



Twerp

By Mark Goldblatt

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Twerp By Mark Goldblatt

It's not like I meant for him to get hurt. . . .

Julian Twerski isn't a bully. He's just made a big mistake. So when he returns to school after a weeklong suspension, his English teacher offers him a deal: if he keeps a journal and writes about the terrible incident that got him and his friends suspended, he can get out of writing a report on Shakespeare. Julian jumps at the chance. And so begins his account of life in sixth grade--blowing up homemade fireworks, writing a love letter for his best friend (with disastrous results), and worrying whether he's still the fastest kid in school. Lurking in the background, though, is the one story he can't bring himself to tell, the one story his teacher most wants to hear.

Inspired by Mark Goldblatt's own childhood growing up in 1960s Queens, *Twerp* shines with humor and heart. This remarkably powerful story will have readers laughing and crying right along with these flawed but unforgettable characters.

Praise for *Twerp*:

A Bankstreet Best Book of the Year

A Junior Library Guild Selection

A Summer Top Ten Kids' Indie Next List Pick

A Sunshine State Award Finalist

“Reminiscent of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. . . . You don't have to be a twerp to read this book.” —*New York Post*

“A vivid, absorbing story about one boy's misadventure, heartache, and hope for himself.” —**Rebecca Stead**, Newbery Award-winning author of *When You Reach Me*

“Mark Goldblatt is an amazingly wonderful writer.” —**Chris Grabenstein**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*

“[Fans of] Jeff Kinney’s *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* who have matured beyond the scope and gravity of that series will find a kindred spirit in Julian.” —***School Library Journal***

“Reminiscent of movies like *The Sandlot*. . . . Well-written and funny.” —***The Advocate***

“Alternately poignant and comical. . . . A thought-provoking exploration of bullying, personal integrity and self-acceptance.” —***Kirkus Reviews***

“A timely book.” —***New York Journal of Books***

“Elegant in its simplicity and accessibility.” —***The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books***

“An empathetic and authentic glimpse into the mind of a sixth-grade boy.” —***The Florida Times-Union***

“Funny, poignant, and an effective commentary on bullying and its consequences.” —***The Horn Book Magazine***

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6-8-After participating in an act of horrendous bullying, Julian is given the opportunity to atone for his action and lighten his punishment by writing a book throughout the year. What starts as meandering thoughts and stories about him hitting pigeons and chasing cars evolves into a story of self-realization. The bulk of it is given over to a tangled love triangle. When Lonnie asks Julian, a better writer, to craft a love letter from him to new-girl Jillian and sign it anonymously, she believes the amorous intentions are Julian's. The result leaves bitter feelings between two former best friends. As the story unfolds, Julian comes to identify what he feels is right, not just what his best friend tells him is so. This honest portrayal of 12-year-olds' lives does not gloss over the stupid, hurtful things people do to one another before their moral compasses become fully calibrated. Julian is different from his friends, as he is told throughout the book, but he doesn't see it until the end. In the denouement, he finally stands up and tries to make what he has done right. Not all readers will identify with the sometimes-despicable things the protagonist does, but those who identified with the antihero in Jeff Kinney's "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" (Abrams) but have matured beyond the scope and gravity of that series will find a kindred spirit in Julian.-Devin Burritt, Wells Public Library, ME©(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From Booklist

Sixth-grader Julian Twerski discovers a love for writing as he documents his year for a teacher who wants him to come to terms with an act of bullying on his part. Set in Queens in the author's 1960s childhood, this period piece spotlights a time when boys were independent, self-sufficient in their entertainment, and entirely unsupervised. Julian's gang, led by his best friend, Lonnie, hangs out in a vacant lot or neighborhood playground, entertaining themselves by throwing things, exploding fireworks, and ragging on each other. For Lonnie, Julian writes an admiring letter to classmate Jillian, who responds by becoming interested in Julian instead. This leads to a first date, a first broken heart, and a temporary quarrel with his pal. Meanwhile, Julian's composition entries circle around to the incident that led to his punishment. The cleverly constructed first-person narrative leads readers into sympathy with the precocious narrator, so that the reveal is a surprise and the denouement a relief. There's a fair amount of nostalgia here, which adult readers may appreciate more than teens. Grades 6-9. --Kathleen Isaacs

About the Author

MARK GOLDBLATT is a lot like Julian Twerski, only not as interesting. He's a widely published columnist, a novelist, and a professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology. *Twerp* is his first book for younger readers. He lives in New York City. Visit him online at markgoldblattkids.com.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Densmore:

Now a day people who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by match the internet and the resources inside can be true or not require people to be aware of each data they get. How a lot more to be

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