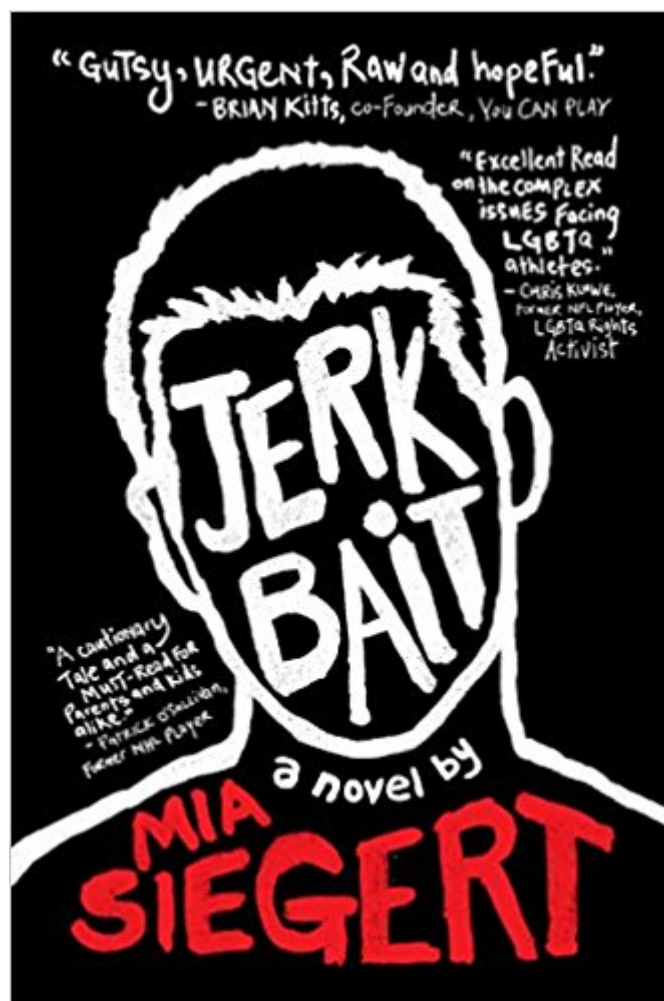


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# Jerkbait



## Synopsis

Even though they're identical, Tristan isn't close to his twin Robbie at all until Robbie tries to kill himself. Forced to share a room to prevent Robbie from hurting himself, the brothers begin to feel the weight of each other's lives on the ice, and off. Tristan starts seeing his twin not as a hockey star whose shadow Tristan can't escape, but a struggling gay teen terrified about coming out in the professional sports world. Robbie's future in the NHL is plagued by anxiety and the mounting pressure from their dad, coach, and scouts, while Tristan desperately fights to create his own future, not as a hockey player but a musical theatre performer. As their season progresses and friends turn out to be enemies, Robbie finds solace in an online stranger known only as "Jimmy2416." Between keeping Robbie's secret and saving him from taking his life, Tristan is given the final call: sacrifice his dream for a brother he barely knows, or pursue his own path. How far is Robbie willing to go and more importantly, how far is Tristan willing to go to help him?

## Book Information

Paperback: 350 pages

Publisher: Jolly Fish Press (May 10, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1631630660

ISBN-13: 978-1631630668

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 100 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,141,391 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Hockey #806 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Gay & Lesbian #852 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Siblings

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 8 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 10 Up-Tristan and Robbie are identical twins who play on their high school hockey team. Robbie is the more talented and aggressive player and has a legitimate shot at being an early pick in the NHL draft. Tristan hides that his real passion is not hockey but dance and musical theater. Macho, domineering Robbie is gay, while sensitive, artistic Tristan is straight. Tristan is believed to be gay,

however, and is viciously attacked by his teammates until he is rescued by Robbie, who outs himself in the process. Up to this point, he had been deeply closeted and so tormented by his feelings that he became suicidal. When he comes out to his insensitive parents, they make plans to hide his homosexuality, just as they did his suicide attempts, for fear of the negative effect it might have on his draft status. Robbie becomes the target of his teammates' attacks, and Tristan quits the team. In a rapid-fire and bewildering series of events that close the novel, Robbie runs away with an online predator right before the biggest game of the year. His twin locates him by communicating with him telepathically (an ability that is mentioned nowhere else in the novel). The work then wraps up happily for both teens. VERDICT While ostensibly challenging widely held assumptions about sexual orientation, gender roles, and the nature of sibling relationships, this scattered, unfocused effort lacks the narrative rigor and the seriousness of purpose required to engage readers interested in exploring these issues. VERDICT Skip this title.-Richard Luzer, formerly at Fair Haven Union High School, VT (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Siegert pulls no punches in her debut. --Publishers Weekly[This book] wrecked me. Brace yourselves for tears. It's gorgeous and gut-wrenching. --Becky Albertalli, author of the William C Morris Award-winning novel, *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* Jerkbait is heartbreakingly poignant with timeless characters and an important message, and will have appeal to teen fans of coming-of-age and indie fiction. --Maia Raynor, teen reviewer, VOYA

Jerkbait was quite a good novel. The writing was smooth and allowed you to stay in the story. The characters were believable and the trials they went through were interesting and understandable. Tristan, the main character, found that he loved his twin, Bobbie, even through all the hell he went through growing up. Watching Tristan grow up and become a man who could help his brother was wonderful and kept me reading the story for hours. I also loved Tristan's twin Bobbie. Bobbie's struggles dealing with depression and self-loathing was difficult to watch but interesting. I felt for Bobbie and how hard his life was even though it seemed he had everything. There were two things in the book, though, that made me take off a star. First was Heather, Tristan's best friend. I couldn't understand why she did what she did to Tristan and Bobbie. The author never made her behaviors understandable, which left me annoyed. What would cause someone to change so? In the end, I decided she must be a bit of a psychopath to become who she became. The second reason I took off a star was because the author used a 'gimmick' to solve a problem. It is well known that twins

don't share thoughts or know what the other is doing. Using this method as a way to help Tristan find Bobbie when he was missing soured the story for me. I wish the author could have used something more convincing to help Tristan track Bobbie. The whole 'sharing brains' trick was irritating and in an otherwise great book, one really foul note. In the end I would recommend the book to others. It is well written and will keep you interested for hours. Except for that one silly gimmick, I would say the book was superb.

Jerkbait was a very engaging book! It kept up the suspense and 'what will happen' pace so well. I enjoyed the very real quality to it. People aren't always nice or easy or unselfish even when you think they should be. I just wanted to shake some of the characters in anger at times! I also liked how this was a story about very different twins, siblings that did not really know each other and it took the right amount of time for them to find and understand each other. The book does not make it easy for you. The only detractors I would have would be as a 30 year old at times I was exasperated by the high school behavior but that is no surprise. I found a few bits of the 'it's a sin' gay bashing a bit forced but that might also just be my own experience. I think overall this is a great book for any teen to read. It goes into so many important topics like bullying and LGBT youth. It is also just good for siblings to read, how you can know someone but not really know them. It turns stereotypes on its head while also still connecting to the most basic desires of wanting one's own place in the world. I think its frank and open writing will allow anyone to feel some sort of connection to their own life.

JERKBAIT by Mia Siegert sucked me in with the first page. Hockey is at the center of the story, but you don't need to be a fan (or know anything about it, like me!) to enjoy it. I read it in one day and thought about it for days after. Tristan and Robbie are identical twins who aren't much alike outside their looks. Told through Tristan's point of view, I agonized with him over being the son overshadowed by the athletically talented brother. But life isn't as perfect as it seems for Robbie, and soon it's Tristan who's scrambling to keep his twin from imploding. JERKBAIT will grab your heart and hold on until the very end. 5 Stars

I really liked this story but I didn't love it. I really wish Robbie was the main character. He was so much more interesting and almost selfless in his love and respect for his brother. Tristan was okay but he was so selfish and whiny. He just didn't seem like the best brother. Also, some of the things Robbie endured felt brushed aside in favor of Tristan's pain. I'm not saying Tristan didn't deserve to

be upset because he most certainly did - their parents were AWFUL - but I felt Robbie was given the short end of the stick. Especially what happened to him near the end. Very serious topic that was barely given any kind of acknowledgement. I was disappointed in that but overall the emotions of Tristan were really well described and I was rooting for the twins to connect the entire time.

JERKBAIT has been one of my most eagerly anticipated books of 2016 ... and I'm here to tell you it far exceeded all of my expectations. And then some. I read a few chapters of this last night before reluctantly going to bed and had every intention of reading only a few more tonight. Instead, I read straight through until the end. I seriously could not put it down. The storyline is so compelling, Robbie and Tristan are so captivating, I couldn't bear to stop reading. This book is DARK people, oh so very dark. There are myriad topics addressed: depression, homophobia, bullying, the pressure placed on star athletes, among a few others. But along with the dark, there is the light of hope as Robbie and Tristan forge their paths to become the people they wish to be. Jerkbait (ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT TITLE MIA SIEGERT) is emotional, I cried more than a few times. It's super intense - I found myself holding my breath often. It's a little bit out there because holy hell some of the people in this book are just soooooo extreme you'll be like wth did I just read. But. BUT in spite of that, I guarantee once you start this book, you won't put it down. Excellent, fabulous story!

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Jerkbait

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