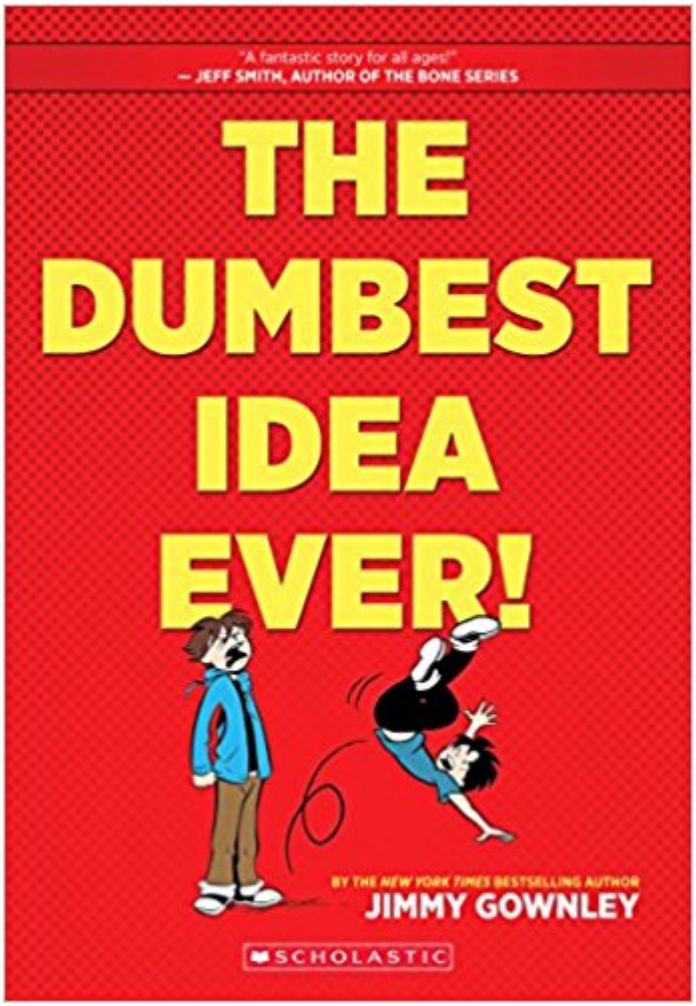
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The Dumbest Idea Ever!



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Synopsis

What if the dumbest idea ever turned your life upside down?At thirteen, Jimmy was popular, at the top of his class, and the leading scorer on his basketball team. But all that changed when chicken pox forced him to miss the championship game. Things went from bad to worse when he got pneumonia and missed even more school. Before Jimmy knew it, his grades were sinking and nothing seemed to be going right.How did Jimmy turn things around, get back on top at school, and land a date with the cutest girl in class?Renowned comics creator Jimmy Gownley shares his adventures as he grows from an eager-to-please boy into a teenage comic book artist. This is the real-life story of how the DUMBEST idea ever became the BEST thing that ever happened to him.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: GN330L (What's this?)

Paperback: 240 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #209,996 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biographies #77 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Literary #121 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 5Ã¢â ¬â œ8Ã¢â ¬â •In this funny and heartfelt graphic memoir by the author of the popular "Amelia Rules" series (Atheneum), Gownley introduces readers to his 13-year-old self. With excellent grades and strong skills on the basketball court, Jimmy is a star at his school until a nasty bout with chicken pox and pneumonia force him to miss over a month of classes and the championship game. While bedridden, the young artist rediscovers his love of comics and soon sets about creating and publishing his very ownÃ¢â ¬â •a task that is easier said than done. Jimmy's struggle through that awkward divide between childhood and adolescence, the palm-sweating

excitement of a first girlfriend, his growing disillusionment with school and homework, and his desire to escape the confines of his small Pennsylvania town and find his own special talent is authentically portrayed and will resonate with kids. Jimmy is at times boisterous and overconfident, while secretly struggling to reconcile the kid he was with the young man he is growing into. His relationships with his parents, his friends, and even some nuns at his strict Catholic school are portrayed with realism and humor. Gownley's energetic cartoons keep the overall tone light and upbeat, while subtle shifts in palette appropriately reflect the story's emotional highs and lows. This charming and inspiring tale will be enjoyed by fans of Raina Telgemeier's Smile (Scholastic, 2010) and aspiring comics creators everywhere.Ã¢â ¬â •Kiera Parrott, School Library Journal --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gownley is well known for his Amelia Rules series, full of crafty storytelling and emotional sensitivity. In his latest offering, he shows what made him the graphic novelist he grew up to be. At 13, with supportive parents and friends and teachers who gave him intellectual tools and encouragement along with hard reality checks, Jimmy creates his first (self-) published comic book, to impressive acclaim. Two years later, with a little more worldliness under his belt, as well as some heartbreak and rocky times with his best friend, Tony, Jimmy turned back to the drawing board to create a much better, more accurate story of his creativity, his dedication, and what shaped him as a successful artist. GownleyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s cartoonish and expressive illustrations send the reader into JimmyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s world and thoughts, from his early fascination with superheroes right through the bittersweet afterword, in which Gownley reveals that he was able to deliver the completed story of his adolescence to Tony soon before his early death. This is an excellent example of autobiographical sequential art at its most deeply felt. Grades 5-9. --Francisca Goldsmith --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

There is so much that is said in this book to inspire, to encourage, to show those dreamers that it is all worth it - ALWAYS! Kudos to Jimmy Gownley who not only represented his childhood aspirations perfectly, he provides the courage for others to chase their dreams just as far. It's a beautiful message to remind us, especially our kids, that YES dreams do come true. It's about believing in yourself even when no one else does. It's about grabbing your passions and never letting them go! In the end, the idea is never as dumb as you might think! No matter where you've come from know that you can go wherever you want! Great job Mr. Gownley!

Just finished up reading THE DUMBEST IDEA EVER! A great inspiration for kids with a strong message to never give up on your dreams. Illustrations are outstanding and the story will hold the attention of readers of all ages! A must buy for home and schools!

This book not only speaks to the people of the small community where it took place, but anyone who comes from a small town, or went to high school, had a first love, lost their way, found their way, doubted themselves and then finally used their experience for good. Oh yeah, and there is art for everyone to enjoy!

I absolutely loved this book, read it cover to cover in no time!!! What an inspirational tale!!! This book appeals to parents, kids, and anyone who needs a boost to their day! Well written, well drawn, who could ask for more?

Perfect in every way! Funny, touching, endearing. I thoroughly enjoyed every page... I couldn't put it down. It's a part of my history too, so there's a heartfelt connection. Everyone needs to buy this book, read it and steep in what's possible for each of us if we just honor the truth within.

This is a gem! The author has so captured those ever-so-challenging middle school years. Adults should not pass it by. It is insightful and has something for its reader of any age. We all go through those middle school years throughout our lives wherein we are not exactly sure who we are, where we are, or where we are going. I do believe most of us can see each of us somewhere in this book. It is also a great tribute to friendship.

Our 11-year-old is very interested in graphic novels and he LOVED this book. It inspired him to draw more (I've seen a LOT of character sketches in the past month). And I appreciate how it teaches the concept that developing your skill takes patience no matter your level of natural talent.As for the flashlight: I had to make him turn off his light well after the normal bedtime, but somehow he managed to finish the book before breakfast the next morning. A sure sign of a hit in our home. I definitely recommend this book!

Very fast read for my 11yr old son. Not sure he would recommend to his friends.

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