



Fighting Ruben Wolfe (Underdogs)

By Markus Zusak

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I say, 'Don't lose your heart, Rube.' And very clearly, without moving, my brother answers me. He says, 'I'm not tryin' to lose it, Cam. I'm tryin' to find it.' The Wolfe brothers know how to fight. They've been fighting all their lives. Now there's something more at stake than just winning. A powerful, poignant novel from the author of the international bestseller, *The Book Thief*.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

As Cameron and Ruben Wolfe walk home from school one day, a rough bloke awaits them at their gate. "Can we talk inside?" he asks.

"Well, for starters," Rube answers, "who the hell are y'?"

"Oh, I'm sorry," says the stranger. "I'm a guy who can either change your life or smack it into the ground for bein' smart."

The brothers decide to listen. They keep listening, and soon they're embroiled in a ruthless underground world of sleazy amateur boxing, 50 bucks for a win, a decent tip for a loss. The intensity of this kind of fighting goes beyond the obvious violence and danger, though, as Cameron wonders whether he even wants to come out from his brother's shadow and both boys seek an identity beyond that of their painfully harsh working class family's.

Markus Zusak pens a surprisingly complex and touching story that will linger long with readers. The language is hard-hitting, witty, and authentic--as are the emotions and action. *Fighting Ruben Wolfe* is not about boxing. It's about respect, stubborn pride, and real brotherly love. (Ages 12 and older) --*Emilie Coulter*

From Publishers Weekly

In earthy working-class dialect, Australian novelist Zusak offers a lot of boxing action as well as a sensitive inspection of sibling relationship and family pride, wrote PW. Ages 13-up. (June) n

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From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up-The Wolfe family has more than its share of problems. Injured in a plumbing accident, the father is unemployed. The mother works extra jobs to help make ends meet. Sister Sarah is an alcoholic. Eldest brother Steve keeps himself emotionally distanced from everyone as he bides his time waiting for an opportunity to escape. Cameron and Ruben are close, almost inseparable, supporting one another. Despite their hardships, the Wolfes maintain a steadfast pride and determination to survive. The story, narrated by Cameron, centers on his relationship with Ruben, who is everything the younger sibling wants to be but is not. Looking to make a financial contribution to the family, the boys encounter a shady boxing promoter who convinces them to fight for money. Aggressive Ruben, who enjoys a good altercation anyway, is enthusiastic. For him, boxing is a way to prove himself. Cameron is petrified, but he goes along with his brother. Predictably, the two brothers face one another in the ring in a climactic scene in which Cameron confronts his feelings about Ruben and himself. *Fighting Ruben Wolfe* has an intriguing premise that is never fully realized. The characters are only superficially developed, as are the dynamics among the other family members. It is difficult to care about the characters or their situations, and the lack of resolution at the end will leave readers disappointed. A novel that begins with promise but never makes it past the first round.-Edward Sullivan, Langston Hughes Library, Clinton, TN

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Thompson:

The actual book Fighting Ruben Wolfe (Underdogs) will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading any book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book to learn, this book very ideal to you. The book Fighting Ruben Wolfe (Underdogs) is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Alexandria Sharp:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love Fighting Ruben Wolfe (Underdogs), you can enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Helen Massey:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you actually, why because this Fighting Ruben Wolfe (Underdogs) publication written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who read the book. Written inside good manner for you, leaking every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still hesitation Fighting Ruben Wolfe (Underdogs) as good book not simply by the cover but also with the content. This is one e-book that can break don't assess book by its cover, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to one more sixth sense.

Thomas Rojas:

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