

My Brother's Hero

By Adrian Fogelin



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This poignant coming-of-age story is set against the verdant landscape and sultry atmosphere of the Florida Keys

Ben Floyd has a lot on his mind. In only eighteen months he will be old enough to get a learner's permit to drive, but that seems a lifetime away. Ben enjoys the close-knit group of friends in his small neighborhood, but lately he has been longing for a taste of adventure. Keeping an eye on his younger brother Cody is getting to be a big responsibility. And he is confused by complicated feelings he has for his lifelong friend, Cass.

An unexpected turn of events finds the Floyd family in the Florida Keys over Christmas vacation and offers Ben a welcome opportunity to escape the neighborhood routine. Here he meets Mica, an independent, strong-willed girl who lives a nomadic life aboard a boat with her marine biologist father. Mica teaches Ben and Cody to fish, sail, and snorkel, and together they explore the interior canals and coastal waterways. But Ben soon realizes that adventure sometimes brings danger, and that at the center of Mica's seemingly charmed life lies a mysterious loneliness.

Young readers will relate to Ben's conflicting feelings and growing restlessness as they experience this realistic, thoughtful, and sometimes humorous portrait of adolescence by award-winning author Adrian Fogelin.



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8-Thirteen-year-old Ben, mentioned in Crossing Jordan (Peachtree, 2000) as Cass's childhood friend, narrates this story. Here, the two are developing romantic feelings for one another, although Cass makes but a brief appearance. Ben goes with his family to the Florida Keys for Christmas to mind his uncle's marina. He meets bold and brassy Mica, 11, who lives on a boat with her alcoholic, inattentive father, a marine biologist; her mother is supposedly a famous ballerina "on The Continent." She takes over the family's holiday. She knows the Latin name for seemingly every species of ocean life, motors around the mangroves in a Zodiac, and takes Ben and his younger brother on myriad adventures, including the inevitable one where they almost get lost at sea. He continues to think of Cass, back home in Tallahassee, and the special present he left for her. Longer and slower than the earlier title, and not as compelling, this book has trouble finding a focus as it is partly about child neglect, sibling rivalry, and oceanography, and is also a coming-of-age story.

Debbie Whitbeck, West Ottawa Public Schools, Holland, MI Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Booklist

Gr. 5-8. Thirteen-year-old Ben Floyd and his seven-year-old brother, Cody, can't wait to spend Christmas in the Florida Keys as their parents watch over a family-run marina. Ben knows he'll have to keep an eye on Cody, who can't swim, but he's not prepared when a marine biologist and his 11-year-old daughter, Mica, dock and settle in for the holidays: "My big vacation began to fold up small." Initially, Ben envies Mica's freedom (correspondence school, island hopping, and helping her father collect specimens), and he resents how easily his parents embrace her. Gradually, however, he realizes that Mica, with her distant, hard-drinking father, yearns for a loving family like his own. As in Fogelin's previous novels, *Crossing Jordan* (2000) and *Anna Casey's Place in the World* (2001), this story has plenty of action, but it's the emotional drama, revealed in funny, realistic dialogue and spot-on descriptions, that distinguish the novel. Readers just leaping into adolescence will easily connect with Ben, who is both sharply observant of and bewildered by the adult world and his own place in it. *Gillian Engberg*

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Review

"As in Adrian Fogelin's previous novels, *Crossing Jordan* and *Anna Casey's Place in the World*, this story has plenty of action, but it's the emotional drama, revealed in funny, realistic dialogue and spot-on descriptions, that distinguish the novel. Readers just leaping into adolescence will easily connect with Ben, who is both sharply observant of and bewildered by the adult world and his own place in it." —*Booklist*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kerri Goodman:

Book is usually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can learn 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. Close to that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A reserve My Brother's Hero will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about everything. But some

of you think in which open or reading a new book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you searching for best book or appropriate book with you?

Martin Adams:

Reading a book tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the ability about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write to the book. One of them is this My Brother's Hero.

Enoch Dutton:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended for your requirements is My Brother's Hero this e-book consist a lot of the information with the condition of this world now. That book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The language styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some analysis when he makes this book. This is why this book appropriate all of you.

Matthew German:

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