tigers during home games at Comerica Park. He relishes his dream come true: hustling to complete tasks, enjoying a sleepover at the ballpark, and his front-row seat for the on-field action. On his days off, he plays on a travel team with his best friend, Kenny. Then his favorite player, Hank Bishop, returns to the Tigers following a suspension for steroid use. Bishop is stumbling at the end of his career: this is his last chance to reach a milestone 500 home runs. Brian shyly attempts to befriend his hero, but Bishop treats Brian and his teammates with frosty disdain. Lupica is at the top of his game, crafting a crisp, fast-paced novel teeming with edge-of-the-seat baseball drama. He limns his characters with well-observed detail and dialogue. Brian is a

recognizable, multilayered teen; he's close to his mom, though they struggle to communicate and understand one another. Meanwhile, he learns the hard truth: "no matter how much Brian loved baseball, it was never going to make his father love him more." Though this novel will undoubtedly appeal to those who equate summer with baseball, it should also win over readers who appreciate finely crafted storytelling and engaging characters. --Marilyn Taniguchi, Beverly Hills Public Library, CA (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

After Brian Dudley lands his dream job as a batboy for the Detroit Tigers, he is disappointed when his hero, Hank Bishop, who has been given a final chance by the Tigers after a steroid scandal, proves to be uncommunicative and even hostile. Brian's parents are divorced, and communication with his dad, an ex-major league pitcher who is working as a coach in Japan, is also difficult. Despite Brian's efforts to reach out, his father doesn't respond to e-mails or letters. Eventually, though, Brian does find a way to talk with Hank, who proves to be a softy. Lupica has hit upon an effective formula for his novels, giving his readers a behind-the-scenes look at major league sports. In this novel, he adds genuine insights into family dynamics and the emotional state of his hero. Pair this with Wes Tooke's *Lucky: Maris, Mantle, and My Best Summer Ever* (2010), which also describes the life of a major league batboy. Grades 5-8. --Todd Morning --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My daughter said to me this morning, "Mom, this is the best book I've ever read." So I tried it myself, and it was amazing. This book is about a boy that had a dad that played for the Tigers and was a pitcher, but his dad then retired, but his love for baseball didn't end. Every second he spent with his son, he thought about baseball, and how he couldn't play anymore. So one day, the dad divorces the mom with a note, and leaves for Japan, where he is a baseball coach. Now, the boy found a job where he is batboy for the Detroit Tigers, and the book takes off from there. You should seriously consider reading this book. I can almost guarantee that you will love this book.

This is an amazing book about a 14 year old boy named Ryan who lives with a single mother. Ryan's favorite sport is baseball, he loves to play it and he loves to watch it. He got this passion from his dad, a star major league pitcher. But his dad abandoned their family, which was stupid because Ryan is a great kid. Ryan applied for a batboy job with his favorite team, the Tigers. In his mind this is the perfect summer job, and it sounds pretty awesome to me too. But it got even better

for Ryan. The Tigers just hired his all time favorite player, Hank Bishop. But while trying to do acts of kindness for Hank, Ryan gets a look at how mean Hank can really be. All this is going on while Ryan is in the worst hitting slump of his life for his own select team. Finally with everything else happening, Ryan's idiot dad shows up and all he seems to do is make Ryan feel worse. But right when Ryan's world is about to collapse, things get better. It starts with Hank and Ryan's Mom developing a relationship, and then Hank starts being nicer to Ryan and helps him out of his slump. Can Hank hit his 500th homerun before it's too late? Can Ryan help his select team win the state championship? Read *The Batboy* to find out. This is probably one of my favorite books, and I really love how independent Ryan is and how they build Hank's character throughout the story.

I love this book. We use it to teach 7th grade English. Now days we have lots of kids from divorced families. This is a good book with this topic and includes a sports theme as well

My grandson and I read the book together. It was his summer reading for school. We enjoyed "The Batboy", he wasn't happy that he had to write a book report on it. He claimed he would have enjoyed reading it more if he didn't have to do school work. I felt it was a good read for a boy whose parents aren't together, and how he feels.

Mike Lupica's book *Batboy* focuses on baseball and family. Both Brian and his mom are working through Brian's father's abrupt departure for Japanese baseball and a divorce. Brian snags a dream job as the Detroit Tiger's batboy for the summer, and also is playing his regular school league team - more than enough to take his mind off these events. Then Brian's idol, Hank Bishop, gets re-signed to the Tigers team, slightly shy of his 500th home run. He is in career repair mode from a steroids use charge and a hinted at divorce. Both, though they do not realize it, have entered recovery. Both Brian and Hank can't seem to get to first base communicating at work. Both have serious mid-summer slumps to contend with. Hank, in fact is nearing dismissal from the team. Figuring his batting slump is due to not being able to practice for his league play, Brian and his fellow batboy Finn stay after a game, and hit ball after ball in the batting cage to find out what his swing needs. Out of the dark, Hank Bishop shows up, unasked for, but with freely given advice and suggestions that by the end of practice look to be connecting Brian's swing with the ball. Out in the parking lot, Hank meets Brian's Mom and gets invited to dinner. Brian notices for the first time in a long time, his Mom is interested in baseball or is it in Hank? In a nice move to fix Hank's slump, Lupica makes great use of all the DVDs and sports footage ever stared at by any baseball fan or

player anywhere. Brian, in the midst of viewing Hank's old games spots a critical change in Hank's batting stance. Hank brushes off Brian's efforts to communicate, until Brian finally blurts out what he saw. Hank, man enough to recognize a fan can spot something useful, views the footage after dinner and stays to look at more games and more games and more games with his biggest fan. The rush toward the end of the season is given in fine detail and includes a visit from Brian's Dad. When his Dad focuses on baseball business matters and ignores being with his son, Brian comes to understand the difference between his Dad and Hank - one truly is focused only on the game. Hank, Brian's new friend and his Mom's new date, relates to both the game and the people who play it and knows why both are important. The final games are a nice "I am moving on and it is OK now" ending for Brian, Hank and his mother. Game descriptions: Very Good - a real sense of being there - particularly showing how many variables actually contribute to a good or bad game. Grade level appeal: 3rd grade on up, but especially for those in middle school sports. Read Aloud/Read and Share: Excellent for parents to share both sports and personal talk in the course of reading about the game. Reading Skills: Great for extra reading practice.

This book always has you on the edge it always cliff hangs you... No matter where you stop. Brian is awesome he knows everything about the game of baseball. I'd recommend ALL young baseball fans read this and I mean all

My boy loves it

Could be better, had a little bit that I would have improved on, but overall, a decent book for sports fans.

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