

*Deep Zone*

Time Green

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This is a great book, in which a 12 year old football prodigy, Ty must deal with many major stresses in his life. He loses his parents in a car accident, unknowingly helps members of the Mob, and assists his brother thru a possible career ending injury. Thru all of these ordeals, it reaffirms his belief that the love of his brother is all that he needs to get him thru tough times.

After Ty's parents die in an auto accident, his older brother Thane a 22 year old professional football player, raises him. Ty gets to travel around with Thane to football games, practices, and all types of special events that a normal 12 year old boy doesn't usually get to do. Because of this, Ty has a lot of information about the Jets football team and all of the players. Ty's Uncle Gus, is a shady character that gets information from Ty about the football players and shares it with members of the Mob. When the FBI learns about what's going on, they crack down on Thane and Uncle Gus. In the long run, the FBI clear Thane and Ty and send Uncle Gus into the witness protection program, so he can testify against the Mob.

While Thane is playing in a playoff football game, he is injured and must have surgery to repair a knee injury. While he is in the hospital, Thane becomes sicker and Ty learns that the Mob might be out to hurt him. The FBI assigns Special Agent Sutherland to protect Ty. Ty becomes increasingly worried about the Mob and his brother, as Thane develops a serious infection and actually gets worse. The Mob does attempt to harm Ty, but Special Agent Sutherland stops them. While Ty is dealing with the Mob and his brother being in the hospital, he also has a try out for a very important football team. Even though there are numerous obstacles to face, Ty overcomes them all and makes the team.

Making the team coincides with his brother feeling better, his uncle testifying in court against the Mob and the continued threat of being chased by two members of the Mob. Ty's football team travels to Florida to play in a series of championship football games. While in Florida, Ty meets two 12 year old kids, Tate and Troy, who are also there with their football teams. While in Florida, the two boys, Ty and Troy end up getting kidnapped by Troy's Dad, who is connected with the Mob and with the men who have been chasing Ty. Tate tries to rescue Troy and Ty and actually ends up getting kidnapped also. In a weird twist of events, it turns out that Ty and Troy are actually cousins. When the two Mob men start to talk about killing Tate and Ty, Troy's Dad decides to help the kids escape the captors. The boys are back in time to play their football game and Ty's team wins the championship game. Throughout this whole ordeal, Ty's love for his brother and his brother's love for him, is the one constant thing that Ty can always count on.

This was a great book. I recommend reading it after reading Tim Green's *The Big Time*. There are two characters from *The Big Time* that become important characters in the *Deep Zone*. Anyone who enjoys reading mysteries and sports adventure books would enjoy this one. Readers in the age range of 10-14 would like this book. This would be a wonderful book to give as a birthday gift, along with *The Big Time*.

Recommended Titles:

*Rivals* by Tim Green

*Baseball Great* by Tim Green  
*Jackie and Me* by Dan Gutman  
*Mickey & Me* by Dan Gutman