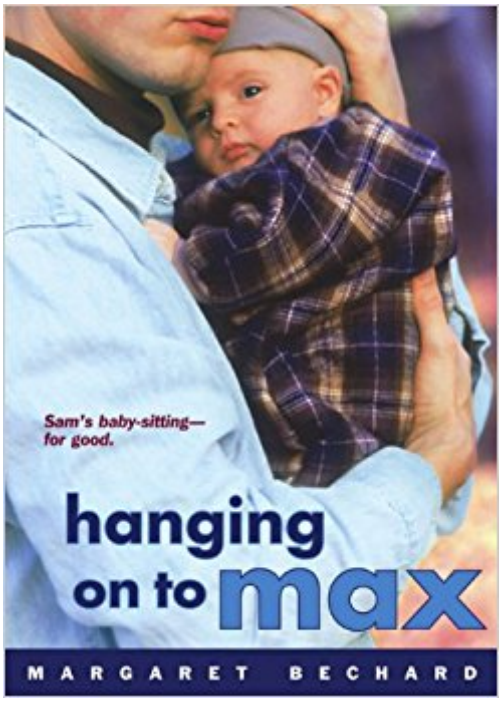
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Hanging On To Max (Turtleback School & Library Binding Edition)



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Synopsis

FOR USE IN SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ONLY. When his girlfriend decides to give their baby away, 17-year-old Sam is determined to keep him and raise him alone.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Between the midnight feedings and the diaper issue, it’s never easy being a new parent. But when you’re also a high-school student trying to graduate, the job becomes even more overwhelming. Sam Pettigrew never dreamed he’d spend his senior year pushing a stroller. But when his former girlfriend, Brittany, decided that she couldn’t handle being a parent, Sam knew he had to try. Now attending an alternative high school that provides daycare, Sam desperately juggles homework and parenting duties. "The list above my desk said, ’Get Max to sleep by 9:00.’ Right under ’Drink out of a cup’ and ’nap schedule.’ I couldn’t even remember what ’nap schedule’ meant. " Sam’s biggest problem is his lack of support: Brittany has left town to start over, and Sam’s widowed father, angry over Sam’s decision, refuses to help Sam other than financially. Claire Bailey, another teen parent, only serves to show Sam how alone he is--her family loves to babysit and buy toys for her baby, Emily. Finally, after a disastrous night spent in the emergency room when Max cuts his hand, Sam becomes defeated. How much longer can he keep up this crazy schedule of school and fatherhood? Yet, how can he bear not to keep it up, when giving it up means giving up Max? With this kind of subject matter, it would be easy for seasoned author Margaret Bechard to slip into didactic "after-school special" mode. Instead she has penned a truly tender, reversed-gender

tearjerker with an ending as realistic as it is heartbreaking. A four-hankie recommended read. (Ages 12 and older) --Jennifer Hubert --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Sam, a 17-year-old unwed father, is the candid, unusually likable narrator of Bechard's (If It Doesn't Kill You) involving novel. A senior at an alternative high school that offers day care, Sam struggles to juggle his responsibilities as a parent and student. He and 11-month-old Max live with Sam's largely uncommunicative widowed father, who has agreed to support them until Sam graduates high school and takes a construction job. Sam finds much-needed companionship when Claire, whom he has quietly admired for years, shows up at his school with a baby of her own. Flashbacks effectively fill in the missing pieces of the story, recalling the evolution of Sam's relationship with Brittany, Max's mother; Claire's presence in his eight-grade English class; his mother's last days fighting cancer; a memorable childhood fishing expedition with his parents; his first glimpse of the newborn Max; and his resolve to keep the baby when Brittany decides to give him up for adoption. The teen's conflicted perceptions of his role as father, friend and son, as well as his future aspirations, are intermittently droll and wrenching. While the story has been told before, it comes across as unfailingly real; and even the surprise ending conforms to the lifelike atmosphere. Ages 12-up.Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Everyone has heard the stories about the struggles teenaged, unmarried mothers face when they decide to keep their infants. YA books on the subject are common to the point of clichÃƒÂ©. However, Hanging Onto Max is the old story with a new twist: Sam Pettigrew is a teenaged father.He took custody of his son at age sixteen, when the boy's mother decided she could no longer handle the pressures of child care. Sam didn't want to see little Max given away to strangers, but raising him by himself was just as difficult. He certainly didn't get much help from his widowed father. Sam's dad agreed to support Sam financially until he graduated high school, but then Sam had to go to work immediately and pay back every penny. Sam, who scored 1320 on his SAT, would have to give up his dream of engineering school. But it was worth it to hold onto Max...wasn't it?Transferring away from his friends to an alternative high school that provided day care, Sam struggled to juggle the responsibilities of school and fatherhood. He never had a minute to himself and hardly ever saw his old friends. But he had to keep Max, right? After all, Sam was all the baby had in the world. However, one day when Sam turned his back for two minutes and Max got into an accident and ended up in the emergency room, he realized his could not go on. Hanging onto Max

wasn’t helping anybody, especially Max himself.This was a very good story, hilarious in some places and heart-tearing in others. I could sympathize with Sam and understand his motivations and even why his dad was the way he was. My only objection is to the final chapter, when Sam is reunited with a now-grown-up Max. It seemed anticlimatic and was not necessary in my opinion. Other than that I thought this was a fine book.

Great book. It tells the story of a single teenage father and the effect that this has on his life.

hanging on to max is a wonderful book I love it. great book for teens and adults. I love that for once it comes from a teen boys point of view and having to raise a child.

Love the book for my health ed. Classes

Bought for my class, and got exactly what I wanted for a very reasonable price. Anyone would like this story, but it especially appeals to teens.

This book is so good! When I read it, I couldn’t put it down. I was addicted to it. It’s a quick read and very well-written.

Seventeen year old Sam is a single father, literally struggling to raise his barely year-old son Max, who provides the reader a glimpse of single[teenage]fatherhood. His ex-girlfriend Brittany, who initially wanted to give their child up for adoption, has left to Boise to start her life over. Sam’s father does not support his son’s decision to take on the role of a single parent, supports him financially never-the-less as Sam attends an alternative high school with a daycare.At his alternative high school he reacquaints himself with Claire, who now has a newborn daughter Emily. Right away, the differences between Claire and Sam are noticeable. Emily constantly gets showered with gifts and attention by her grandparents who support Claire, while Sam on the other hand lacks it. Also, unlike Sam, Claire is not afraid of what people think about her being a teenage parent, and does not hide the fact that she is.After going through the many challenges of teen"hood" and fatherhood and almost getting a hand at it, it all comes crashing down after one crazy night spent in the emergency room with Max. It became obvious that all is not as simple and he may have thought, and he might no longer know what it is exactly what he wants.Determined to do what is right for his son, Sam makes a life-changing decision.It may be a quick read, but be prepared with tissues for this one.

Margaret Bechard's book Hanging On To Max teaches teenagers the consequences of their actions. The main character, Sam, learns how to deal with his own consequences when he finds out that his girlfriend is pregnant and wants to give up the baby for adoption. On impulse, he decides that he doesn't want to see his child be raised by strangers. He gets custody of his son and has to cope with the reality of raising a newborn. Throughout the book, Sam has to deal with the everyday hardships that come along with having a baby. At such a young age, he struggles with balancing school, studying for the SATs, and falling in love again. The book Hanging on to Max has many significant lessons that can be learned throughout it. One important message the author tries to send out to young teens is to think about the consequences that could happen before acting on impulse. This is suddenly a problem for Sam and Brittany when they find out that she is going to have a baby. Suddenly, they have a bigger problem that they could've imagined. When Brittany decides to give up the baby for adoption, Sam has to deal with even more, because he makes the tough decision of keeping the baby. Sam's whole world will soon be all about Max and being a good father. Instead of worrying of making varsity basketball and his plans for Friday night, he has to worry about midnight feedings and making ends meet. Though the book sends a strong and realistic message, some teens may find it to be unrealistic. Just when Sam seems to be coping with the responsibility that comes with the baby, he makes the decision to give him up. Most readers see this as a shock because adoption never really seemed to be a choice. Another thing that might be unappealing about this book is that it moves somewhat slowly. Readers might see Sam's reality as uneventful and dull, but the fact is that having a baby changes your life dramatically. Overall this book is a great way to show just how realistic this situation is, and how it can happen if you don't take responsibility for your actions. This book teaches teenagers to take a step back and look at what could possibly happen to them or someone they love.

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