



Night Hoops

Carl Deuker

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Nick Abbott and Trent Dawson have nothing in common but basketball. It's sophomore year and Nick is trying to deal with his parents' divorce. He also really wants to be a star on the basketball team. Trent, his neighbor, is angry, and aggressive. The two form an uneasy bond as they quietly practice each night on Nick's backyard basketball court. But as the basketball season progresses, their lives become unexpectedly intertwined. In this story of an unlikely bond, Carl Deuker explores the confusing place between loneliness and friendship, between faithfulness and betrayal. Filled with gripping game play, this is a story about choices.

While trying to prove that he is good enough to be on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and the erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.

Night Hoops Details

Date : Published December 18th 2001 by HarperTeen (first published April 24th 2000)

ISBN : 9780064472753

Author : Carl Deuker

Format : Paperback 256 pages

Genre : Sports and Games, Sports, Young Adult, Realistic Fiction, Fiction, Teen

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From Reader Review Night Hoops for online ebook

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Grandma Bev for TeensReadToo.com

Nick Abbott wants his father's approval more than anything, but his brother Scott is always first in his father's eyes. Nick's father was a basketball star in high school, and he wants Scott to excel in that sport, but Scott just wants to play his trumpet. Nick's parents decide to go their separate ways, and the divorce is a big psychological problem for Nick, but he is determined to be a star on his high school basketball team and gain his father's approval.

The boy that lives across the street, Trent Dawson, is an angry and disturbed young man who doesn't get along with anyone, but the boys gradually form a tense friendship as they practice in Nick's new backyard basketball court. Nick convinces Trent that he could be an important part of the squad if he would bring his grades up and try out for the team.

Then Trent's brother shoots another boy and Trent feels compelled to go with his brother, who is in hiding. Nick's team is on the verge of a championship season, and with Trent's aggressiveness and Nick's leadership, they could win. Without Trent, the team may falter, and Nick is desperate to convince Trent to stay in school and on the team.

Teen angst and the emotional strain of high school relationships are realistic within NIGHT HOOPS. The excitement and descriptions of the games are well written. Deuker is a master at characterization and delivering a story with escalating suspense as the boys deal with real problems. Even reluctant readers, and especially sports-minded boys, will enjoy this electrifying novel.

Danny says

Personal Response

I really liked this book because it had a lot of good events happen throughout. The book kept me intrigued and wanting to read the rest. It also had a good amount of details about the characters, such as how the main character made the varsity team. I also liked how the novel was fast paced instead of dragging on through the season.

Plot

It started with Nick beating his neighbor, Trent, in a one on one game. Then Nick's father surprised Nick and his brother by putting a basketball court in their backyard. Once the court was put in, Scott and their dad were shooting around and talked about school. After they shot hoops, they went inside and ate dinner. Once the school year started, Scott told his dad that he was not playing basketball this year. On Nick's first day, he made Trent mad and then he waited for him after school. After school Nick tried avoiding Trent, but Trent found him. He started fighting him. Throughout the year, Nick made the second string varsity and eventually became a starter. One day after school, Nick went home and found out his parents were getting a divorce. Nick and Trent became good friends through basketball. Towards the end of the season, the team finally started winning games because of Trent. Before the last game of the season, Trent got in trouble with the

cops and did not play. During the final game, they played badly but came back in the second half. Nick threw a pass to his teammate who hit a buzzer beater for the win in their final game.

Characterization

Nick did not change much except the way he played the game of basketball. In the beginning of the season, he tried to take a buzzer beater but missed. At the end, instead of him trying to win the game he passed it off and his teammate won it. He also changed by becoming friends with the person who wanted to beat him up.

Setting

The book took place in Bothell, Washington, which is important because that is where Nick played high school basketball. Bothell is a poor town that had a lot of crime. I assume the book was in the 1990's, because the main character goes to a Sonics game.

Trent changed a lot throughout, especially when it came to the basketball team. At the start of the season, Trent ball hogged and wanted to start fights with his teammates. Towards the end of the book, his teammates and he became friends and relied on each other to win the final games. Trent also changed when it came to school, because he went from failing to passing as the season started.

Scott had one major change, which came in the beginning when he told his dad he was not joining basketball. He wanted to play basketball before his senior year, but instead he joined the jazz band. At the end of the book, he hated Trent even though they were good friends a year before.

Recommendation

I recommend this book to boys, because the main characters is relatable. I would recommend this book to high schoolers because of the language throughout. I recommend this book to sports fans because it will keep the reader intrigued. I gave it a four out of five stars.

Erin Forson says

“A point guard has to go with the flow of the game. If that means passing the ball five times in a row to the same player, then that’s what it means. But he’s got to recognize changes in the flow, too, because no game stays the same. It’s as if a team is a river spilling down the mountains, all the water searching for the easiest path.”

Nick’s explanation of the point guard position is poetry in motion. Nick is developing his game as a point guard, and it’s not easy. Held back by the conflict at home between his parents, and fading in the shadow of his older, all-star brother, Scott, Nick is barely hanging on. To make matters worse, his hood neighbor, Trent, is out to get him. But Nick loves basketball, he wants to play, and he fights for a first string spot despite the odds against him. Carl Deuker is a genius! *Night Hoops* was hard for me to put down, even though I am not a fan of basketball, and I’m certainly not a player. Anyone who reads it will look forward to the action in every game and truly begin to value the talent involved in a solid game of basketball.

Jake says

Amazing book with good messages, shocks, surprises, and lots of basketball.

CHRIS YOUNG says

Personal Response:

The book, *Night Hoops*, was very interesting, because Nick and Trent were very different. They came from different backgrounds, so it made it much more interesting. It was also relatable, because it was about basketball. Nick had the same school habits as me. I really liked how detailed the basketball games were, because it made me feel like I played the game with Nick and Trent.

Plot:

The beginning of the book took place in high school where Trent and Nick fought for a spot on the varsity basketball team. Trent struggled with his grades and his behavior. He developed a passion for basketball, so he worked harder on his grades. Nick's parents got divorced and it was hard on him, because he was not used to seeing them apart. Nick's dad did not pay much attention to him, because he gave all the attention to his older brother, Scott. Nick and Trent were neighbors and they formed a bond through basketball. They practiced every night, in secret, on Nick's backyard court. The bond grew stronger. Nick played great the first couple of games, but he started to take the game into his own hands. He became a ball hog, which the coach did not like. Coach decided Nick should play JV and lost all the games for everyone. Nick learned the fundamentals of basketball very quickly, because he did not like playing JV. Trent and Nick became the dominating duo on the basketball court. Trent had the right attitude and Nick had the passion to win games.

Characterization:

There were many characters in *Night Hoops*. The main character was Nick Abbott. He was a very great basketball player, but he did not like school. His parents got divorced and his brother was always with his girlfriend. His brother was Scott Abbott. Scott used to love basketball until his dad pushed it onto him. Trent was Nick's neighbor. Trent was a major troublemaker. He smoked and did some terrible things. Luke was Nick's best friend. Luke and Nick had their differences but figured things out once Nick passed the ball more. Nick was the point guard. Luke was the shooting guard.

Setting:

Night Hoops took place during the 2000's. Everything was modernized and the game was played the modern way. Nick spent a lot of time in his backyard, the Harris Park Court, and at school. He went to school at Bothell High School. He lived and went to school in the suburbs of Seattle.

Theme:

The theme of this book was the theme of selfishness. I picked the theme of selfishness because Nick was a selfish person on the basketball court. He eventually realized he needed to pass the ball in order to play varsity. Nick was also pretty selfish outside of basketball too. He wanted his dad to himself. He never wanted his dad to talk to Scott. He got over that and became a much brighter kid.

Recommendation:

I recommend this book to all teens who play basketball. If I had to pick what gender, I would pick guys around the age of 18 who love basketball. I rated this book a five out of five stars because of all the great detail and awesome action.

Ian says

This book was perfect for me for many reasons. The first reason was because I could totally and honestly relate to the sports themed plot that took place throughout the entire story. The second reason was because I could relate myself to the characters in the story, and I felt as if I really knew the people that were described, and listed in the book. This was honestly a great book, and I never say that about a book because I dislike reading a great deal. This made me want to go into the library...more. This book was perfect for me for many reasons. The first reason was because I could totally and honestly relate to the sports themed plot that took place throughout the entire story. The second reason was because I could relate myself to the characters in the story, and I felt as if I really knew the people that were described, and listed in the book. This was honestly a great book, and I never say that about a book because I dislike reading a great deal. This made me want to go into the library, and check out another sports fiction novel that I could relate to. I loved this book, and would recommend it to any sports fan who is interested in the game of basketball. 5 out of 5 stars

Malia says

This book is one of my favorites. I haven't read it in a while so I decided to re-read it and I remembered why. First of all, Nick is such a likable kid. I love characters who have a real passion in life and Nick's is basketball. He works hard at it. He dreams about it. His dad also loves it but over the course of the book Nick learns how to play his own game. Nick and the team have a lot of growing to do and you really experience those growing pains.

It's a simply narrated book but still powerful. I especially like reading for the descriptions of the basketball games. Some of the ways that Nick describes the shots are pure poetry. It must be hard to write basketball game action without much repetition but Deuker does it well.

Nick doesn't have an easy road. He achieves his goal of making varsity and then everything falls apart. I was cringing at several points where life is just LOUSY for poor Nick and it broke my heart that his dream just wasn't what he thought it would be. I could truly feel his frustration and disappointment and it kept getting worse. Until it turned around and that was very satisfying the way the story built to the awesome ending.

Most of all, this is a story of friendship and teamwork. That's why I like it so much. Nick's relationship with Trent is the driving force of the book. The way Nick starts out despising and mistrusting him to when he sees a glimmer of hope in the kid and by the end Nick is the only one who can get through to him, who won't give up on him. I love the way they bonded through basketball. The varsity team isn't the closest group of guys which hurt them a lot in the game but they come together later in the book. Not too many books these days focus on friendship and building it between two people and learning how to be a good friend. This book does and that's one reason why I adore it so much because you can really see how much Nick's life is changed through this team.

It's not perfect. The beginning is a bit boring. It's slow to start. But by the middle the story is really going. Also, I'm not a fan of the ending reading it back. It's too abrupt. I mean... I wanna know what Nick's dad said to him after the game, first of all. And I wish the boys would have done more together. Also, I wish there was more about Nick's brother, Scott. What did he think?

Still, in my mind this book remains a true classic and I'm so glad to have it on my Kindle now so I can keep it forever.

Cole Hudziak says

Cole Hudziak

English 12-2

Realistic Fiction

Night Hoops

Personal Response: I read the book called *Night Hoops*. It was a very good book and I enjoyed reading it. I like sports so I find an interest in reading books having sports involved with them.

Plot: Nick Abbot is a regular teenager who loved sports. His older brother who was two years older than him had the perfect body to play basketball. Nick did not have the greatest body to play basketball. He was short and kind of stocky but he did give his best effort all the time. His dad was really big into basketball and pushed his brother really hard to get better at basketball. Nick's father never really paid attention to him as much as he did with his brother. His brother was not really interested in basketball either. Everytime Nick's dad took him to play basketball, he would try his best to impress his dad. His parents started fighting and they eventually got a divorce. That crushed Nick and his brother. His brother quit basketball and did not play anymore. He was more into his trumpet than he was playing basketball anymore. He did not have the passion like Nick did. Nick had a neighbor who was troubled and his name was Trent. Trent also had an older brother who had a bad rep. He was getting into a lot of trouble with the authorities, and Trent was getting a lot of flack for it. He was good kid, but he needed somebody to be with him when he was going through the hard times. Nick started to hang out with him more and they became good friends. They played basketball every night in Nick's backyard. They started to work really well together and developed good team skills together. They ended up making the varsity team and got some good playing time. They did not start the first few games, but they ended up starting after they proved to coach they had really good personal talent. They also had really good chemistry together and knew how to play as a team. The other kids who they replaced were both older. They were not happy they got replaced with sophomores. They ended up going to the playoffs and then to the championship game. Trent and Nick were really happy they got that far only as sophomores. They were really excited to see what the other years had in store for them.

Characterization: The main characters in this book were Nick and Trent. Nick loved basketball and so did Trent. They were good friends, because they both had a passion for the sport. Trent was in a troubled family and Nick was not. Nick was fortunate enough to have a basketball hoop in his backyard, and he can shoot whenever he wants.

Setting: This novel takes place around the 1990's near a small town in Bothell, Washington. The reader can tell that it takes place back then just because of the dialogue with the characters. Trent had an older brother that was troubled. Word got around town fast and the other kids started to think he was also a bad person as well.

Thematic Connection: In this book, Nick wanted to start on the varsity basketball team. He got on the team but he did not make very many friends. His neighbor Trent was going through some tough times. He was a troubled kid and Nick wanted him to feel like he had friends. Nick started to hang out with Trent more. The theme would be to never judge the book by its cover. Just because Trent had a troubled family does not mean

he is too.

Recommendation: I would recommend this book to any gender, ages high school and up. It had some harsh language. It was a higher reading level book, and some of the content might be harder for younger people to understand.

Rylee Bartel says

Personal Response: I really liked this book. I was able to connect to it because it was about basketball. Even though I never got pulled out of a varsity game and never had to sit a practice because of a mistake I made, I was still able to make personal connections with the sport.

Plot Summary: *Night Hoops* had a ton of main events. The book was all about Nick's life during basketball. He loved the sport and would give up anything just to play it. He had a pretty good start to his sophomore year of school and basketball, but things started to go downhill after a few weeks. He lost confidence in himself. His parents got a divorce, so his dad left giving Nick no one to play basketball against at night. His mom cared more about Scott and his band than Nick and basketball. Nick started to give up in school and he didn't try at basketball practices anymore after all that happened. His dad got mad at him because he was working so hard and he was going to get that varsity spot, but now he lost it all. Nick's coach came up to him one day at practice and asked him what was going on. His coach wasn't happy with him, so Nick went home that night and thought about his choices. He started working harder on his homework and he asked one of his teammates to come over at night so he could shoot hoops. Nick changed a lot, but one of his teammates didn't. Trent had a rough life. His parents were never there for him and his brother Scott was always getting in trouble with the cops. Trent always dragged himself into his brother's problems and he never did his school work. He lost out on a lot with basketball too. A major event that happened in the book that messed things up for Nick and Trent was when Scott shot a guy for revenge. Scott pulled Trent into it so people thought that Trent did it when it was all Scott's fault. Nick got put in charge of watching Trent after the word spread that Trent did it because the basketball team needed Trent. He was a huge key to the team, and without him they weren't going to win many games. Trent ran away to try to help his brother because he felt bad, but he dug himself a bigger hole then. People started to think of him different, and he wasn't able to play for a while too because of his choices. Nick felt bad for Trent and he tried to help in anyway possible, but nothing was working. Once Trent left, the team got worse everyday. They lost a lot of games and Nick wasn't getting to play a lot because without Trent coach didn't put him in. Trent finally came back and Nick talked some sense into him to make him stay. Trent knew that he just had to give up on his brother, there was no way he was going to change his brother's choices. A lot of good things happened once Trent came back. The basketball team started to win a lot of big games. The biggest game of the season was coming up and the whole team was there. Trent and Nick got to start because of their great teamwork and hard work. To find out if they won the big game read the book.

Characterization: There were a couple of main characters in this book. The book was mostly about Nick Abbott, though. He was a sophomore with a lot of determination and dedication towards the game of basketball. All he worried about the summer before school started was playing basketball on the varsity team. He worked hard everyday to get that spot and he deserved it. A few things changed throughout the school year that gave him a hard time on reaching his dream. Another main character in the book was Trent Dawson. He always got into trouble at school and at home. His brother Zack didn't help with Trent's choices in life because he was always blaming Trent for whatever he got caught for. Trent tried to give up on his brother and leave him, but he always went back. At the end of the book he finally came back and stayed

because he realized that he actually had a good life once his brother was gone and wasn't in his life anymore.

Setting: *Night Hoops* took place in Seattle, Washington during modern times. Nick was either behind his house on his basketball court his dad made for him or at Bothell High School in Seattle. The book took place during Nick's high school years in the 2000s.

Thematic Connection: There were a lot of themes in *Night Hoops*. The main theme was that one individual can't win a team sport by themselves. Teamwork is how a team reaches goals and wins. Another main theme that was in the book was never judge a person by how they act, how they look, or their family background. Every person is unique in a special way. It's just like don't judge a book by its cover. Meet a person from the inside not from the outside.

Recommendation: I recommend this book to middle schoolers and older. It is an easier read and it always keeps the reader thinking what is going to happen next. It is also very easy to make connections with it even if it isn't about basketball. I gave this book a five out of five stars because it always kept me thinking what was going to happen and the whole time I was reading it I was able to make connections.

Spencer Belanger says

really good felt like i was in the book
