



Catching the Moon: The Story of a Young Girl's Baseball Dream

Crystal Hubbard (Illustrator) , Randy DuBurke (Illustrator)

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If there was anything in the world better than playing baseball, Marcella Lyle didn't know what it was. As a young girl in the 1930s, she chased down fly balls and stole bases, and dreamed of one day playing professional ball.

With spirit, spunk, and a great passion for the sport, Marcella struggled to overcome the objections of family, friends, and coaches, who felt a girl had no place in the field. When she finally won a position in a baseball summer camp sponsored by the St. Louis Cardinals, Marcella was on her way to catching her dream.

Full of warmth and youthful energy, *Catching the Moon* is the story of the girl who grew up to become the first woman to play for an all-male professional baseball team. Readers everywhere will be inspired by her courage to dream and determination to succeed.

Catching the Moon: The Story of a Young Girl's Baseball Dream Details

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From Reader Review Catching the Moon: The Story of a Young Girl's Baseball Dream for online ebook

sarafem says

A story about a young girl back in the girls-can't-play-sports old days who loved baseball. Great story yes, but god let's keep beating the poor dead horse, shall we? I wouldn't mind telling you this is a great book and that you should read it if it were sitting right in front of me, but it's not really that much different than the other 10,000 stories about little girls who want to play sports and the boys won't let them. It doesn't stand out in the uh, field.

Joshua says

I learned that a ten-year-old black girl in 1931 had no chance of realizing her dream to become a professional baseball player in America unless something rather miraculous happen. In Catching The Moon, The Story of a Young Girl's Baseball Dream, Marcenia Lyle receives her first pair of baseball shoes from Gabby Street who was manager of the World Series-winning St. Louis Cardinals at the time. That gift set Marcenia on a path to be the first woman of any race to join an all male professional baseball team. This book shows children and adults alike that no dream is impossible.

Anna says

#GirlPower

Stevie Cupp says

I loved this book! The pictures were beautiful, but the story was even better. Usually any story about a sport is focused around a boy, especially one like baseball. It was nice to read a story that shows that girls can play any sport a boy can. Instead of focusing around princesses and dress up like most stories with a girl main character do, this story gave a little bit more recognition for that girl that wants to get herself dirty.

Steph says

Beautiful true story making girls believe in their dreams no matter what that dream could be

Kayleigh says

this book blew me away,once i started reading,i couldn't stop!

Chandler Jordahl says

Marcenia loves baseball and dreams of being a professional baseball player. Her family questions her love for baseball because it isn't what "typical girls" do. She isn't your girly girl; she is a tom boy. Marcenia doesn't let her spirit die, but her family wouldn't be the only challenge she had to face on this journey. Family, teammates, Mr. Street, and equipment all play barriers, but she is determined to achieve her dream. Kevin Costner and Jillian Estell did a wonderful job reading this text aloud on Storyline Online.

Mary Ann says

Readers will cheer for Marcenia as she tears around the bases, dazzling the St. Louis Cardinals manager Gabby Street and convincing him that she should be able to join his summer baseball camp. As a young girl, Marcenia defied the narrow expectations for young women of the time, growing up to join the professional Negro league.

Cora says

Per my second graders: I loved because the lesson said you have to follow your dreams. It doesn't matter but just do it. I loved it because the moon was like a baseball. I liked it because the illustrations were excellent. I loved it because she became a baseball player. She hit three home runs and she can run fast.

Patrick says

I watched the Storytime Online version of this book read by Kevin Costner and Jillian Estell. In the book, Hubbard writes and DuBurke illustrates the story of young Marcenia Lyle, an African-American woman who would become the first female professional baseball player. The book focuses in on a story from her youth, when she is a grade-schooler whose one passion is baseball. When she learns that Gabby Street, the manager for the St. Louis Cardinals, is holding a kids' baseball camp over the summer in her town, she tries to impress him with her baseball skills but is denied an invitation because the camp is boys-only. She persists, however, and earns an invitation despite her sex, but faces economic hurdles and her father's more feminine expectations.

Primary school readers would enjoy this book, and Costner and Estell demonstrate that it lends itself to a read-aloud. The main theme is pursuing one's dreams in the face of challenges, which is appropriate for the grade level. The writing is clear and direct, and the acrylic work of DuBurke takes an appropriate semi-realistic style. The highlight of the book is the fact that the central character is not only a girl, but an African-American, striving to succeed in an area traditionally occupied by white men. That it is a true story makes it all the more charming. The author is not heavy-handed with the diversity message, likely because it is implicit in the narrative.

The book is an Amelia Bloomer Lists award winner for Beginning Readers Nonfiction of 2006. This list recommends feminist books for children.

Madeline Clements says

This book is one of my favorites. It teaches the lesson never give up. Marcenia didn't give up when Mr. Street said he didn't take girls. She proved him wrong and when her dad said she couldn't get cleats she ended up finding away. Never give up on dreams because if you work hard enough they become a reality

Lois says

Loved the book. Agreed with my daughter's assessment, and bought it to send to my granddaughter who has recently discovered that although she's smaller and more fragile looking than her teammates, she can get in there and scrap for that soccer ball with the best of them! Go after what you want! Dreams count.

Kayla says

I loved the underlying theme of how girls can do anything that boys can do. I also liked how the book taught of perseverance and chasing your dreams. The book was quite long though and I'm not sure if I could read this book aloud to the class. I would keep it in my classroom though for students that like baseball or for students who need some motivation.

Meredith Cole says

Summary:

Marcenia Lyle is a young girl who is a very talented baseball player. Instead of playing the usual games girls play at recess such as hopscotch and jump rope, she heads out to the baseball field to play with all the boys. One day Mr. Street, who runs a baseball camp, comes to the field to recruit players for his camp. He acknowledges Marcenia's talent but informs her that he does not take girls in his camp. Determined to show Mr. Street that she deserves to be at his camp, Marcenia continues to play her very best until he finally gives her a position at his camp. Throughout this story Marcenia faces the doubts of Mr. Street, as well as her parents, but because she wants to play baseball more than anything, she is able to prove everyone wrong.

Major Theme:

The main theme of this book is about going against gender stereotypes and never giving up on your dreams.

Personal Response:

I loved reading this book because I found it to be very empowering for girls. I think it is important for girls to see other girls succeeding in situations where they are not typically favored to succeed. I can relate to Marcenia in feeling like she had to prove herself in order to achieve her dreams.

Why I Recommend:

I would recommend this book for both boys and girls to read because it sends a great message of accepting people. It emphasizes the importance of not judging people before you give them a chance as well as never giving up when the odds are against you.

Katie Tracy says

"Catching the Moon" is about Marcella Lyle as a child. Lyle was the first woman in history to play professional league baseball. This book is about when she was a young girl and how she started going to baseball camp. Despite money, family, friends, and gender norms, Lyle fought through the adversity to play the sport she loved.

I would totally recommend this book if you were wanting to talk about empowering women to follow their dreams. I love that this book focused on going against what was "normal" and making your dreams possible.
