



## Sean Wants to be Messi

*Tanya Preminger*

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A fun picture book about soccer and inspiration for children ages 5-9. US edition

Sean, a whimsical 2nd grader, wants to be the great Leo Messi, and he's working hard for his cause. He battles fears, bullies, nagging parents, and tiresome teachers in pursuit of his dream to become the best soccer player in the world. A children's book about soccer, math, and practice. Not necessarily in this order. Beautiful illustrations by Elettra Cudignotto

## Sean Wants to be Messi Details

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Author : Tanya Preminger

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## From Reader Review Sean Wants to be Messi for online ebook

### Grady says

“It took me 17 years and 114 days to become an overnight success.” – Leo Andrés Messi

Israeli author Tanya Preminger was born in Russia, lived in the US, and now resides in Israel. She strongly believes in the power of literature as a means to growth, education, and the cultivation of curious, compassionate, happy children. To date she has published three books in both a UK and US version. Her books are exceptionally well illustrated by Elettra Cudignotto.

Sean is a young lad whom we meet while doing homework with his mother’s guidance. Sean concentrates more on the soccer player Messi than his arithmetic. “Mommy, I don’t need math, I’m stupid. I’m going to be a soccer player.” Sean smiles happily and sneaks a glance at the mirror on the back wall. He fixes his hair with his hand, picturing himself in a soccer stadium in front of the TV cameras. Mommy closes her eyes. She takes a long breath. “You are not stupid. Nobody is born with all the skills. They come with practice. Just like you practice soccer, you need to practice math.”

And therein lies one of the many lessons contained in this fine book.

Sean signs up for soccer but is nervous and unable to leave the car when his mother takes him to the playing field. Sean argues with Aidan in math class as to who is the better soccer player – Messi or Ronaldo only to be cautioned by the teacher to use class time for study. At recess Sean and Aidan practice soccer only to be bullied by the older taller Hunter. At home Sean would rather watch soccer on TV than go to bed and that, too cases a conflict with his father and mother. Sean practices soccer with his Daddy who encourages to play soccer with kids his own age “Size is not what determines a good player. Good players think of ways to outsmart their opponents. They plan their attacks.”

At school Sean shies away from competition and the trainer passes on his joining until one of the players is injured and Sean is encouraged to replace him. And after the game Sean’s mother tricks him into solving math problems that relate to soccer themes. Sean is a winner all around.

Very well written and illustrated, this fine little book is not only entertaining but also holds many lessons about sports behavior – and human behavior in general. Excellent!

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### Tanya Preminger says

What kid doesn't want to be Messi? I like the message about perseverance and the need for staying tuned to math as well as to soccer :)

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### Bonnie Dale Keck says

Kindle Unlimited

Saw this mentioned somewhere and thought my grandson might like it, so wanted to read it and see what it was about {plus the kid does not live right around me}, and he might {probably would}.

Sean Wants to be Messi

Sean Goes To Barcelona: A children's book about soccer and goals. US edition (Sean Wants To Be Messi 2)

Sean Tackles London: A children's book about soccer and teamwork. US edition. (Sean Wants To Be Messi 3)

Please note, there are American and British/UK versions of these books, the main difference is of course "soccer" versus "football".

Did notice some reviews that have me wondering what their criteria is; 3 stars because of ONE spelling issue? 1 star because they book was physical and scratched up {not issue with what they read, issue with customer service/condition of physical, and didn't say whether they'd even tried to get replacement/refund}, stupid things that have nothing to do with what the rating system is for as far as reviewing book content.

HOWEVER: after reading book 2 and 3, {points below}, this one didn't deserve a 4, no way, and below explains why. {Thought in this book that it was basically cute/not cute whining, but 3 books of that manipulative whining ungrateful crap was more than too much.} The review is from #3 which talked about 2 and 3, and to an extent this one.

Kindle Unlimited

Does this ungrateful brat EVER SHUT up WHINING? A fear of heights or issue with that is not his business nor his concern, especially considering that the camp he talks about was paid by the adults not him AND so was the soccer camp in the first story which he had to be bribed to actually do after it being paid for AND the second story where a plane ticket AND a game and other things were paid for him yet he spent the whole trip whining on about buy him a scarf, buy him a shirt, buy him this that and the other. NO, brat boy who doesn't know the London tube system should not be telling the 2 adults talking about which way to go to hurry up or he'd be late for the soccer game THEY paid for, and if they don't take the right one the brat will be late, duh. A kid with no job, 8 years old, gets away with arguing about whether he should brush his teeth or not, and that he is going to make loads of money playing soccer, years from then if EVER, so would have them fixed then, uh what, plus the point is they PARENTS should be making is that he WILL brush his nasty teeth every single day and that he doesn't get to decide otherwise. No, the kid doesn't get to just steal his father's cell phone either, especially with nothing being said even though the father is "not happy", it's HIS phone and he's the PARENT. NO, the kid doesn't get to answer "Who cares?" when told information, either.

Oh, so HOLD ON -- the family is from USA, they bought tickets to go to London for soccer camp for a WEEK and before to Spain for soccer match at a stadium, no freaking way brat boy needs his attitude nor being spoiled and getting away with all sorts of crap AND STILL getting plane trips and stadium tickets and sports clothing all the while being rude and ungrateful, UH UH. Why is it only the American kids are portrayed as spoiled brats in these stories? Which one is the 'joker', hello, it's a main part supposedly of story. And now story does yet another switch the scene no warning, and kid is whining yet again about buying him something new/expensive. Then whiny brat doesn't want sightseeing, no matter what is suggested, he whines for shopping. Then brat boy complains to his mother they are a 'team' so everyone needs to think of others too, yet he is only thinking of himself. Jeezus now brat boy is talking about some kind of made up game, which of course involves him spending their money and getting to go shopping. Adding in if they see a hairdresser's he gets to also spend more of their money on getting his hair cut, btw, is not 'cunning' it's being a stingy manipulative brat, and follows it up by telling his mother she is the worst mother ever in the world.

When one of the parents talk about anything here, then brat boy is like whatever who cares; then starts mouthing off that's he's a better player than so and so, and when told that sometimes a player has to do

certain things argues back no that's not the 'Barcelona' way, although evidently the brat way is to get all sorts of team merchandise whined out of his parents then continue to disobey, not listen, and argue. NO, brat boy does not get to run out of a bus and go to stores to 'window shop' when he's just been told no, several times, by both parents, and not get in to trouble. You have GOT to be kidding me; the scene AGAIN changes, boom, so what happened. OMG the kid is whining and arguing AGAIN, this time about the haircut, AGAIN. And AGAIN, one of the SUPPOSED parents GIVES IN to whiny ungrateful brat boy. If they're doing it in order of age, why would the kids be standing in groups of the teams they were on. Oh, look, brat boy who was lecturing his parents about 'teamwork' and how Barcelona camp does things, interrupts everyone's ceremony after he gets his certificate of course, to mess with the soccer ball and the basketball hoop. The standing father holds the backback, you know that thing that is worn on the back, of a kid that is sitting so has a place for the backback on his back or in his lap.... After reading 3 of these stories, back to back, and realizing what an overall totally ungrateful, whiny, bratty, manipulative SNOT this overgrown child of an 8/9 year old is, there is NO WAY I'd let my grandson read this crap; he is NEVER going to be allowed to act that crappy.

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### **Sarah says**

Food for thought for kids and parents

It's refreshing to find a children's book which talks about real life parenthood issues. As we read through the book I found myself relating to the mother's struggle as well as to the boy's.

As parents we are not perfect and I appreciate the reality of the adult characters, the conflicts they face and the fine line between encouraging and allowing a child to be who they are in the situation.

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### **Julie Failla Earhart says**

I have to admit, that when I first saw this title, I had no idea what "Messi" was supposed to be. Turns out that Messi is a star soccer player (think Beckam), and eight-year-old Sean is obsessed with becoming like him.

The book opens with what could be a scene from my childhood, math issues. Adter second grade, I just didn't get it. I can remember the frustrations my parents and I felt as I tried and tried to understand word problems (Let's face it, nobody really cares when the two trains pass each other!).

This is a great little story on how one set of parents use soccer to help their child excel. One thing did bother me, though, was that Sean called his parents "Mommy" and "Daddy." Without any younger sibling that the readers could see, this seemed to make Sean too childish. Therefore, "Sean Want to be Messi," which receives 4 out of 5 stars in Julie's world.

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### **Adan Ramie says**

As a parent of two children who enjoy sports, I had high hopes for this book. Unfortunately, neither I nor my children could understand Sean.

Our main problem with him is the fact that he is so spoiled and bratty! I can't imagine a parent paying for a

soccer camp, then having to bribe their child to even go out on the field, and then the child not participating in any satisfactory way besides "taking advantage of situations" in which he could potentially score.

Both of my children know that such poor behavior would not be rewarded with sports cards or more chances! Sean is manipulative and, if allowed to continue on this trajectory, would likely fail a grade and never end up playing soccer anyway, because he isn't brave enough, nor does he have the common courtesy to follow through on any of the things he begs for.

I can't recommend this book unless the adult reading it with a child wants to use it as a great example of how NOT to act. I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Marion Marchetto says**

Messi is an ace soccer player on the team from Barcelona. Young Sean dreams of one day becoming just like Messi. Sean would rather think about soccer than math problems any day. He doesn't like math but he sure does like soccer. When Sean's mommy grants his wish and pays for him to join a kids soccer club, Sean is overjoyed - until he arrives at the practice field. Many of the other players are bigger than him; he's afraid of being hurt so he begs his mommy to take him home. Will he ever achieve his dream of playing soccer?

This is a charming book that teaches children to overcome their fears. Beautifully illustrated, it is the first book in a series.

Note: A copy of this book was provided by the author.

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### **Rance M. says**

it was cool

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### **Donna says**

I just previewed the ebook edition of this book to see if my son would be interested in it, and he totally will. This book is written in the tone that is perfect for kids in 2nd-4th grade to read on their own. What I love most about this book is that it's REAL. It's about Sean, a 2nd grader, who is obsessed with soccer and does not want to do his homework. When it comes time to join a soccer league he gets scared and cries and they go home without him playing. Eventually the mother bribes him with buying soccer cards to go and play soccer with kids his own age (hello, that's my kind of parenting, haha, when they need that extra nudge) and he ends up loving it and finding out he can do his math homework. Overall, it was a solid 4 star book that will grab the attention of young ones! I appreciate how real the author kept this, you can tell she must have children of her own!

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### **Gail Wylde says**

I received this as a Goodreads giveaway. I really liked this book. It is perfect for reluctant scholars and for the children who are afraid to put themselves forward for something that is out of their comfort zone. I have passed this in to my daughter to read to my 6 year old granddaughter who is just (reluctantly) embarking on an AFL course! I recommend this book to all parents!

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### **Charles Ray says**

Sean loves soccer as much as he hates math, and it seems that nothing his mother can do will change that. She enrolls him in a soccer course, and he eventually overcomes his shyness and plays, scoring several goals. His dreams of becoming like his hero, Leo Messi, cause him to figure out how much money he would have to make in order to buy his mother an expensive house, and voila, he learns that math has a role to play even in an athlete's life.

Sean Wants to be Messi by Tanya Preminger is a great book for youngsters, using fantastic art and a compelling story that will not only entertain young readers, but provide a lesson on the importance of education. I received a complimentary copy of this book which I give five stars. A stunning addition to your young reader's library.

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### **Barbara Ann says**

Sean is a second grader who is obsessed with soccer, especially one player named Leo Messi. He seems uninterested in finishing his homework or paying attention in school. He is excited to join soccer club to perfect his skill, but upon arrival, he refuses to play. His mother is upset with him. Both parents encourage Sean to overcome his fears of inadequacy and start developing his game skills. One day, a sixth grader bullies him and throws Sean's soccer ball over the fence. One day a player is injured and an opportunity arises for Sean to assist. I am not sure I approve of Sean's mother's response, but Sean learns a valuable lesson about himself and the game.

Recommended as a beginning chapter book for new or reluctant readers. The book has a few colorful illustrations to keep the story flowing. Soccer fans will particularly enjoy reading it.

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### **khristina sanders says**

**I think I'm going to like this book more and more as I read it over and over because it is great for children like me who love soccer and books**

I just loved it so much because it was awesome and I love soccer and I love to read so I really enjoyed reading this book .

P.S thank you for writing it Tanya Preminger!??

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## **Rachel Horon says**

### **Facing fears and loving soccer**

My kids love soccer, so this book was a good choice for my daughter since she is also in second grade like Sean. Even though she is not as familiar with all of the professional soccer leagues, she did like this story. At first she thought it was about a messy boy, but now she is interested in finding out more about Lionel Messi. One of her favorite parts about the story was the illustrations. We could both visualize the games and scrimmages from the description. We talked about each chapter and Sean's feeling and why he acted the way he did in new situations. With topics like bullying, dealing with fears and challenges, and setting goals, there is a lot that we can discuss with our children. As a mom and an educator, I could relate to working with a child who was very active and often had difficulty focusing on school work. I would definitely consider other books by the author with characters about the same age and more themes for my child.

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## **Israel Drazin says**

Tanya Preminger, the author, and Elettra Cudignotto, the illustrator, can be justly proud of this colorful book. It is beautiful, the story is just what children want to read, and it is inspiring. It is about an eight-year-old second grader, Sean, who wants to become a soccer player as good as the famed twenty-seven-year-old Lionel Andres Messi. The book is about the battles he must fight to accomplish his goal, battles that all kids must face. Despite his strong desire to be a famous soccer player, Sean is extremely nervous. The book teaches Sean and readers the value of overcoming fears, practice, taking risks, perseverance, and taking advantage of situations.

Children will enjoy this book.

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