



***The Summer of Owen Todd* by Tony Abbott**

Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2017

ISBN: 9780374305529 (ebook)

\*Age Range: 10-14

Grade Range: 5-8 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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Owen and his best friend, Sean, are both eleven years old. They've lived on Cape Cod all their lives, and now that they're a little older, they'll finally be free to spend some time on their own. But Sean's mother has a different idea—she hires a babysitter to look after Sean. Paul is in his twenties, and a well-liked guy from church.

Paul starts doing things that just feel wrong. Because they've always been as close as brothers, Sean tells Owen, and no one else. What's not certain to Owen is what he should do. Sean warns him not to tell anyone what is happening. But if Owen doesn't tell, could something even worse happen to Sean?

This harrowing and sensitively told tale of child abuse is a must-read for anyone who might ever be called upon to help a friend in need.

This title has Common Core connections.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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★ "The setting is particularly well drawn, and woven into the story are threads about family, friendship, trust, courage, and growing up. VERDICT Unsettling and at times painful, this book offers an empathetic portrayal of a difficult and important subject." —[School Library Journal](#), starred review

★ "It's a difficult, important, and possibly lifesaving story of children forced into terrible situations, as well as what real loyalty and friendship look like. Wishing books like this weren't necessary doesn't make them less so." —[Publishers Weekly](#), starred review

"Abbott handles this escalation with care, demonstrating the ways that a predator can isolate and intimidate a victim... A horror story based on reality, believably and sensitively constructed in the voice of the young protagonist." —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

"This book tackles the heartbreaking topic of child abuse with both sensitivity and brutal honesty." —VOYA

Updated 9.6.24

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

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## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- School Library Journal's Best Books of 2017
- 2018 Horace Mann Upstanders Book Award

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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[Teaching Guide](#)

[School Library Journal Interview](#)

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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