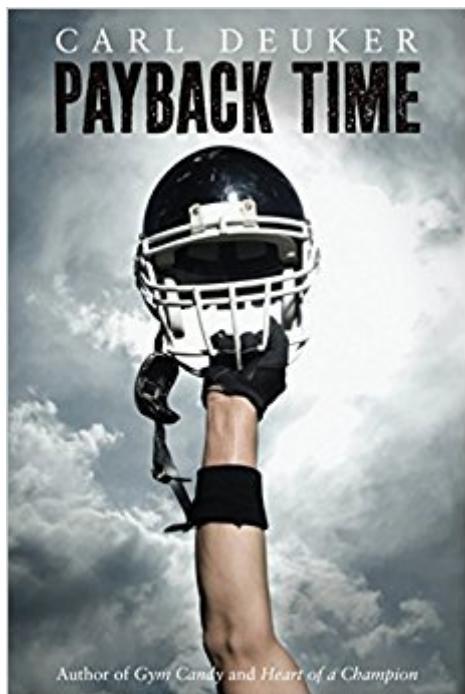


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# Payback Time



## **Synopsis**

Through the eyes of a distinctly non-athletic protagonistâ "a fat high school journalist named Mitchâ "veteran sports novelist Deuker reveals the surprising truth behind a mysterious football player named Angel.â When Angel shows up Lincoln High, he seems to have no pastâ "or at least not one he is willing to discuss.â Though Mitch gets a glimpse of Angel's incredible talent off the field, Angel rarely allows himself to shine on the field.â Is he an undercover cop, wonders Mitch?â Orâ an ineligible player?â In pursuit of a killer story, Mitch decides to find out just who this player is and what he's done.â In the end, the truth surprises everyone.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 750 (What's this?)

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (February 28, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547577338

ISBN-13: 978-0547577333

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 51 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #35,067 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 inâ Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Journalism #7 inâ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs #13 inâ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Football

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 7 Upâ "Senior Daniel True is short, pale, and round, hence his nickname the Michelin Man, or Mitch, for short. His former elementary school best friend, Horst Diamond, is the star quarterback and BMOC at their Seattle high school. Mitch's ambition is to be an ace investigative reporter, â la Woodward and Bernstein, but the new editor of the school newspaper assigns him to cover sports. Worse still, Coach McNulty makes it clear that Mitch's job is to be Horst's cheerleader. McNulty intends to ride his star player to a college coaching job, and he won't let Mitch do anything to jeopardize that opportunity. While covering a practice, Mitch notices Angel Marichal, a senior transfer student. Angel is clearly the best athlete in the school, but McNulty keeps him hidden,

playing second string, changing his jersey number, and denying any interview requests. Mitch knows that McNulty and Angel are hiding something, and he is determined to get to the bottom of it. What he finds is far different from what he suspects, and along the way his personal and journalistic ethics are tested. Deuker has crafted another entertaining and readable football story. The game descriptions are well done and will appeal to players and fans. Many teens who dreamed of being a star as children but don't make the team in high school will identify with Mitch.

Anthony C. Doyle,  
Livingston High School, CA  
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edition of this title.

\*Starred Review\* Deuker (Gym Candy, 2003) really cranks up the suspense in his newest pageturner, combining a Seattle high-school football team's march toward the state championship game with a school reporter's investigation of an apparent ringer that the coach has slipped in to bolster the defense. Mitch doesn't think much of his new assignment as sports reporter, but when he sees how Coach McNulty keeps Angel "a reclusive new student who shows star-quality abilities in practice" "benched until late in each hard-fought game his suspicions are aroused. Thrilled to think that he has caught wind of an actual cheating scandal, Mitch digs into Angel's past. What he discovers stirs up far more trouble than he has bargained for, and pitches him into a series of terrifying situations. The game action alone is riveting even for readers who don't know a naked bootleg from a hook-and-ladder play, but Deuker enriches the tale with several well-tuned subplots and a memorable narrator/protagonist who turns a corner on his own self-image while weathering brutal tests of his courage and determination. Definitely one for the top shelf. Grades 7-10. --John Peters --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

All and all a good book. Without giving anything away the kid drives his mother's car and has a weight problem. So why 4 instead of 5 stars? Well, to me, it just didn't quite reach that level.

My 11 year old son does NOT love to read, but he LOVES sports. This was a perfect match for him. He loved the book. He seems to really enjoy books by Carl Deuker.

good read, love the part about Philadelphia gang guys and Angel Marichal. Go Lincoln! And Mitch and Kimi. And McNulty.

As a Middle School teacher of thirty years, I would rate this book as five stars. The reading level is on target, the characters are true to life, plus there is lots of football to keep reluctant readers involved. The violence is acceptable for most students. This book earned the Maryland Blackeyed Susan award and in my school was voted best new book by our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade boys.

My son enjoyed the book.

hey I am a 13 old boy who hates to read. but this is a book that I could not put down. I would recommend that you read this book I promise you will not be disappointed.

A great read for a Middle School Boy.

I really enjoyed this book. It grabbed me from the beginning and I couldn't wait to see what was going to happen next.

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