



***Stick* by Andrew Smith**

Feiwel & Friends, MCPG, 2015

ISBN: 9780312613419 (Hardcover)

\*Age Range: 14-18 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 8 and up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

### BOOK SYNOPSIS

---

Fourteen-year-old Stark McClellan (nicknamed Stick because he's tall and thin) is bullied for being "deformed" – he was born with only one ear. His older brother Bosten is always there to defend Stick. But the boys can't defend one another from their abusive parents.

When Stick realizes Bosten is gay, he knows that to survive his father's anger, Bosten must leave home. Stick has to find his brother, or he will never feel whole again. In his search, he will encounter good people, bad people, and people who are simply indifferent to kids from the wrong side of the tracks. But he never loses hope of finding love – and his brother.

### REVIEWS AND PRAISE

---

★ "Smith (*The Marbury Lens*) revs up the emotions and the violence in this realistic and powerful tale, bringing in sexual abuse, hard drugs, and homelessness, while including enough positive characters to give Stick the support he desperately needs, providing for an imperfect but believable happy ending." — [Publishers Weekly](#), **starred review**

"Suggest this to readers who can handle the intensity of Smith's *In the Path of Falling Objects* (2009) and *The Marbury Lens* (2010, both Feiwel & Friends)." — *School Library Journal*

"The violence of the story is intense, but so is the deep loyalty between the brothers..." — [Horn Book Magazine](#)

"The prose is strong and evocative, lapsing into imagistic poetry at times to reveal the intensity of Stick's emotions. Readers should be prepared to have their hearts broken by these vulnerable, utterly lovable brothers." — *BCCB*

"Dark, painful, but ultimately hopeful, this is not a book for everyone, but in the right reader's hands, it will be treasured." — *VOYA*

"A smaller work from Smith, but one that sustains his growing rep as one of the sharpest blades in YA." — [Booklist](#)

8.12.2024

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

Contact: Mary Van Akin, [mary.vanakin@macmillan.com](mailto:mary.vanakin@macmillan.com)

“An altogether compelling work.” —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

---

- *Best Fiction for Young Adults* ([2012 selection](#), ALA)
- *Chosen for St. Paul “Read Brave” program* ([2015](#), Twin Cities Pioneer Press)
- *Georgia Peach Book Award Master List, named* (2012)
- *Oklahoma Sequoyah YA Book Award ML, named* ([2014](#))

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

---

Q&A with Andrew Smith ([2012](#), *Publisher’s Weekly*)

One Thing Leads to Another ([interview 2014](#), ALA)

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

---

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.

8.12.2024

Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group  
Contact: Mary Van Akin, [mary.vanakin@macmillan.com](mailto:mary.vanakin@macmillan.com)