

Just My Luck

Cammie McGovern

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In the book “Just My Luck” by Cammie McGovern, Benny, who is nine years old, feels like he has too many problems to deal with. He has felt this way ever since an incident a few days ago that caused him to get a concussion and his dad to be sent to the hospital. Benny is excited to start fourth grade after he realizes that he has Mr. Norris, the teacher that he wished to have. However, recently, Mr. Norris has been acting rather strange, as he has been late for a week. Another thing that Benny is excited for in fourth grade is doing good deeds to earn “footprints”. Nonetheless, Benny eventually gets frustrated about how hard it is to get a footprint. As fourth grade goes on, Benny wishes that he could find something that he is good at after struggling in multiplication and spelling in school. His mom tells him that in order to have a passion, he has to work hard at something and be committed at getting better at it. Benny does have a screen-related passion (stop-motion photography), but his mom wants him to find something else as his passion. Benny’s dad finally comes home from the hospital, as his brain had an aneurysm due to the bicycle accident just before. Benny is also wondering about his friends after his old best friend Kenneth moved away last spring. As Benny’s passion for making Lego movies continues, Benny realizes that his friend Jeremy has received a footprint for helping a teacher. Benny continues to try his best to receive a footprint, but after a few days, he still hasn’t received one. This makes Benny upset, and when his dad has a medical examination, it only makes him feel worse, as Benny starts to feel that the incident that hurt his dad was his own fault, even though his mom says that it isn’t his fault. Meanwhile, his dad is trying to get Benny to ride his bike at the track, but Benny is worried that his dad will get injured again and that he doesn’t want to feel more upset about himself. His dad continues to ask Benny if he wants to ride his bike at the track, but this only makes Benny more irritated.

Unfortunately, Benny’s dad is sent to the hospital again after being unconscious for a while. This makes Benny feel very upset that he doesn’t feel like talking to anyone. He begins to not care about anything anymore. The only thing that he can think about is his dad, which makes feel like it was his fault in the first place. Then, Benny misses the afternoon school bus to find George, as he is worried that George got upset and that something bad must have happened to his dad. However, Benny finds George with Mr. Norris instead, which tells Benny that his dad is just fine. Mr. Norris lets Benny and George come over to his apartment and call their parents, who tell Mr. Norris that their dad just woke up and is just fine. This makes Benny surprised and relieved at the same time. Benny is also surprised that he received a footprint from his teacher. However, Benny soon realizes that his mom is unable to pay for some hospital bills. To solve the problem, the whole family holds a fun carnival, which helps them raise over \$600. While this problem is solved, Benny’s dad makes Benny upset again by reminding him about going to the track to ride his bike. Benny is afraid that another accident will occur, but his mom ensures him that it won’t happen. Benny agrees to this and decides to ride his bike at the track, which he ends up doing very good at.

There are many things that I liked about this book. One thing I liked about it was how there were many events in the book that affected the overall story. For example, the story would not be the same if Benny's dad hadn't been injured badly. I also liked how the story was very realistic. Many of the events in the book that occurred are events that have happened to me as well in real life a few years back. I would recommend this book to ages 9+ because of these reasons. I would also definitely recommend this book to someone else.

Recommended Titles:

Chester and Gus by Cammie McGovern

It's My Life by Stacie Ramey

Say What You Will by Cammie McGovern