

Mick Harte Was Here

By Barbara Park



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An award-winning, heartrending young middle grade novel from Barbara Park—the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Junie B. Jones series—just right for readers of Frindle, Love That Dog, The Lemonade War, and other classic young middle grade favorites.

Kids aren't supposed to die.

Phoebe's brother, Mick, was one of the funniest, coolest kids you'd ever meet—the kid who made you laugh until your stomach hurt, even if you were mad at him. The kid who freaked his and Phoebe's mom out by putting a ceramic eye in a defrosted chicken; who went trick-or-treating as Thomas Crapper, the inventor of the modern-day flush toilet; who did a wild solo dance in front of the entire school. He was the kid you'd want to be friends with. So how can he be gone? And how will Phoebe's family survive without him?

Winner of 12 State Awards!

An IRA-CBC Young Adults' Choice A *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year

* "Genius . . . excruciatingly real . . . powerful." —Publishers Weekly, starred

"[A] wrenching story permeated with humor and hope." —School Library Journal

For the Review section (please add the two reviews and the state awards below): "A very moving story about a terrific 12-year-old boy. By the end of the book, readers miss him, too." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Park skillfully interweaves humor and pain in this unique, utterly believable account of Phoebe's attempt to cope with a heartbreaking loss." —The Horn Book

WINNER—Georgia Children's Book Award WINNER—Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award

WINNER—Kansas William Allen White Children's Book Award

WINNER—North Dakota Flicker Tale Children's Book Award

WINNER—Rhode Island Children's Book Award

WINNER—South Carolina Children's Book Award

WINNER—Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award

WINNER—Illinois Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award

WINNER—Indiana Young Hoosier Book Award

WINNER—Iowa Children's Choice Award

WINNER—Minnesota Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award

NOMINEE—Washington Evergreen Young Adult Book Award

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Mick Harte Was Here By Barbara Park Bibliography

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• 128 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"I don't want to make you cry. I just want to tell you about Mick. But I thought you should know right up front that he's not here anymore. I just thought that would be fair." Phoebe, the eighth-grade narrator of Park's (Buddies; Don't Make Me Smile) heart-wrenching novel, weaves together diverting anecdotes about her endearingly eccentric brother with her reactions, and those of her parents, to his death in a bicycle accident at the age of 12. The genius of this novel is Park's ability to make the events excruciatingly real while entirely avoiding the mawkish; likable Phoebe's frank, at times even funny narration will leave readers feeling as though they've known the girl-and Mick-for a very long time. Park's ability to convey so affectingly both the individual and collective pain of this family's members is remarkable. She focuses on small moments-the father closing the door to Mick's room upon returning from the hospital; the mother covering her ears because she cannot bear Phoebe's talk about her brother. But the novel has another crucial dimension in that it stresses the importance of wearing bike helmets. Midway through the story, in response to Phoebe's misplaced sense of guilt, Phoebe's father introduces the subject: "He heaved a God-awful sigh and whispered, 'If only I had made him wear his helmet.'" The message is skillfully reprised toward the conclusion, in a powerful scene in which Phoebe overcomes her own pain and anger to participate in a school assembly on bicycle safety. An author's note at the end reinforces the message. To Park's great credit, the lesson never dominates-the story reads not as a cautionary tale, but as a full-fledged and fully convincing drama. Ages 8-12.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 4-6?In this wrenching story permeated with humor and hope, a young girl must come to terms with the death of her brother in a bicycle accident.

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From **Booklist**

Gr. 5-7. Park turns her wry eye on a serious subject, the death of a sibling. With love, wit, and anger, 13-year-old Phoebe Harte describes her brother, Mick, and the effect his death has on the family. It is a bike accident that kills Mick, and Park does an excellent job of capturing the shock and dissociation that a sudden death can cause in survivors. There's so much here that rings true: what friends can (and cannot) do, the inevitable rantings against God, and the seesaw emotions experienced by the whole family. Where Park goes a bit over the top is in her description of Mick, a real wiseacre, who puts a ceramic eye in a defrosted chicken and goes trick-or-treating as Thomas Crapper, inventor of the toilet. Not that this isn't funny stuff, but Park's inflation of Mick oddly diminishes him. Still, there is a sea of real emotions here, and readers, whether they've been touched by death or not, will find themselves touched by this book. Park's author's-note plea for kids to wear bike helmets (such a helmet could have saved Mick) may now fall on responsive ears. *Ilene Cooper*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Beverly McGahey:

Book is written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can understand everything you want by a reserve.

Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A book Mick Harte Was Here will make you to become smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think that will open or reading a new book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or acceptable book with you?

Frances Hairston:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Mick Harte Was Here, you are able to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Royce Axtell:

Don't be worry should you be afraid that this book will probably filled the space in your house, you will get it in e-book means, more simple and reachable. This Mick Harte Was Here can give you a lot of close friends because by you looking at this one book you have point that they don't and make an individual more like an interesting person. This book can be one of a step for you to get success. This book offer you information that possibly your friend doesn't recognize, by knowing more than additional make you to be great persons. So, why hesitate? We should have Mick Harte Was Here.

Jerry Hull:

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