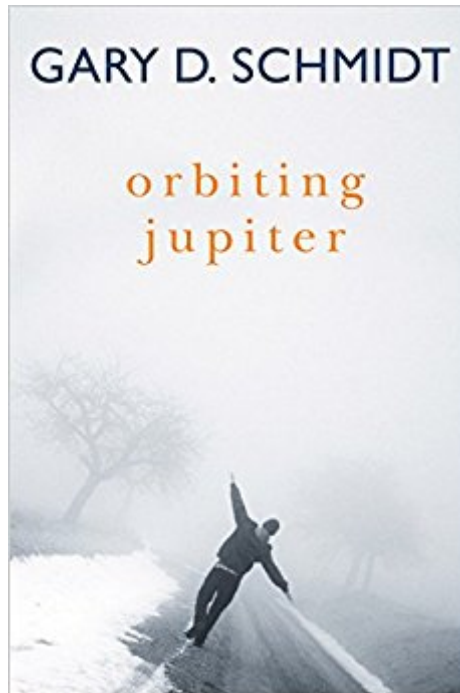




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Orbiting Jupiter



Synopsis

The two-time Newbery Honor winner Gary D. Schmidt delivers the shattering story of Joseph, a father at thirteen, who has never seen his daughter, Jupiter. After spending time in a juvenile facility, he's placed with a foster family on a farm in rural Maine. Here Joseph, damaged and withdrawn, meets twelve-year-old Jack, who narrates the account of the troubled, passionate teen who wants to find his baby at any cost. In this riveting novel, two boys discover the true meaning of family and the sacrifices it requires.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 740 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 192 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 100 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #33,683 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Dysfunctional Relationships](#) #9 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Pregnancy](#) #16 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Orphans & Foster Homes](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 6 Up—This contemporary story feels taut and austere, eschewing the humorous episodes that buoy Schmidt's earlier books. Jackson Hurd, a taciturn sixth grader, narrates the arrival to his family's farm of Joseph, a jumpy foster kid two years his senior. The author makes milking cows a substantial presence throughout the novel, and the steady rhythm of farm life coupled with the Hurd family's stolid acceptance calm Joseph enough to unveil his story. The straightforward narration—Schmidt's colloquial style is tinged here with a somber tone—proves integral to balancing the potential melodrama in the catalog of miseries Joseph has endured by age 13. He has suffered familial and institutional abuse, fathered a daughter he's never been allowed to

see, and lost the baby's beloved mother. The novel initially takes the shape of a redemption story, as Joseph begins to imagine a future for himself through the Hurds' support and the persistent attention of a few dedicated teachers (readers of the author's previous books will appreciate the character connections here). While Joseph inches past his traumatic history into a new middle school existence, Jack's commitment to the older boy prompts his own evolution. Schmidt displays his talent for character development as Jack grows more deliberate and active in defense of Joseph, with a burgeoning comprehension of his own ethics of behavior. But further tragedy follows this hopeful period for both boys, though just the right details are included to keep this heartrending story palatable. VERDICT The matter-of-fact narrative voice ensures that the tragic plot never overwhelms this wrenching tale of growth and loss. — Robbin E. Friedman, Chappaqua Library, NY

#9 Autumn 2015 Kids' Indie Next list * "The ending is bittersweet but as satisfying as a two-box-of-tissues tearjerker can possibly be (in the realm of juvenile fiction, Schmidt is the master of the emotional gut-punch)." — Horn Book "Schmidt writes with an elegant simplicity in this paean to the power of love...Readers will not soon forget either Joseph Brook or this spare novel written with love and grace." — Kirkus, starred review * "Told in Jack's spare, direct first-person voice, this story's style demonstrates the beauty of simplicity as it delineates the lives of its characters, each as superbly realized as the tumultuous New England setting." — Booklist, starred review * "The matter-of-fact narrative voice ensures that the tragic plot never overwhelms this wrenching tale of growth and loss." — School Library Journal, starred review * "A powerful story about second chances, all the more devastating because not everyone gets one." — Publishers Weekly, starred review

Love this book. My 7th grade advanced ELA class was reading this and I stopped in the room just to see how class was going. Just hearing them tell me about it and they had only read like 25 pages. I just had to order it. Only problem I read ahead and teacher was upset afraid I would give it away.

Another great book from Gary Schmidt. Once again he has managed to capture the thought process and actions that dominate the not quite fully developed teenage boy's brain. The characters are believable. The action is rapid. It was hard to put the book down once I started. I just wish that Gary Schmidt could turn out books as fast as I read them. When I finish one, I always need more. The interactions in the book were great.

I highly recommend this book to every and anyone. My 12 year old son chose to read this book as one of his summer reading assignments. I read along with him. He loved this book as did I. I'll be honest, I actually cried reading towards the end. This book is worth it!

I really love any book by Gary Schmidt. I'm 15 years of age around a 12 grade level in reading and I find this book is easy to read with a few vocabulary words thrown in. It's also a tearjerker, I tried really hard to stop myself from crying when I was reading this in class, so be sure to bring some tissues. I would highly recommend if you're on the fence of reading this.

A few things. My heart hurts but at the same time I am bursting with joy. Incredible story. It takes such talent to write a short story that has quality and depth and you feel like you know the characters. This did it all. Hugging my babies hard. The trials some parents and children endure is just too much.

My 11 yr old read this for her summer reading and really liked it. It does touch on some topics less mature children may not be ready for such as underage pregnancy, death, and physical, emotional abuse.

My son started reading Gary Schmidt and insisted I read the books too. I am glad he did. It was a fun read and was even better because I could talk about it with my son.

Can't remember when a story touched me so deeply. I bawled at the end. Top read of the year for me Can't wait to share it with my book club next year.

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