



Underdogs

By Markus Zusak

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Before *The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak wrote a trilogy of novels about the Wolfe Brothers: *The Underdog*, *Fighting Rueben Wolfe*, and *Getting the Girl*. Cameron and Ruben Wolfe are champions at getting into fights, coming up with half-baked schemes, and generally disappointing girls, their parents, and their much more motivated older siblings. They're intensely loyal to each other, brothers at their best and at their very worst. But when Cameron falls head over heels for Ruben's girlfriend, the strength of their bond is tested to its breaking point.

We're proud to present these novels together for the first time, and to be introducing American readers to *The Underdog*, never before published in the United States. Fans of *The Book Thief* won't want to miss reading the novels that launched Markus Zusak's stellar career.

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Underdogs By Markus Zusak Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Fans of Zusak will not be disappointed with his early collection of stories about the Wolfe brothers, published here as a single audio work. Cameron and Ruben Wolfe are champions at getting into fights and coming up with half-baked schemes. Humor abounds as Cameron and Ruben find themselves in all sorts of mischief. It starts with a crazy scheme to rob a dentist that ends abruptly with the attractive receptionist. These stories are pure entertainment, right from the beginning. When Cameron meets the girl of his dreams, who ultimately becomes the object of Ruben's affection, the brothers who have always been loyal to each other must figure out how strong their relationship really is. Narrator Stig Wemyss brings Zusak's brilliant characters to life. VERDICT A great purchase for any library.—Betsy Davison, Cortland Free Library, NY

Review

"Zusak's popularity is well-deserved. He writes emotionally engaging stories with understated humor and a bittersweet style that refuses to play by straightforward grammatical rules. His earliest published works share many of the same stylistic hallmarks and themes of belonging and survival." -- *Los Angeles Times*

"With this compilation release of *The Underdog*, the rough-and-tumble adventures of the Wolfe brothers are finally all assembled. Zusak's stunning use of language and rich character development are present, while the introduction of the family framework provides additional understanding for the sibling dynamic in the later stories. . . . Appealing to fans and providing an entry point for fresh readers, this is a much-appreciated addition to the Wolfe brothers' canon." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

Praise for Markus Zusak

"*The Book Thief* will be appreciated for Mr. Zusak's audacity, also on display in his earlier *I Am the Messenger*. It will be widely read and admired because it tells a story in which books become treasures. And because there's no arguing with a sentiment like that." -- *New York Times Book Review*

"Zusak doesn't sugarcoat anything, but he makes his ostensibly gloomy subject bearable the same way Kurt Vonnegut did in *Slaughterhouse-Five*: with grim, darkly consoling humor." -- *Time Magazine*

Praise for *Fighting Ruben Wolfe*

"Zusak debuts with an intense tale about boxing, brotherly solidarity, and searching for self-respect. . . . Engrossing." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

"Zusak's first-person narrative is electrifying. . . . Coarse and poetic at the same time, the power of Zusak's prose and vivid imagery will continue to reverberate long after the last punch is thrown." -- *Teenreads.com*

Praise for *Getting the Girl*

"Zusak uses simple but poetically poignant language to convey Cam's inner teenage turmoil, confusion, and heartache. This highly recommended novel is a sad, funny, loving, and ultimately heartwarming coming-of-

age story.” – *Voice of Youth Advocates*

“The extravagant prose does work well in describing the relationship between Cam and Octavia, demonstrating the often-ignored fact that teenage boys also fall breathlessly and heart-stoppingly in love.” – *The Horn Book*

About the Author

Marcus Zusak was born in 1975, the youngest of four children born to German and Austrian immigrant parents. Marcus studied teaching at university and gained experience teaching at the high school level.

Marcus began writing when he was sixteen years old, and completed his first (unpublished) manuscript at eighteen. While his writing may seem most relevant to young adults, he hopes that readers of all ages can discover meaning in his work.

Marcus Zusak lives in New South Wales, Australia.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Amanda Haskin:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book could be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the publication untitled Underdogs can be very good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Fern Marshall:

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know how big selling point of a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book which you wanted.

Diana Erickson:

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