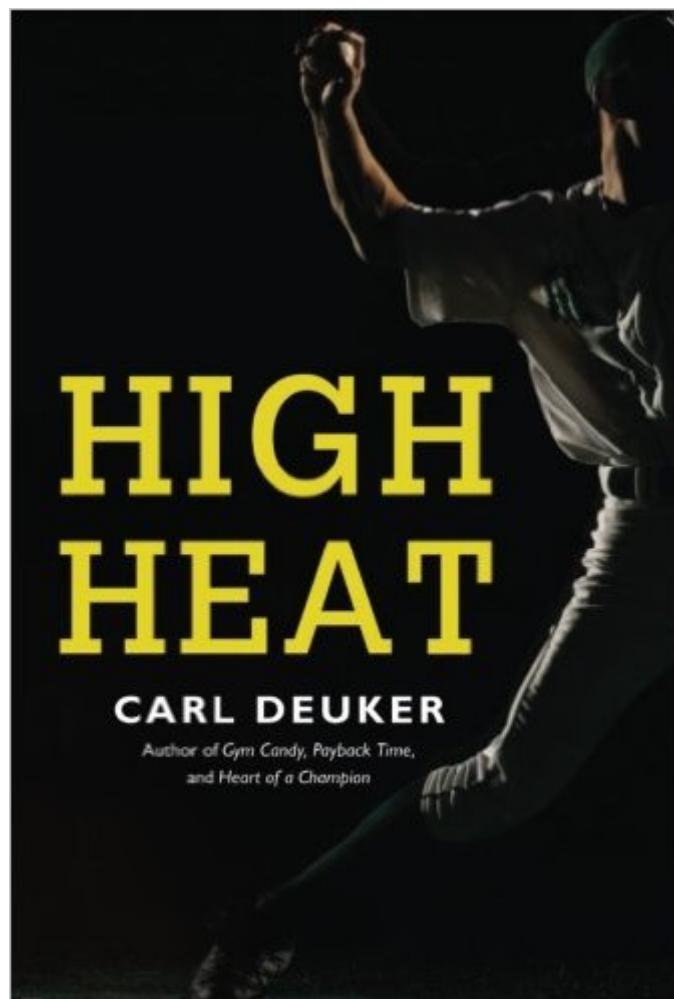


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# High Heat



## **Synopsis**

Like the game of baseball, life is quirky and unpredictable, as Shane Hunter discovers in the spring of his sophomore year. Suddenly and without warning his life of privilege is turned upside down. And just as suddenly, life begins to seem utterly without fairness or purpose to him. Exciting, well-written sports scenes transport readers right into the stands while complex issues engage their hearts and minds. For here is a novel of loss, of morality, and of the rare, redemptive power of baseball. Can speaking the truth really determine lives? Just how does one accept, move on, and begin doing the right thing?

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (28 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

This book starts out straight away with controversy and conflict. Shane Hunter and his family are very well off through his father's company. They live in an extremely nice home and go to a expensive school. Shane Hunter's father commits suicide sending him into a depression. Immediately, like most kids he turns to a new lifestyle. They have to sell there house and give up everything and go to a new school. He even gives up baseball, his true love in life. When he gets arrested and has to do community service he works with a guy who helps him get back on track. At his new school he joins the baseball team and is one of the star players. After many great outings he starts to struggle. One of the most exciting moments is when he comes face to face with his old team that used to play for. He has to face the kid who basically replaced his life (Reese). He beans

the kid in the face head on. He starts to lose everything and struggle again and considers his old lifestyles. When Shane gets it together he gets back to himself and lets baseball help him through it. When time passes his guilt sets in. To help himself he starts out by trying to help the kid he hits (Reese). Time passes and they start to become friends but Reese isn't the same. He can't play anymore. It comes down to a fierce head to head battle and Shane has to face Reese again for the win.

Shane Hunter, a Sophomore and star closer for Shorelake High School - a private school near Seattle - seems to have it all, that is until his father is arrested for money laundering and later commits suicide. His mother is forced to sell the house and move the family into public housing. Shane falls in with the wrong crowd and is arrested for shoplifting at a local convenience store. He is put on probation fixing up a baseball field at a Boys' and Girls' Club. There he meets Cornelius Grandison, the baseball coach at his high school Shane later discovers. Coach Grandison becomes a father figure to Shane. Carl Deuker has created another winner. You'll think you're sitting in the front row with a box of Crackerjacks and a Coke as Shane mows them down in the last inning, and you'll feel the emotions right along with Shane during the roller coaster ride his life takes. Good baseball books are in short supply for teens, so don't let this one slip past.

I liked this book because it was a great book. I play baseball so I thought it would be a good book to read. Shane Hunter is a great relief pitcher at Shorelake High School in Seattle. At one of his games, these two guys come and take Shane's dad away. He was caught for money laundering. Shane's dad commits suicide and they have to move away to a new house that is a lot smaller. Shane gets caught stealing beer with his friends and for his punishment, he has to do community service and get counseling for a year. For his community service, he gets to clean up a baseball field. He does a great job on the field. The next year, Shane goes to Whitman High School and plays baseball there. His team has an okay season. During that year, Shane hits a kid named Reese Robertson in the head and sends him to the hospital. Shane doesn't pitch as well for the rest of the year and Reese doesn't play as well as he used to be able to. The next year, Shane plays on the baseball team again and they have a great season and make it into the playoffs. A guy on Shane's team, Kim Seung, gets a full scholarship to USC. A scout from the University of Portland is looking at Shane to see if he wants to recruit him. In the playoffs, Whitman faces the Shorelake team. The game comes down to the last pitch and it is Shane against Reese. Will Shane strike out Reese and win the game for his team? Or will Reese get a hit and win the game for his team? Read

the book and find out. I think that sports readers would like this book because it is a great baseball book and it keeps you interested. Also, realistic fiction readers would like this book too because the things that happen in this book could really happen in real life.

Shane Hunter, a sophomore at Shorelake High School had it all; money, great friends and baseball. One day, his perfect world changes when Shane's father is arrested for money laundering and commits suicide. Shane's family must move to the "other" side of town that Shane despises. Shane has a difficult time adjusting to his new life and gets arrested for stealing and his punishment is repairing a local baseball diamond. This brings back memories of his old life, and Shane is faced with the decision of whether or not he should join the team and continue playing the game his father taught him. Will fear of failure overpower him or will he step up to the plate? Read this book and find out! I enjoyed this book for many reasons. Mainly because it's about baseball and baseball is my favorite sport. But the book has more to offer, it deals with how a teenager copes with the suicide of a parent. It also tells how Shane struggled when he had to move and change schools. Whether you're a baseball fan or not this is a book you won't want to put down until you finish it.

High Heat By: Carl Dueker It all started when sixteen-year-old Shane Hunter's dad was caught in a drug deal. Shane had it all, big house, a lot of friends, the richest school in his area, and the best baseball team in the state. But then, something happens causing him to lose all of that and even make him quit the one thing that he loves and has never ever thought about quitting before. What I liked about this book was that as soon as I picked it up I could instantly connect to Shane. Anyone who is a true baseball fan can connect to this book. Carl Dueker does an amazing job drawing the reader into the book. I read the first couple pages and I couldn't put the book down. Every minute there was a different scene shocking me. It kept me guessing and I think that's the kind of book that every reader wants to read. I would recommend this book to anyone who is a baseball fanatic, and anyone who has had something going great and everything going their way, when boom it all just goes down the drain. Max M.

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