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# Somebody, Please Tell Me Who I Am



## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0640 (What's this?)

Paperback: 148 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (February 5, 2013)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #398,489 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Dysfunctional Relationships #82 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Special Needs #127 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Abuse

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

\* "The tight focus on one soldier does not oversimplify but rather captures the human drama in the personal...The book's power is in the honesty and hope conveyed. As illuminating as a hand grenade, and just as powerful."--"Kirkus Reviews", starred review"Provides a moving portrait of a young soldier's sacrifice and struggle. With realistic dialogue, relatable characters, and subject matter relevant to teens, this book is a worthwhile addition to library collections."--"VOYA""Mazer and Lerangis use strong characters and storytelling to explore the slow and painful recovery of an injured teenage soldier...the journey is powerful and worthwhile."--"Publishers Weekly""An easy read about a difficult and important subject, with realistic characters whose depth is implied more than explained. Although the reader may despair at the tragic turn of a young man so full of promise, the ending offers a glimpse of light at the end of what will be a long, dark tunnel."--"Booklist""This is one of the best books I have read recently...the story of struggle, recovery, and relationships; of love, perseverance, and overcoming astronomical odds."--"Library Media Connection""Somebody, Please Tell Me Who I Am" tells a bold war story without being overtly political or taking sides; as such it's a great choice for discussion groups. It's also an exciting, intelligent, fast-paced read that should appeal to both avid and reluctant readers, providing

gripping action and food for thought."--"BookPage""Its accessibility and directness may help readers understand how many things aren't over just because a war ends."--"Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books""Has the power of prose distilled into its purest essence. An easy-to-read war novel that respects its readers and challenges them to understand the true consequences of war."--"The Horn Book"

Harry Mazer is the author of many books for young readers, including >; >; the Boy at War trilogy; >; >; >; and >. His books have won numerous honors, including a Horn Book honor and an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults citation. Along with his wife, Norma Fox Mazer, Harry received an ALAN award in 2003 for outstanding contribution to adolescent literature. He lives in Montpelier, Vermont. Peter Lerangis is the author of many books for young readers, including wtf, Smilerâ™s Bones, the Watchers series, The Sword Thief, and the New York Times bestselling 39 Clues series. Peter lives with his wife and two sons in New York City. Visit him at [PeterLerangis.com](http://PeterLerangis.com).

I tend to stay away from this kind of fiction but after reading this I was blown away. It's an amazing short story that will move you on many different levels.

This was a great story and a quick read. Teens of all ages will like it.

Adults and Young Adults will enjoy it!! Great story to share with a class so that they can discuss it together!

Perfect condition and shipping was fast! Thank you!

This book was very very good, I liked it because I can just get lost inside the book while I am reading it

This book tells reader an experience of people with head traumas from war. I would recommend to my peers and family. 3 stars just because I have not completed the book yet!

Before having read this I had thought that only Pete Hautman could write with the kind of punch and pizzazz in the limited number of pages that Peter Lerangis and Harry Mazer demonstrate in

Somebody Please Tell Me Who I Am.Too be honest that's what I found so gripping about Somebody Please Tell Me Who I Am, the sensational writing ability exhibited in each page. Every major character, from Ben to Chris feels real and tangible, as if the very next moment one of these characters is going to walk in your front door and say hello. Mazer and Lerangis do a terrific job giving Chris and his disabilities the respect and attention needed to really bring out the innocence of his character, furthering the other characters in ways that most other books are unable to do. That said, even more striking is Mazer and Lerangis's ability to craft the progression and thought processes of Ben before, during, and after the event. Readers truly get to experience the struggle and frustration that Ben feels from his injuries. The only thing I didn't like about the book was that I couldn't know more. I wanted to know more about Ben's parents, more about Nico, more about Ben and his progression, will he fully remember, live a normal life, go to college? All of these things and more. And yet, it's better this way. Mazer and Lerangis meant for this to be merely a snapshot into the world of one injured soldier and his life. It is not meant to go on forever, it does not end with Ben becoming President of the United States or some other implausible ending. Instead, it marks a period of time in which Ben struggles for recognition, It shows the ripples that effect his family and friends, and most important it shows that just because you reach the last page, the story does not end. Mazer and Lerangis wrote it this way for a purpose, and while it makes me sad not to know more, they have done a fantastic job. Because of this snapshot approach everything seems more real. The pains more vivid, the struggles harsher, and the victories all the more glorious. All in all a fantastic book that I'd easily recommend to someone looking for a quick and touching read.[...]

Mazer's award-winning book is not about the ugly side of war. It is about the ugly side of surviving a war. It is about suffering catastrophic injuries, injuries that should have been fatal, but talented medics cut you open, sew you back together, and you're alive. Breathing, heart beating. But you are not you. You may never be you again. As one character says, "Ben is not dead, and he's not alive." This book shows how war destroys the individuals and the family. How the aftermath of life-altering injuries impact not just the injured but everyone who loves him or her. In the end, Mazer leaves us with hope for Ben and for all those who love him, though I couldn't help but think about the soldiers who are altered forever, alive but lost. This is definitely a read-in-one-sitting book, and Mazer has a great way with words. He knows just when to walk away from a scene. He uses so few words to convey loads of storyline. And the way he portrays the insecurity and frustration of an injured soldier is fantastic. I especially love the scene that lends the book its title. It's devastating and heartbreakingly stays with you after you

have finished reading.

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