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# My Brother's Keeper

BY THE BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF *CUT*

## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER



PATRICIA  
McCORMICK



## Synopsis

Toby is a freshman whose life is slowly unraveling. His father has left, his brother's an addict, and his mother is solely focused on dating, in this realistic and engaging story about trying to hold a family together.

## Book Information

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Divorce

## Customer Reviews

Mine loved it. In fact they read it in one sitting, laughing and smiling even though it was kind of a tough subject. (Younger brother who idolizes older brother takes action when older brother slips into drugs...) If I hadn't read - and LOVED! - CUT, Patty McCormick's first bestselling book, I might not have been so trusting. But CUT was a fantastic book, the kind you can't wait to tell your friends about. My then 13-year-old daughter and her friends devoured it in one week. Same thing with MY BROTHER'S KEEPER. Stick it in your kids backpack for summer camp. They'll be pleasantly surprised.

Carlos H.EnglishCarson High SchoolCarson, CA My Brother's Keeper An interesting book I just finished reading is My Brother's Keeper by Patricia McCormick. McCormick also wrote the novels Cut and Sold, which I am planning on reading in the near future, so I was interested in reading this book as well. One of the things that drew me to this book was the short summary on the back which talks about how the main character's brother was an MVP in baseball but then got mixed up with drugs. I also wanted to read it because my teacher, Ms. Dev, told me that Cut was a good book by Patricia McCormick. So, it made me think that My Brother's Keeper would be a good book too. My Brother's Keeper is about a teenage boy named Toby Malone and his brother Jake, who is usually under the influence of drugs and alcohol. A memorable part of the novel mentions how Toby works for Mr. D's Candy and Collectables shop where he gets free candy every time he walks in. One day Mr. D gave him a mint-condition 1962 Willie Stargell rookie card. He was excited and thought his brother would be excited too. When he got home, his brother Jake was sitting on the couch stoned, watching the Shopping Network Channel. The passage that describes this is on page 15, and it says, "Not only is he not in a yelping-hollering-goofing-around kind of mood, which, to tell you the truth, he's actually never in anymore, he's in one of those moods when he's there, but not really there." This quote got to me because it reminds me of my uncle every time I go over to my grandmother's house. Toby is torn about how to help his brother. He hates the addiction, but at the same time, he doesn't want to get Jake in trouble. On page 125, Toby is talking to his friend, Arthur, about his brother. However, at the same time, he thinks about how he can't really talk about him and his brother, and what the two of them are going through. The quote says "...but which doesn't mean he's the kind of person you can talk about things like your brother turning into someone who comes in at 1:16 all the time." He goes on to think about how his "...mom [is] turning into someone who doesn't notice, because she's always on a date with the Food King". My Brother's Keeper is unique to me because I haven't yet read many large novels, but now I will. I like the way Patricia McCormick wrote this novel because her language is clear and understandable, even for struggling readers. In addition to this, the subject matter is relatable and realistic. Hopefully, I will be able to write like her one day. I think that Patricia McCormick's purpose of writing this novel is to keep people like Jake above the influence. For me, My Brother's Keeper was awesome because I know a lot of people that can relate to it. I would recommend this book to all teenagers because a lot of them do drugs or think about doing drugs. I rate this book five stars, because it is interesting and drugs are a real life problem.

Imagine that your brother one of the most prominent young athletes throws it all away for drugs. That is the problem that Toby faces in *My Brother's Keeper*. Jake is the best athlete in town and maybe even in the city, he is great at baseball and other sports but Toby becomes suspicious when he hangs out with the wrong people and he starts changing. He does not care about anything anymore and gets all mopey. When Toby flushes a bag of Jake's Marijuana down the toilet Jake sells Toby's most prized possession to get money for the drugs back. To see if Toby can help Jake go back to his old self you have to read this good book. I thought that this book was good because it showed very good real world problems that can be happening every day. Having your stuff stolen and then sold is something many people have to go through because of how addictive drugs can be. People are careless about everything else when it comes to drugs and this book is a great example of how careless they can really be. This book is such a great example of how people can change because of such a silly thing like drugs and I believe that people should put time aside to read it I would recommend this book to teenagers because it can help show them how dangerous experimenting with drugs can be. The book shows what a person will do to get drug money and also the repercussions of what happens after you are able to get the money. I think that if teens who are thinking about using drugs read this they will choose to stay away from them because of what happens. I would also recommend this book to people that like dramas and people that like books where a family member has to help another overcome a bad time of their life.

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