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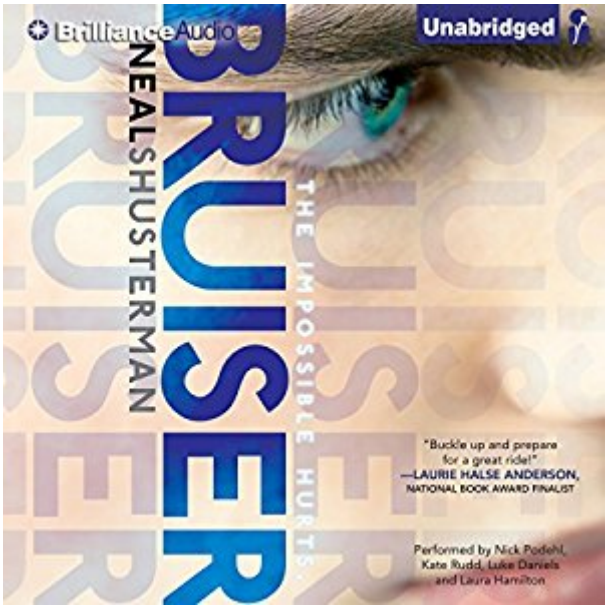
Bruiser



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Synopsis

Tennyson: Don’t get me started on the Bruiser. He was voted "Most Likely to Get the Death Penalty" by the entire school. He’s the kid no one knows, no one talks to, and everyone hears disturbing rumors about. So why is my sister, BrontÃƒÂ«, dating him? One of these days she’s going to take in the wrong stray dog, and it’s not going to end well.BronteMy brother has no right to talk about Brewster that way - no right to threaten him. There’s a reason why Brewster can’t have friends - why he can’t care about too many people. Because when he cares about you, things start to happen. Impossible things that can’t be explained. I know, because they’re happening to me.Award-winning author Neal Shusterman has crafted a chilling and unforgettable novel about the power of unconditional friendship, the complex gear workings of a family, and the sacrifices we endure for the people we love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Much like Shusterman’s Unwind, Bruiser is a well written story peopled with engagaging characters that will make you think, and will stay with you long after you finish the last page. The author’s incredible gift with dialogue, his expert pacing and his ability to blend in totally impossible concepts and make them believable is truly extraordinary. I admire people who exude an air of being comfortable in their own skin, and it’s this that I think of when I read this book. The author is just so comfortable in his own storytelling, that there are no dialogue blips, no blatantly obvious plot devices, and no clunky transitions. This tale moves along seamlessly and the reader is left with a

story that is stunningly authentic.The narrative is presented from the differing points of view of brother and sister Tennyson and Bronte, Brew, and his younger brother Cody. If I have one issue with the book, it’s that these characters come across as older than their years. They are not even 16, but come across as much older teens. The prose is very well written, and the transitions between points of view are done expertly. It’s Brew’s point of view, written in free verse, that truly contains the power of this story. I am not a fan of free verse. I steer clear of it whenever possible, but here it so effectively gives Brew his own unique voice that I was riveted. His verse is full of pain, anger and joy. His ruminations on the nature of pain and his abilities to absorb the pain (both emotional and physical) of others are very poignant.Each character goes through his own journey in this novel, and you don’t always like them. They do make you feel, and that seems to be the whole point of this story. What good are the ups if you can’t feel the downs?

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