



The Legend of Mickey Tussler

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In the late 1940s, the minor league Milwaukee Brewers are foundering yet again and manager Arthur Murphy is desperate. When he sees seventeen-year old Mickey Tussler throwing apples into a barrel, he knows he has found the next pitching phenom. But not everyone is so hopeful. Mickey's autism—a disorder still not truly understood even today—has alienated the boy from the world, and he is berated by other players and fans. Mickey faces immense trials in the harsh and competitive world of baseball while coping with the challenges inherent to his disorder. An honest and knowledgeable book about overcoming adversity, and the basis for the television movie *A Mile in His Shoes*, Mickey's powerful story shows that with support and determination anyone can be triumphant, even when the odds are stacked against him.

The Legend of Mickey Tussler Details

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Author : Frank Nappi

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From Reader Review The Legend of Mickey Tussler for online ebook

Sherrie says

3.5 stars.

Equal parts "The Natural" and Clare Bee's Chip Hilton series, "Mickey Tessler" is the story of a 17 year old autistic savant who (somehow) learned to pitch by throwing apples on the farm. The book is set in the late 1940s and does a wonderful job of evoking that era. But for the same reason, I would hesitate to recommend it as a YA book, due to the slow pace and the unlikely plot. I found several errors, both grammatical and spelling, and a good editor would have been very useful in tightening up the many overdone passages. But all in all a sweet book, which apparently has at least one sequel to follow.

Hilary (HilyBee) says

Both of these novels are incredibly impressive and moving. Mickey Tussler is an icon for autism, people with disabilities, and baseball fans. Frank Nappi created a story so incredibly believable, I still think the character is a real baseball pitcher for the Brewers in 1948 and 49. (I actually looked it up to make sure he wasn't.) Frank created settings that were very controversial from the late '40s - in book 1, people who didn't understand an autistic man; in book 2 - integrating baseball teams. He approached both subjects with ease and strength - showing the good and bad sides of it and how people really do act in these types of situations.

I'm very impressed with these novels. They are very well written and touching. The novels will warm your heart, make you fall in-love with the characters (and hate others), realize how far society has come, and how much baseball is still one of the most iconic sports in the US. Baseball fans will absolutely love these novels. Frank taught me so much about baseball all the while teaching me even more about autism. These beautiful novels are going to make an amazing movie, that I can't wait to see!

Steve says

Launched with an intriguing premise (an autistic savant becomes a minor-league baseball pitching phenomenon), I wanted to like this book more, particularly given the many favorable reviews. But – in light of its execution – it could not rise above "OK to good" for me. I feel like I am being unduly harsh, because I liked the book. What I found most frustrating was that my list of gripes (some fair, some individualized, and down right quirky) drowned out what, otherwise, was a pretty fast, entertaining read. So take all of this with a grain of (grumpy) salt. First (and this is in no way fair to the author), I bought (and read) the book hoping that I could recommend it to my younger son (an avid baseball reader). [You would be *stunned* how hard it is to find engaging, youth-friendly sports literature.] It became immediately clear – between the language, sex, violence (OK, that's enough), this was not appropriate for the Little League and Babe Ruth reading group. Turning to the story, as for the non-protagonist central character, it seemed like overkill that the autistic savant - as if he did not face enough challenges in life or in becoming a professional baseball player – had to be abused (by family, teammates, opponents, and even the police – and not just some police, but *all* police he meets). I thought I'd picked up the latest volume of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, but this book was not intended to be funny. My list of unanswered questions is endless, beginning with: OK, the story explains

why the boy could throw, but how/when/where did he learn to *catch* a baseball? [Plenty of kids throw rocks, but they don't have to catch them!] Next, my sense was that a better editor could have tightened up the text, eliminating a couple thousand adjectives and adverbs, as well as dozens of extraneous and distracting paragraphs that a coach might suggest violate the basic rule that it is better to show than tell. Finally, I know that series writing increasingly plays a critical role in the publishing market, but, after 300 pages, is it asking too much for more of an ending than "to be continued"? Sorry, but the line: "as this most troubling chapter closed behind him" just doesn't do it for me. Still, I am glad I read it, but I don't see myself rushing back for the sequel (even though I'm intensely curious to learn what happens next).

Paige Bradish says

I received The Legend of Mickey Tussler from the author for my honest review.

When I was first asked to read and review I was a little skeptical because although I do love baseball it's not my favorite topic to read about all the time. But after reading the synopsis and learning about the main character Mickey who has autism but still wants to be a baseball store. His story is very inspiring.

We meet Mickey while he is still living on his farm with his mother and his abusive father. Immediately I felt sorry for him because people didn't really understand autism back then so basically anyone that had it was just labeled a retard. This is exactly what poor Mickey had to deal with everywhere even from his own father. But luckily coach for the Milwaukee Brewers Arthur Murphy comes along and gives Mickey the chance of a lifetime.

I ended up really enjoying this story. I loved Mickey's character a lot. He was entertaining, always had something positive to say no matter what was going on. He was a very talkative person and I loved that, so it annoyed me when the people he was babbling to would get annoyed because he was just talking I mean he can't really help it. But I think I got over that quickly because Mickey didn't seem to mind much when people told him to shut up.

His mom, Molly is another person I felt bad for because she was stuck in a nightmare that she couldn't get out of. She hated the fact that her husband abused her and Mickey both verbally and physically. She really needed a way out and thankfully baseball was her savior as well.

I was a little afraid that because this book is about baseball that some of the game scenes would bore me but they didn't at all. Every time there was a game in the book I actually felt like I was watching one and I was on the edge of my chair every time there was a stressful game!

I very much enjoyed this book which I gave a 4 out of 5 stars, and I can't wait to check out what happens next in the companion novel Sophomore Campaign.

Scott Gill says

I had this student a few years ago, we'll call him Johnny, and he was autistic. Johnny stumbled around human relationships; emotions and humor and all the things that separate us from automatons meant little to him. Johnny; however, was a history buff, a factual savant, especially with World War 2. He'd roll off the

names of admirals and ship captains of the Pacific Fleet like they were his uncles. He'd rattle on about detailed conversations of Colonels and Privates as if he'd squatted with them in the foxholes in Europe. Like so many with autism, Johnny showed exceptional abilities in specific areas but often left those around him bewildered and frustrated.

Frank Nappi's book, *The Legend of Mickey Tussler*, tells the story of down-and-out minor league manager, Arthur Murphy, and his stumbling upon a young pitching phenom, Michael "Mickey" Tussler. Mickey can throw an aspirin tablet-like fastball over and over again with pinpoint accuracy. Mickey; however, is autistic and living in the 1940's, when folks dismissed someone like him as a useless "retard." Murphy takes Tussler away from his abusive home into the hardly improved locker room of a minor league ballclub. Despite the team's struggle with Mickey's social awkwardness and his slow start in learning baseball, Mickey becomes the epicenter of their success. However, like anyone successful, he will draw both fan and enemy from every corner of his world, climaxing in a plot twist so unexpected I'm still shaking my head in disbelief.

Having a special needs sister, this book really touched my heart. Nappi captured not only the awkward feelings of people around Mickey, but also the dark recesses of a young man simultaneously trying to understand the strange folks around him. You don't have to be a baseball lover to enjoy this story, but if you are, it will be one of the best baseball novels you've read.

Jessie says

fine story, disappointing ending, but horrible writing. this dude apparently thinks that if he busts out his thesaurus four times per sentence it will make his writing good. it does not.

Peyton says

A heart warming story about baseball

"A compelling tale that will touch the hearts of fans of the game everywhere." - Ferguson Jenkins, Chicago Cubs Hall of Fame Pitcher. Also another quote that represents this book well is "The Legend of Mickey Tussler reaches the heart the way Alex Rodriguez reaches the bleachers." - Bill Madden, New York Daily. You have kind of have to be a baseball fan to understand this quote from Bill Madden.

Arthur Murphy, an ex MLB player who played for the Braves, is the current manager for the Milwaukee Brewers. The Brewers owner threatens his job if he doesn't go and find some better prospects to improve the "sorry lot that he calls a team." After discovering the breathtaking talent of Mickey Tussler, a very desperate Arthur Murphy puts his faith and maybe his job into the hands of an autistic 17 year old who has never played baseball before.

This story takes place in Indiana, Tussler's Farm, Milwaukee, Borchert Field which is the Brewers Stadium, and it also takes place all across the country in cities and at baseball stadiums. The protagonist of the story is Mickey Tussler and the antagonist is Mickey Tussler's as well because of his autism. The book demonstrates that you can do anything you set your mind to no matter what and don't let anyone hold you back. *The Legend of Mickey Tussler* is a very good book that teaches you life goals that you can do anything no matter your background or where you are from, you can accomplish anything you set your mind to. I liked the book and it is definitely worth reading.

Louise Douglas says

<http://louiser89.com/2015/01/19/review-of-baseball-miracles/>...

Chrissy (The Every Free Chance Reader) says

Did I enjoy this book: I really enjoyed this book. I read it every free chance I had. It was endearing, sweet, and totally engrossing.

The scene was set beautifully by Mr. Nappi. I was there...I could smell the dirt of the infield. I could smell the grass of the outfield. I could smell the summer breeze. I could see the crowd and the players. I was there. It was a reading experience that I rarely have, but Mr. Nappi put me in the game.

Mickey is such an amazing individual as is Arthur Murphy for taking a chance on such an exceptional person. I loved Mickey. But I think I loved Arthur more. He took a big chance and I admire him for that. Arthur also helped Mickey's mother, Molly, come out of her shell and begin to rediscover herself despite her overbearing husband, Clarence.

My other favorite character was Boxcar. He was like the big brother/father-figure on the team. He was there for his fellow Brewers. Boxcar cared and kept everyone in line. The way he accepted Mickey and helped him was wonderful. PeeWee was another teammate that accepted Mickey completely and watched out for him.

All of the characters that Mr. Nappi wrote were fantastic. You really got to know each of them. You rooted for some, you were happy with others, and there were a few you just could not get behind.

Bottom line: I loved this book.

Would I recommend it: I would recommend this book to anyone...especially baseball fans and those who love the feel good books about people dealing with or overcoming adversity.

Will I read it again: I just might.

<http://everyfreechancebookreviews.blogspot.com/2015/01/baseball-miracles.html>...

Lance says

Good baseball fiction book. Full review can be found here:

<http://sportsbookguy.blogspot.com/2015/01/baseball-miracles.html>...

Brett Meyer says

The book The Legend of Mickey Tussler is about an autistic kid who is discovered on a farm by a Milwaukee Brewers scout. The Milwaukee Brewers were a struggling team that was always last in the standings and they needed good players as soon as possible. The Milwaukee Brewers scout came across a kid that was throwing apples against a barrel at a farm and he wanted him to be on the team. He recruited this kid whose name was Mickey Tussler. Mickey Tussler goes and tries out for the Brewers and he signs a minor league deal. The reason why I like this book is because I am a big fan of baseball. I like all the baseball books that I read and this particular story involves the Milwaukee Brewers, who are my favorite major league baseball team. This book has a nice twist to it involving a pitcher who is autistic that is given a chance to use his talent to help his poor family get money. There was not really any reason why I did not like this book because it is a baseball book and I think that all baseball related stories are perfect. The author did a perfect job bringing the story to life and using a kid with special needs as being the main character. It is inspiring to anyone who has a dream of playing professional baseball. I would rate this book 10/10 and recommend it to anyone who likes to read books about sports.

Troy says

The Legend of Mickey Tussler is a must read book for any young sports enthusiast. This novel is about a seventeen year old boy named Mickey who in his free time, enjoys launching apples in his back yard at an old wine barrel. He has accuracy mixed with power in the arm from the heavens as some people call it. This book is taking place in the 1940's, around this same time the Triple A team for the Milwaukee Brewers were in dire need of a pitcher because they were struggling with it. The team manager Arthur noticed Mickey throwing the apples and thought that it wouldn't hurt to try. So they signed him a deal and Arthur took a chance, will they hit the jackpot with him or will they find themselves in more trouble then they started with?

Dottie says

Great book

Sue says

I bought (a signed copy of) this book at the baseball Hall of Fame two years ago. My only regret is that I didn't wait until the off-season when I'm craving baseball to read it! I never write reviews, but this is a book created for the baseball fan. It's a great story in general, but it was the baseball that had me hooked.

If you're not in love with the game of baseball, you might lose interest quickly. But I strongly feel that it was written for the diehard baseball fan, even if the story itself is powerful.

I was surprised by the ending, but I didn't dislike it. I also know there is a follow-up... I'm interested in reading more, but the story stands pretty well on its own. There are a handful of typos, but not enough to alter my five star review.

Easily the best book I've read so far this year.

Kristi Bernard says

Walter Murphy was out scouting for a baseball player the war didn't take. Unfortunately he is stuck driving long hours because no one else wants to do it. Walter Dennison, the owner of the minor-league-affiliate Brewers, was putting this responsibility on him. His days of being a top player had long since past. During a drive on a lonely dirt road Walter crashes his car. When he stumbles across a farm he witnesses a perfect throw. The young man throwing apples into a basket is Mickey Tussler. He had been diagnosed as autistic and a disappointment to his father. Walter opens up the opportunity for Mickey to become a member of a baseball team. Unfortunately, Mickey is not a favored player because of his autism. In time, a few team members except him and he makes a few friends. But like any good player there will always be an enemy. Mickey's nemesis is Lefty, the team pitcher. Its up to Mickey to keep himself on the team and Lefty off of his back. It's also up to Mickey to get past all of the hatred and prejudice that has disrupted his once somewhat peaceful life. This is an excellent heart warming story of a young man coming of age after the war and also dealing with his disability. For young readers who are baseball fans this story will provide encouragement and inspiration. For those who love a good story based on a persons life, will also enjoy this book.
