



2003

# The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things

Margaret Manchak

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

---

### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Manchak, Margaret (2003) "The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 24 : Iss. 2 , Article 32.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol24/iss2/32>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

Mackler, Carolyn. *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things*. Candlewick Press, 2003. ISBN 0763619582. 15.99. 246 pp.

Reviewer: Margaret Manchak

Reading Level: Young adult;

Rating: Excellent;

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Friends--Juvenile fiction; Weight--Juvenile fiction; Family--Juvenile fiction;

Virginia Shreves is the plump protagonist in this coming-of-age story. She struggles with her feelings about her weight, about her restrictive, picture-perfect family, and about her boyfriend Froggy, who is really only her boyfriend on Monday afternoons in her bedroom. All aspects of her life fall apart when her big brother runs afoul of the law, but it seems to be only the beginning of putting things back together in a very satisfying way. While she doesn't figure everything out, Virginia does make real progress in realistic and constructive ways. She makes new friends after months of moping because her best friend has moved, she takes the initiative to try out her own personal style and not her moms, and she communicates her feelings and frustrations to those around her instead of hurting herself.

*The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things* is really a constructive self-help book for teens with body and self-image issues, disguised as a light weight, chick novel. Carolyn Mackler deals with hefty topics in a way that that many girls could relate to and benefit from.