



2006

Hard Hit

Marsha D. Broadway

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Turner, Ann. *Hard Hit*. Scholastic Press, 2006. ISBN 0439296803. \$16.99. 167 p.

Reviewer: Marsha D. Broadway

Reading Level: Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Fathers and sons--Juvenile fiction; Grief--Juvenile fiction; Death--Juvenile fiction;

Books--Reviews;

Mark, a tenth grader, has a near perfect life—a reliable best friend, a beautiful new girlfriend, a great pitching arm, and a devotion to baseball. Unexpectedly his dad is diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and his life and his family are thrown into unknown territory. Through sparse free verse, Mark struggles with fear, anger, faith, expectations, and change as his dad dies.

“No one tells you what it is like; there is no road map for death.” Turner has written a sensitive novel that addresses grief and loss and all the accompanying emotions. This book may help teens who face their own journey through grief or who have friends who are grieving. School counselors may find *Hard Hit* a reliable choice for bibliotherapy.