



Penguin Problems

Lauren Myracle , Jed Henry (Illustrations)

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A brand-new illustrated chapter book series by *New York Times* bestselling author Lauren Myracle!

Winnie Perry's sweet baby brother, Ty, is the quintessential dreamer, full of big ideas and wacky plans that only a seven-year-old boy could hatch. Whether it's battling the family cat with a Dustbuster or smuggling a baby penguin out of the aquarium, Ty is always in the middle of a well-intended, big-hearted scheme.

In the spirit of the Judy Moody spinoff Stink series, Ty will work his way into the hearts and funny bones of a whole new generation of Myracle fans.

Penguin Problems Details

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Author : Lauren Myracle , Jed Henry (Illustrations)

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Stephanie says

I LOVED this book. Ty is so very real and so intensely lovable in his vulnerability, sweetness, and wildness, too. He reminded me a LOT of my own older son, which made parts of this book even more poignant for me to read. (And when I then started reading the book to my son, he said he thought he and Ty would DEFINITELY be friends.)

The interactions between him and the other kids rang so, so true (sometimes painfully true, from the perspective of a parent); so did the dynamic between him and his parents, which has been seriously (although not irreparably) disrupted by the arrival of a new baby sister. Ty wants to love his little sister, and he does - but suddenly his mom doesn't seem to love him anymore (although clearly, an adult reader can tell, she does - she's just running on 3 hours' sleep a night, and she's overwhelmed - something that, again, was almost TOO close to home for me to read about right now!).

I loved, loved, loved Ty, and I can't wait to read more of his adventures.

Tasha says

Ty is seven years old and has a pretty complicated life. He has a new baby sister who is taking all of his mom's time and attention. His older sisters won't walk him into school like his mom used to, insisting that he can do it all on his own. His best friend is in the hospital battling cancer, and Ty's other friends can be confusing and even alarming. Ty keeps getting into trouble at home for things like chasing the cat with a Dustbuster. Then on the school trip to the aquarium, Ty takes a baby penguin home with him. This is one wild boy who is also big hearted and caring, just not sure how best to show it.

Myracle, who writes teen books primarily, has created a truly exceptional book for younger readers. Ty is a character who is easily relatable, even when he does some extremely unusual things, like stealing a penguin. His home life will be familiar to many children, who will have older siblings and babies in their families too. Add to that the universal feelings of being asked to do big-kid things too early and also being treated like a baby, and you get a book that is universally appealing.

Myracle's writing has an outstanding humor throughout. In the more dramatic moments, children will understand that things will be alright in the end. The black and white illustrations by Henry convey that humor and lightness as well.

Perfect for both reading aloud and for a child reading on their own, this book will be enjoyed by fans of the Stink series as well as those who like Clementine. This book would pair well with *The Year of Billy Miller* by Kevin Henkes. Appropriate for ages 5-7.

Rachel says

*Part of a series, author of *Upside Down Magic* series

Note: Add a slide with *The Winnie Years* books on it.

This book is about the adventures of a boy named Ty Perry. He has two older sisters, and one brand-new one, Baby Maggie.

When Baby Maggie came, a lot changed in the Perry household. Ty is determined to be as helpful as he can. Except sometimes it's hard. Especially when Mom and Dad don't seem to have enough time for you.

School is pretty OK, as long as Ty's best friend Lexie isn't flinging rubber bands and being mean or bossy. Sometimes she isn't a very good listener though, and just does what she wants no matter how anyone else feels and it makes Ty uncomfortable.

Life can be hard for a kid, so when the opportunity to take a baby penguin home from the aquarium presents itself, it's really hard for Ty to say no.

PS. You might recognize Ty's older sister Winnie from The Winnie Years books (10, 11, 12, 13 and 13 plus one).

Liz James says

My 2nd grade class loved this book! It was my first time with the series.

Chris says

By the end of this book I was convinced Ty might be a real person who reacted realistically to situations and surroundings, displaying the appropriate frustration and accompanying inappropriate responses to feeling ignored at home due to a new baby in the house and to ruffians and rough social dynamics at school.

At the beginning of the book, though, well, let me share a quote from Neil Gaiman's *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* :

I was a normal child. Which is to say, I was selfish and I was not entirely convinced of the existence of things that were not me, and I was certain, rock-solid unshakably certain, that I was the most important thing in creation. There was nothing that was more important to me than I was.

I found that dynamic too utterly lacking in Ty and had trouble believing any seven-year-old could be so sweet, aware, and altruistically natured. And I wonder if that might keep young readers from being able to relate to him as narrator and protagonist.

Aside from my perhaps cynical quibble that Ty is just a bit too good to be true, though, I think this is a fun book that young readers will enjoy.

DaNae says

The most ungenue children in a didactic slog.

Elissa Schaeffer says

I so wanted to like Ty, and for the most part I did, but there were some things that I couldn't get past.

Seven-year-old Ty is faced with some big changes, most notably with his mom and his new baby sister. His new sister takes up so much of his mom's time and energy that she hardly has any left for Ty! In fact, his oldest sister Sandra drives him to school now and she won't even walk him to the school, she stays in the car instead. Things just aren't like they used to be, and it's hard.

I liked the family dynamics, I liked what Ty had to face and how the whole family was a part of it. I really had a hard time with his visit to the aquarium. Without getting into it for spoiler reasons, I'll just say "Really? NO ONE noticed that???? And then...consequences? Nothing?" Unfortunately that was enough to color my view of the entire book. I'm willing to give the second one a try, as there's lots of potential here so I'm hopeful.

I would recommend this to fans of Stink and similar "midway" books. Grades 2 and up.

Candice says

Like Ty better than Stink or Roscoe Riley because he is more thoughtful. Great book for classroom library, but maybe not for book club because of the potty talk...

Mary says

I really liked this book. Sometimes easier chapter books written for this age group (2nd/3rd graders) are annoying (Junie B. Jones) or just so generic that they don't stand out. This one, though, was cute, funny, and featured a likable and realistic 2nd grade boy. He's a good kid, but he still has moments when he gets in trouble with his parents and teacher. All of the characters are realistically written - from Ty's classmate who can't stay on task, to the (mostly) patient teacher, to the harried mom of four including a newborn. In this story, Ty is jealous of the time his mom spends with "Teensy Baby Maggie." He also struggles with his friends at school. His best friend is in the hospital with leukemia, so he spends a lot of time with a girl who is a bit of a troublemaker. These two things lead him to make a bad decision while on a field trip to the aquarium, hence the subtitle. While most of the story is realistic, this part, as well as the resolution, seem a bit far-fetched, but young kids won't mind. Older readers (and I doubt there will be many) and adults will wonder how his older sisters resolved the "penguin problem", but kids will probably just take it on faith that it was resolved without getting Ty into trouble. This is a good book for boys and girls just getting into chapter books, especially those who like the Junie B. Jones, Stink, and Clementine books.

Mary Ann says

Life is full of changes for seven-year-old Ty, and he's not happy about it. His mom is exhausted taking care of his new baby sister, his best friend is in the hospital, and now his big sister Sandra is driving him to

school. Sandra won't even walk him into 2nd grade; in fact, she shoves him out of the car! In this series spinoff, Myracle returns again to this engaging Perry family from her Winnie Years series (Eleven, Penguin, 2004, etc.), bringing her ear for sibling relationships and family dynamics, this time for readers moving up to chapter books. Young readers will connect with Ty's struggles at school navigating friendship troubles and at home getting enough attention from his mom. "Hug?" I say in a smallish way. Mom doesn't want to. She doesn't want to hug her own son. I can see it on her face." (p. 40) Funny situations alternate with poignant moments in just the right balance, as Myracle writes perceptively from seven-year-old Ty's perspective. On a field trip to the aquarium, Ty wanders away from his class and decides to give a baby penguin some special attention, bringing him home in his backpack. Early chapter-book readers may become confused that the penguin problems from the title don't surface until the second half of the story. Henry's occasional line drawings match the tone and humor well. A heartwarming start to a new series.

Alyson says

I'm conflicted about this one. See <http://www.eatreadandbemommy.com/2016...> for details!

Katie Fitzgerald says

Ty is seven years old, a second grader, and the only boy in his family. His older sisters (one of whom is Winnie from Myracle's middle grade series *The Winnie Years*) are busy teenagers, and his baby sister, called Teensy Baby Maggie, takes up all of his mother's time and energy, leaving Ty feeling left out and misunderstood. His best friend is also in the hospital with leukemia, so he's working on finding other kids to hang out with, like Lexie, even though she can sometimes be mean and bossy. When he goes on a field trip, Ty doesn't exactly mean to steal a penguin and bring it home with him, but when he does, he finds himself with a big problem - how can he bring the penguin back home safely without upsetting his already over-tired mom?

I had trouble getting into Lauren Myracle's latest YA book, but I was pleased to find that the opposite was true of this, her first foray into chapter books. In fact, though I have enjoyed lots of her other books, I think this one might be my favorite.

The writing in this book feels very fresh. Each member of Ty's family has a distinct personality, and the interactions among the siblings, and between Ty and his mother, feel very current, as though they could take place in almost any child's home tonight at dinner. Ty's reasoning, dialogue, and interests are all very true to the emotional maturity and developmental level of kids his age, and his thoughts about his baby sister, in particular, are true to what many kids experience when new siblings come along. Not much happens in the overall plot until the field trip near the end of the book, but the normal everyday conflicts of family life are enough to keep the reader interested and moving forward through the story. I do wish there had been more in the book about Ty's friend's leukemia, but I'm crossing my fingers that this situation will get its own story at a future point in the series.

This first book about Ty reminds me of one of my favorite chapter book series, *Stella Batts*. Both have a strong focus on family life, believable conflicts between siblings, and issues surrounding the arrivals of brand-new babies. While the *Stella Batts* books all have very girly-looking covers, this book is more neutral, and is more likely to be picked up by boys or girls. *Penguin Problems* will also appeal to kids who have gotten into the *Ellray Jakes* books and *Jasper John Dooley* books, which are also about early elementary

school boys and their daily troubles and triumphs.

Jsmith42harding.Edu says

Life of Ty is about a young boy who deals with a lot of struggles other kids his age may not have to experience, such as his best friend having leukemia. on a trip to the aquarium, Ty wonders of and finds himself with a baby penguin that he decides to keep not knowing what he was doing. this is a fun chapter book for ages 6-9.

Deanna says

This is a darling story and sooo fun to read aloud!

YA Reads Book Reviews says

Originally posted on www.yareads.com, reviewed by Nichole.

The Life of Ty: Penguin Problems was so gosh darn cute! Penguin must have sensed my need for an awesome children's book. This is a really quick read, and I have to stress that it is meant for children. It's a little lower than a middle grade book. It's more of a children's book, probably for younger elementary students.

The illustrations in The Life of Ty were well done. They fit in perfectly with the story and kept me entertained. I can see this book being a definite hit for younger kids. Heck, it was a big hit for me, and I'm well over the age range for this book!

I loved reading a children's book focused on a boy. When I was growing up, there were a lot of books featuring girls, and it's a nice change to see. Boys and girls alike are going to love this book, but boys especially are going to get a thrill following Ty and his silly adventures. There's even this cute little plot featuring a penguin! And honestly...who doesn't love penguins?

Parents...librarians....add this book to your collection! It's going to be a big hit with your little ones, and you will not regret it!
