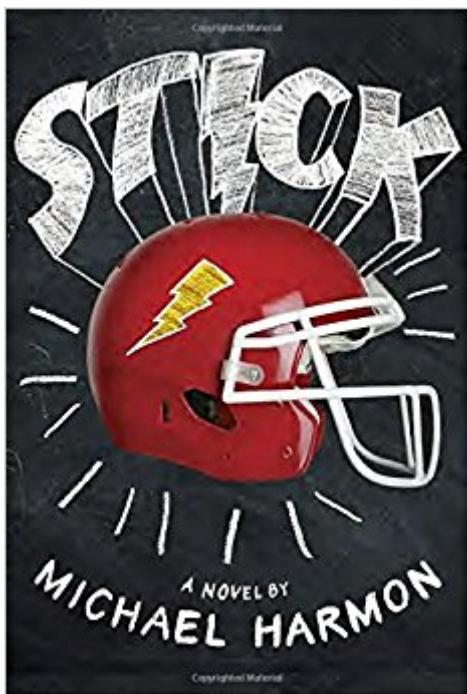


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# Stick



## Synopsis

â œStickâ • is the best wide receiver in the history of his high schoolâ "the football seems magnetically drawn to his hands, hence his nickname. Â Preston is an outcast, and his pipsqueak stature and nerdy social status couldnâ ™t be further from a star athleteâ ™s. Â Stick puts on his football costume every week to make othersâ "his teammates, his dad, everyone but himselfâ "happy, but heâ ™s fallen out of love with the sport and feels that heâ ™s lost control of his future. Â Preston puts on his homemade superhero costume every night to help others, too: to avenge his fatherâ ™s murder, heâ ™s determined to right the wrongs he sees in his neighborhood and regain control of the flawed world he sees around him. Â A twist of fate brings this unlikely pair together in a friendship that is as odd as it is true. Each can see the other better than he can see himself, and in these unexpected reflections lies a chance for mutual redemption.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 10 Upâ "Brett "Stick" Patterson has a love/hate relationship with football. He loves the game itself but hates the win-at-all-costs attitude that prevails on his high school team. He hates even more the way othersâ "especially his power-mad coach and abusive, alcoholic fatherâ "exploit his talent.

Nerdy Preston Underwood comes to Brett's attention as the boy is being pelted by eggs thrown by Brett's bullying teammates. Brett fails to intervene but is intrigued by Preston's serene attitude in the face of such abuse. The two form a relationship as Preston tutors Brett in math and also pushes him to confront the issues in his life that he has been avoiding. Preston has issues of his own: his father was murdered before his eyes during a robbery. Brett quits the football team and with the help of a

sympathetic guidance counselor, transfers to another school where he is able to join a team coached by a fair-minded man. Meanwhile, Preston takes to the streets at night dressed in a superhero costume trying to thwart crime (to atone for his inaction in his father's death). Brett's former teammates attack both of them in their rage at his defection. There is way too much going on in this novel for any of the important issues raised to be treated with any depth or complexity, and the scatological language would limit the potential audience to older teen readers, even as the vocabulary, sentence structure, and general level of sophistication suggest a lower reading level.

**VERDICT** An additional purchase only.â "Richard Lutzer, Fair Haven Union High School, VT

"â œThis delivers the feel-good satisfaction of an afterschool special while forgoing the saccharine aftertaste for some solid satisfaction.â • â "Bulletin, starred review

I wish this were also in paperback version so I could get additional copies for my 8th-grade classroom. It's not your typical sports book--it's so much more. First of all - I (as a well-read adult) enjoyed it. But more importantly--and trying not to stereotype--a number of my football playing reluctant readers LOVED the book. One actually gasped in class while reading it and called out loud to me, "No, Mrs. J - WHY?" But he kept reading, and loved it. It's thought-provoking, real, and ultimately satisfying. Besides wishing it were in paperback, the other thing I wish is that I had a better answer for kids who want another book similar to this one. Let me know if you have any read-alikes.

I love Michael Harmon's novels, been reading them since 10th grade (5/6 years), and Stick is no exception. Long story short, Stick was funny, intense, and overall an easy to read book. You can definitely tell it's a Harmon novel, and if you are a fan of his prior stories, you won't be disappointed.

Excellent book by an excellent author. I enjoyed each turn in the book as well as the very well developed characters. I have read all of Michael's books and I would recommend each one, not only to young adults but to "older" adults as well.

My son is reading the book he seems to like it

Excellent read!

I read a lot of books for all ages and rarely write reviews, but this one calls for one. It's basically a

fourth-grade level book (in terms of plot and writing) with swear words on almost every page. Every character is a stereotype, and everything is spelled out repeatedly in case the reader can't figure it out. No inferences required. This is a good example of a high-interest, low-skill (hi-lo) book for older students with low reading skills.

really cool book

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