



Specky Magee & The Great Footy Contest

Felice Arena , Garry Lyon

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Specky is the star player of the Booyong High Lions and his talent is being able to take a "spectacular specky". When a popular TV show announces that it is running a nationwide contest to find extraordinary young football players, Specky sets out to win.

Specky Magee & The Great Footy Contest Details

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Cooper Herbert says

Specky Magee is one of the only aussie rules books but it's still a great book with a little bit of detail (I wish it had more though). Even if you don't really like aussie rules it's still a great book. all up it's a great book and wish they made more, with more detail.

Mik says

such a good book!!!!
should read it guys

Blake says

read it last year and loved because i'm a footballer myself.

Azza carter says

Good story if you love football.

Melissa says

Some days I find it weird that I'm enjoying the Specky Magee books as much as I am because I'm not interested in Aussie Rules football! This is the second in the Specky Magee series that my son is getting me to read.

This is a great sequel to the first book. I really enjoyed the way they looked at different issues including being a good sport on the footy team and bullying.

I'm looking forward to reading the next book.

Luke says

It was good!

Ben Reid says

(No comment)

Ian Laird says

This review is by my son James (eight years old):

My book review is about “Specky Magee”. Specky Magee is a boy who loves Aussie Rules and plays for his school team, the Booyang High Lions. Simon “Specky” Magee is happy with his life at school until he is faced with a boy called Derek “Screamer” Johnson who is a mean bully. Specky and Screamer have gone up against each other in last year’s grand final. They both got sent off because they were fighting and drew blood. So you can imagine what it would be like when they go to school together (bad, if you couldn’t work it out). I like it that in this book there is suspense when the authors do not say who gets which position until the next chapter. So this book definitely has good qualities so you should definitely read this book.

Steven Guitink says

Back when I was in my final year of my teaching degree, I did some work for a local high school in my area. One of the classes was reading this book as part of their English class. I remember getting through roughly half of the book before my time with the school ended but in that time, I knew I never wanted to read it ever again.

Let me put my cards on the table. I've never been a big sports buff. But if a story is engaging and interesting then I can get on board with it, regardless of the subject matter. But this book isn't bad because it's a book about sport. It's a bad book because it's poorly written.

The main thrust of the plot is this: Specky Magee is your average Aussie schoolkid who's a member of his local footy team. He has a big Footy contest coming up (as per the title, that's some serious creativity right there) along with a nasty rival and a potential love interest.

Specky is exactly the type of character I hate. He's not so much a character as he is an empty vessel for the reader to inject themselves into, so they can live out their private fantasies. Everybody loves him, those who hate him are meanheads who poop on his dreams, the love interest loves footy just as much as he does, he ends up on a flight sitting next to a big name footy star. It all smacks of such lazy writing because God forbid we create a character that actually has their own ambitions, goals, hopes and dreams. That we write a character with some actual flaws! It also doesn't help that the other characters are mostly just bland archetypes that smack of equally lazy writing. The rival hates Specky for no apparent reason - unless it popped up later in the story, but honestly I was so little invested I stopped caring way before then - and the love interest's only distinguishing feature is that she loves footy too.

You could make the argument that this is a story for kids. It shouldn't be overly complex and dense so as not to scare readers off. But really, is that an attitude to have? That you treat kids as toddlers who can't read

complex things? Please, I read the works of Tim Winton, Gillian Rubenstein, Paul Jennings and Morris Gleitzman. That argument doesn't work on me.

I get that this could appeal to younger sportier kids and perhaps I wouldn't be the audience for this sort of drek. But even still, if this is what sporty kids go for in literature, I don't see the appeal. The characters are barely there, the plot is milquetoast, the conflicts are lazily written and the writing itself is simplistic to the point of insulting.

Give this a miss, and look for better literature.

Oliver Burnell says

After the first Specky Magee, i was looking forward to reading this book, it was a great sequel to the first book, specky has his issues again this book, he goes to the northern territory for just four days and in just four days his biggest enimie, who got him sent of in the last years grandfinal when playing againts eachother, became a student at his school Boonalong High and didnt just join thier footy team, the lions, but also stole his postion at full forward.

I am looking forward to reading the third book.

Sean Harding says

Specky Magee is simply the greatest ever player in the history of the known universe, a star, a champion etc etc. It does get a bit boring with how good this bloke dies, and the whole bad guy bully thing was very over the top, but it was an Ok story and very readable. But go on Speck drop the mark and kick it out on the full like a normal person you muppet!

Scott Mitchell says

It is a good book fun to read i really got into it.

Ellen says

such a great book
good about all the footy
