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The Honest Truth

By Dan Gemeinhart



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The Honest Truth By Dan Gemeinhart

It's never too late for the adventure of a lifetime.

In all the ways that matter, Mark is a normal kid. He's got a dog named Beau and a best friend, Jessie. He likes to take photos and write haiku poems in his notebook. He dreams of climbing a mountain one day.

But in one important way, Mark is not like other kids at all. Mark is sick. The kind of sick that means hospitals. And treatments. The kind of sick some people never get better from.

So Mark runs away. He leaves home with his camera, his notebook, his dog, and a plan. A plan to reach the top of Mount Rainier. Even if it's the last thing he ever does.

The Honest Truth is a rare and extraordinary novel about big questions, small moments, and one incredible journey.



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 5–8—Twelve-year-old Mark wants to climb a mountain before his imminent death from cancer, so he runs away to Mt. Rainier with only his faithful dog, Beau, to accompany him. In alternating chapters, Mark's best friend Jessie, at home, narrates her moral dilemma: should she honor his last request or reveal his location to the worried adults who would deny him his wish? As each event befalls Mark along his journey, Beau increasingly proves himself, while Jessie vacillates. Gemeinhart, a first-time author, keeps the pace with short, active chapters leading to a satisfying, if somewhat predictable, ending. Descriptions of place and character are good, the Northwest Washington setting palpable, and Mark's continuous descriptions of headaches and nausea, if a bit repetitive, can be chalked up to realism. The actions of the adult characters along the way are slightly less believable but suspension of disbelief is possible with such a compelling premise and Mark's ringing sense of confidence. Recommended for general purchase and for classroom structured reading. This will be especially interesting to capable but reluctant readers, particularly dog lovers.—Rhona Campbell, Georgetown Day School, Washington, DC

Review

Praise for *The Honest Truth*:

An Amazon.com Best Book of the Month (February)

A Kids' Indie Next Pick (Winter '14-'15)

"An emotionally hard-hitting survival story... a gripping page-turner." -- *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"A heartbreaking, moving novel that makes you want to embrace the boy at its center and hold him close." -- Holly Goldberg Sloan, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Counting by 7s*

"Debut author Gemeinhart has pulled off an impressive combination of suspenseful adventure thriller and cancer narrative... Touching but unsentimental, this is a deeply moving adventure." -- *Booklist*

"Gemeinhart presents a rousing riveting two-hanky read." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

"Writer/librarian Dan Gemeinhart has taken great care to craft a believable and poignant tale of steely resolve and undying friendship. Reluctant readers will especially enjoy the forward-moving adventure, and dog lovers will be thrilled with this truly magnificent tale of "boy loves dog" (and vice versa)... an outstanding debut novel." -- *Bookpage*

"Gemeinhart... has crafted an extraordinary story about savoring life and exploring the meanings of strength." -- *Alaska Airlines Magazine*

About the Author

Dan Gemeinhart is a teacher-librarian and father of three daughters. He lives with his family in Cashmere, Washington. *The Honest Truth* is his first book. Visit him at www.dangemeinhart.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lucile Brown:

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