



# Hot Hand

*Mike Lupica*

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**#1 *New York Times* bestseller Mike Lupica scores from downtown with his Comeback Kids series for young middle-grade readers.**

It's simple. All Billy Raynor wants to do is shoot. After all, he is one of the best shooters in the league. But with his dad as his coach, and his parents newly separated, somehow everything's become complicated. His brother Ben, the piano prodigy, hardly talks anymore. His mom is always traveling on business. And his dad is always on his case about not being a team player. But when Ben's piano recital falls on the same day as the championship game, it is Billy who teaches his dad the true meaning of being a team player.

## **Praise for the Comeback Kids:**

“Lupica portrays the action clearly and vividly, with a real sense of the excitement and unpredictable nature of the games. These are worthy additions to collections seeking to draw in middle-grade boys with an enthusiasm for athletics.” –*School Library Journal*

“These should score big with middle-graders looking for alternatives to Matt Christopher's titles.”  
–*Publisher's Weekly*

“This title is a good choice for reluctant readers with a background in baseball.” –*School Library Journal*

## **Hot Hand Details**

Date : Published September 20th 2007 by Philomel Books

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Author : Mike Lupica

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# From Reader Review Hot Hand for online ebook

## Aaron Saucedo says

This book is amazing. You've just GOT to read it. So all Billy Raynor wants to do is shoot- sorry... let me slow down because I'm so excited to share this to you I just blurted it all out SUPER fast. Ok, here I go: all Billy Raynor wants to do is shoot, but his dad wants him to pass more. So they're always mad at each other, and this book shows how Billy goes through it. I recommend this book to anybody that likes sports and drama.

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## Patrick says

Billy Raynor is in midst of the one of the most stressful times of his life. Billy, the main character, is dealing with his parents' recent separation and focusing upon basketball, where his father is the hard-nosed coach of the team. The author shows the anger and the confusion causing family split. The Raynor family relationships begin to fragment and grow estranged both inside and outside of the family relationships. Billy's younger brother, Ben, is taken the change especially hard. Within the coming-of-age tale, Billy rides through the ups and downs within his personal life and highs and lows of the basketball season. Billy comes to new understanding of family, leadership, and sharing.

A quick YA read dealing with a few important issues, like divorce, absentee parents, sportsmanship, and sibling relationships.

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## Kaitlin McDonough says

### Personal Response:

I decided to read this book after having a book talk with a fellow student in class last week. I was assigned to read another one of Mike Lupica's books, *Hero*, and loved it! So I figured since *Hot Hand* was by the same author I would give it a try. *Hot Hand* is a book about a young boy named Billy and the struggles him and his family are enduring. Billy and his brother Ben are trying to deal with the stress of their parents getting a divorce and focus on what is most important to them. The thing that is most important to Billy is basketball. Basketball is a large topic that is discussed in the book because not only does Billy love basketball but his dad is also the coach of his basketball team. What is most important to Ben is playing the piano and his is extremely talented at it. Their mother is always away for work and business and this also puts extra stress on Billy and his two siblings. Overall I loved this book because of all of the sports references. I was involved in sports in high school and especially loved basketball so I can relate really well to this book. I also have come to love this author and will continue to read books written by him in the future.

### Purpose in the Classroom:

This book can be used in many different ways in the classroom. An example of this could be to compare and contrast Billy and Ben and study character growth and development. After reading the class out loud or parts of the book out loud to the class you could draw a venn diagram and in a classroom discussion decide what characteristics belong to Billy, what characteristics belong to Ben, and what characteristics are shared between the both of them. This book would also be great as an independent read for students who love basketball or for students whose parents are or have recently been divorced. The book is easy to relate to so

students of all backgrounds will be able to enjoy this book.

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### **Mikael Harel says**

Do you like sports and you need a book to read? Well you should read Mike Lupica's book "Hot Hand". It is an outstanding book. "Hot Hand" is a story about a kid who plays basketball and is really good at it but he has some family problems that happen. What he does to get through them is for you to read and find out.

"Hot Hand" is about a boy whose name is Billy Raynor. He is the best shooter in the league but with his dad as being the coach he and his parents being separated, things become complicated. His brother Ben, who loves to play the piano, barely talks anymore and his mom is always traveling for work. Also, his dad is always on his case about not sharing the ball and becoming a team player. But things get complicated for his family. Ben, his little brother, has a piano recital that falls on the same day as Billy's championship game and there mom is traveling for work. Billy's dad is in a tough situation on what to do and it is Billy who teaches his dad the true meaning of becoming a team player.

I liked this book a lot because it was about something I do and I would recommend it to anyone who plays sports. Also, it taught me how to be a team player as well when I read it. The writing style of this book is easy to understand and you know who's saying what. Also, there is a lot of dialogue. The book is told from a narrator's point of view so you can see what everyone is thinking and saying.

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### **Jacob says**

Hot Hand by Mike Lupica is about a 10 year old named Billy Raynor who plays basketball. Billy is one of the shooters in the Y league that he plays in. But with his dad as his team coach (who always yells at him for not being a team player) and his parents getting a divorce, everything becomes more complicated. When Billy's dad cant make his championship game because of his brothers piano recital, Billy teaches his dad what it really means to be a team player.

I personally enjoyed this book because it seems very realistic. The details in this book are very similar to what I could see myself doing in a game winning situation. I can relate to what Billy says when he says that he feels at home when he plays on the basketball court because I feel the same way when I play on a soccer field. If I could change something in this book I would change the beginning. I would change the beginning because it is slow and it really didn't get my attention.

I would recommend this book to any other reader interested in sport experiences. I would also recommend this book to anyone who enjoys books by Mike Lupica and for middle school readers. This story is great for motivation.

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### **Giancarlo Vega says**

Good reads Review

The novel, Hot Hand was about an eleven year old kid, Billy who is just getting over his father moving out, and tries to cope with it from basketball. He was also trying to stand up for a bully who was bullying Ben,

Billy's little brother. Because of this, Ben feels hatred because he doesn't want his older brother protecting him from a bully. He has to try to get along with his dad and his brother at once.

I gave it a five because it was a very unpredictable book. For Example, I didn't know Billy was going to Ben's concert until the page it said Ben was performing and Billy was there watching. I also like how the main character was not dealing with just one conflict he was dealing with two sets of them. And I really didn't dislike anything about the novel.

I think low teenagers like ages 12-14 would like this book. Yet I think mostly boys would like but maybe a few girls would like it. You would also have to like realistic fiction novels where you know this can be true. Lastly you would have to like any of Mike Lupica's best books, because this is one of them.

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### **Jakeh says**

Jake Hobby 801 12-2-14 Hot Hand by Mike Lupica

In the sports story hot hand takes place mostly on the basketball court or at Billy's house. Some of the events in my story are Billy's parents are getting a divorce, billy living at two separate houses, and billy is the best player on his basketball team but the only problem is while his father is facing problems at home but he is Billy's basketball coach. Some of the characters in the story hot hand are Billy, Billy's dad, Billy's mom, Ben, Eliza, peg, and Billy's best friend on the basketball court Lenny. Billy's young brother Ben is a piano player some of the time while Billy's sister Eliza is obsessed with social media and texting. Billy's mother is struggling to be a lawyer, raise her 3 children, and adjust being separated from. Billy's father. Billy's father is struggling to adjust of being a basketball coach, father, and working full time having the kids on weekends. The climax of the story is that in one basketball game Billy scored 20 points thanks to his dad and friend Lenny. If you like basketball or you like sports books with basketball inside it this would be an amazing story that describes a lot about basketball and the outside life of basketball or struggles of your own personal life.

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### **Nicholas Walters says**

I read the book "Hot Hands" by Mike Lupica. I have always really liked Mike Lupica's books, but in this one, there was more to the book. I can honestly say this is my favorite book I have ever read. I love basketball which is what this book is about, but it's more about stepping outside a person's comfort zone and doing something that can make him happy, but can make family happy too.

The book is told from 3rd person narrator. The author tells the book in direct and indirect characterization to tell this story. The author says the main character and his best friend love basketball, but it didn't say the main character, Billy, loved his little brother, ben, until he stuck up for him at recess, when he was getting bullied.

The story takes place in a small town just like mine. The parents split up, so the kids have to decide where they want to live. The dad leaves so they are forced to stay with their mom, and now that the family is feeling hurt, it pulls the three of them together, and they will always have each other back, especially at school.

As a family people don't always enjoy doing the same activities. Billy, the main character, plays basketball, but his brother, loves playing the piano and the big day for both of them lands on the same day. Their mom is out of town and their dad is the basketball coach, so he said he has to be at the game. Billy realizes no one would be there for his brother, so he misses his own game to go support his brother. Sometimes people have to make sacrifices for loving people and maybe someday that person will be all people have and want them to have everyone's back, and those little acts of kindness can make all the difference.

This book has a lot of interesting facts someone, not only like me, but many other teens would like. It's easy to read and understand, and since it's a sports book, for many people the book won't get boring. It keeps people on the edge of the reader seat, never knowing what will happen next, and that how I felt, so I just keep on reading to find out. However, even though anyone could really enjoy this book, I mainly believe this book would be appreciated by boys and girls in middle school, and high schoolers who enjoy sports.

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### **Ethan Potter says**

The title of this book is "Hot? Hand?" by Mike Lupica. The genre of this book is realistic fiction and shows things that could happen in the real life and is very relatable to a lot of people. The conflict in this book is that Billy Raynor is not doing his best in basketball and his mom and dad just got separated and he is always going back and fourth to each other's house. He doesn't have enough time to practice for basketball, which is the most important thing in his universe. Billy is always thinking about the separation and wishing that his family was still together. Other important characters in this book are Ben Billy's little brother and his dad who is his basketball coach. The protagonist in this book is Billy Raynor because it talks a lot about Billy's basketball career in the Y league as a talented shooter.

I feel that the book is good for basketball fans and can also be a good book for people that's parents are not it getting along. I feel that the author described things a good way because it was a very easy book to read which means that the author didn't really make any mistakes. The pace of the book wasn't fast or slow. This really referred to my life in a way because my parents are separated and I play basketball and I also understand what he is going through with going back and fourth to each other's houses. The author seems very believable in this book because this can be a lot of people lives.

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### **MichiganA says**

I read the book HOT HANDS by Mike lupica. This book is about a boy named Billy raynor who is one of the best basketball players on his winter basketball team. When Billy's parents gets a divorce it gets to him and his dad which is also the head coach of his team . When they got divorced his team went a little down hill after that but can they get it back together before the winter championship game?

I love to read Mike lupica books and one day I was at the library and I picked it up read the back of the book

and it seemed like a book I wanted to read . The book takes place in Boston and it's about a boy and his team mates trying to win the winter championships basketball game .

Billy loves the sport of basketball but he rather shoot the ball then pass it . Billy tries to help his teammates as much as he can to get together if they could stay in the gym 24/ 7 they would . But when Billy's parents got divorced his teammates tried getting back on his feet and that was hard because Billy is bull headed . After about a week of losing his game Billy realized the winter championship game was less then a week away and him and his team mates kicked in gear and did a lot of practicing getting prepared for the big game ..

I really did like this book because it's about basketball. This book will show u how when ur going through a rough time how it will affect your family and team mates, and also shows u how to take responsibility in what u do and try your hardest no matter what u do. If u love to read sports books I recommend u to read HOT HANDS by Mike Lupica.

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### **Sam says**

Mike Lupica's Hot Hand is filled with drama, excitement, and is somewhat nail biters. Billy, a 10 year old boy has one goal for this basketball season, to win the YMCA basketball championship. While attempting to accomplish this goal, his best friend Lenny is there to help. Through the story the two of them come across obstacles such as bullies, siblings, divorce, and basketball (and lots of it). Towards the end of the book, Billy is caught in the middle. Does he support his brother Ben at his big recital, or help his team win a big game? While reading this book I was caught by surprise a few times. If you enjoy excitement, sports, and surprises this book is for you. I have read many of Mike Lupica's books, and this by far is a favorite of mine. This book is one to many of his Comeback Kids series. For sure I'd love to check out the others knowing just how great this one was.

I'd for sure recommend this book, especially if you love to read about sports and entertainment. It ranges to people of different ages and genders, because of how well written and understandable the book is. I believe that the way of writing and storylines allow Mike Lupica to get such great reviews on his books. Mainly for the reason that they are appealing to different types of people. Overall I would count this as one the best books I've read in a while, and I think you would say the same.

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### **Adam Marino says**

book is great

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### **Wyatt says**

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys basketball and sports. This book takes place in modern times, with a pop Warner basketball league. It's about a boy named Billy, and how his parents have divorced and he has to quickly move on from his dad leaving him, even though his dad is his basketball coach. Billy has a brother named Ben, who is 9 years old, and he is a piano prodigy. Billy plays for the town team for their league, and is expected to win the championship for the first time ever, with his best friend and also best player on the team, Lenny. Lenny and Billy are very close, they practice basketball together, play together, and hangout together. Billy's dad had left the family because of issues with his mom, who is a lawyer. Billy had a really hard time getting over the split, and seemed to hate his dad until the very end of the

book. Billy picked going to Ben's piano recital instead of going to his league championship game, after he tried convincing his dad to go to his sons piano recital instead of going to his basketball game. He came back in the start of the 4th quarter, and played amazing with his mom and Ben watching. His dad was very proud of him and had encouraged him for the first time all season and since the split, since he had gave Billy hard times since the split on the court. Billy's dad admitted he was wrong that he didn't go to Ben's recital, and he was proud that Billy did go. He was also proud that Billy made the game winning shot to win the championship.

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### **Ladon Stephney says**

Hot Hand is about a boy named Billy Raynor who is on his basketball team. He is the best player on his team and is the best shooter in the league. An external conflict for Billy is that his parents are going through a divorce and Billy is mad because he can do nothing about it. His main internal conflict is that his little brother needs his family to stay together. While reading this book I made a text to world connection. Billy's parents divorce reminds me of how a lot of families have divorces and the kids are mad and want to save the marriage.

I would rate this book a 4 because it had sports in it and I like sports, it had drama in it and I like drama and it had action in it and I like action I would recommend this book to anyone who likes basketball and action

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### **Joseph says**

In the book "Hot Hand" by Mike Lupica it was great, I really enjoyed it and would recommend it for the age of 8+ but in order to read this book and understand it well you would need some knowledge about basketball. I really loved the part when Billy the main character stands up for his little brother when he's getting bullied. In this book, Billy Raynor's parents get in a divorce which makes it tough on him going from house to house which also makes his stubborn dad mad a lot. Billy is on his dad's basketball team and he is the best shooter in the league. But throughout the story his dad gets more mad at him in the season because he doesn't shoot enough, he even has to sit out a game because of his shooting too much. Also his best friend is Lenny DiNardo which is the best player in the whole league and they help each other a ton. Then they eventually win the championship with a lot of team work.

In conclusion, if you like basketball in anyway I would really recommend this book for you I guarantee you will love it. The story is told so detailed and has great hooks.

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