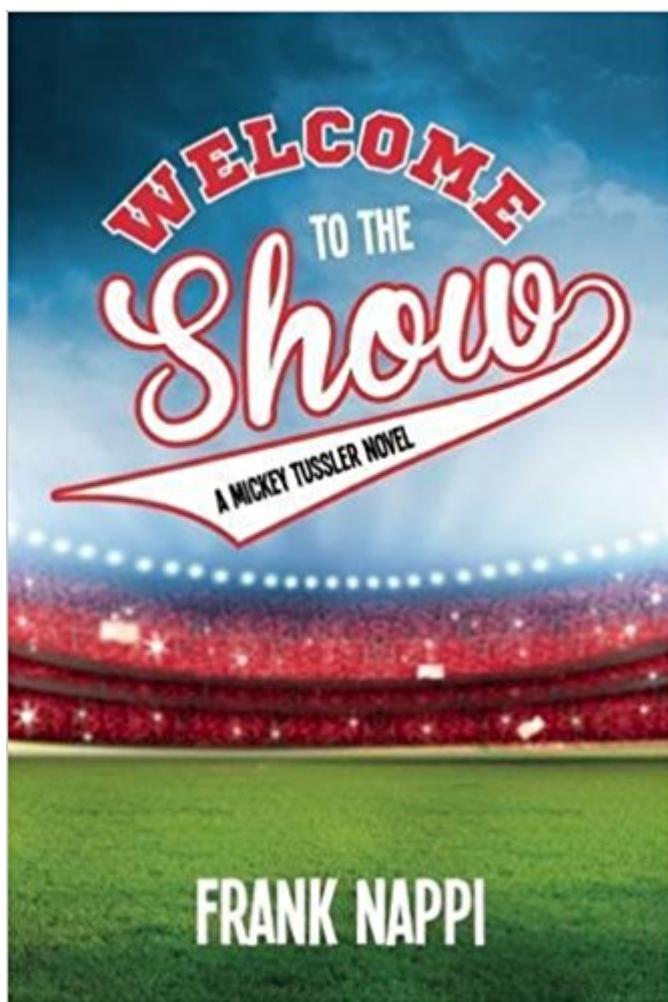


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# Welcome To The Show: A Mickey Tussler Novel, Book 3 (The Mickey Tussler Series)



## Synopsis

It's 1950 and Mickey Tussler, the now-famous pitching prodigy with autism and a golden arm, is back for another baseball season in this third installment of Frank Nappi's critically acclaimed Legend of Mickey Tussler series. Talk of Mickey's legendary exploits on the field has grown since his improbable debut two years prior, as have the fortunes of Murph and the rest of the lovable ragtag Brew Crew. Now Mickey, Murph, and Lester find themselves heading to Bean Town to play for the Boston Braves. The call up is sweet, for all of them have overcome insurmountable odds to get where they are. But life in the major leagues is filled with fast-paced action both on and off the field. The bright lights of Boston hold a new series of challenges, hardships, and life lessons; especially for Mickey, who finds himself a long way from throwing apples into a barrel back on the farm. The three newest Braves have each other to lean on, as well as a new group of fans who are swept away by pennant fever, but balancing everything this new world has to offer may prove to be the greatest challenge of all. Sky Pony Press, with our Good Books, Racehorse and Arcade imprints, is proud to publish a broad range of books for young readers; picture books for small children, chapter books, books for middle grade readers, and novels for young adults. Our list includes bestsellers for children who love to play Minecraft; stories told with LEGO bricks; books that teach lessons about tolerance, patience, and the environment, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

## Book Information

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Family Issues > Special Needs #13 in A Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Bullying

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 6 and up

## Customer Reviews

Frank Nappi's attention to detail and his honest appraisal of the times pulls no punches, so readers anticipating a light or breezy coverage of autism and social issues of the 1950s will find plenty of passages more detailed than might be anticipated from a casual baseball saga. The protagonists in *Welcome to the Show* clearly reveal their thoughts, hopes, and worries ("Molly worried what people were saying, what they were thinking, and how they would treat her special boy. She also worried each time either Mickey or Arthur shared with her another incident that, in her opinion, placed her boy in peril."). Some are specific to Mickey's condition and others are more general expressions, but all psychological revelations hold food for thought and a depth unexpected for a 'baseball story'; another reason why *Welcome to the Show* is notable when compared to other books about either autism or sports....(excerpt of the review) D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Review Because of Frank Nappi's *Mickey Tussler* series, I care about baseball, its language, its history and its players...Mickey is as wholesome and authentic as ever, which accounts for his success, especially in frantic win-or-lose moments...it is rewarding reading experience...Don't worry if you haven't read the first two books...Frank Nappi is an expert at catching his readers up very quickly.C. Kuntz, President & Editor, The Rockford Review "From encounters with prejudice about special needs in society ('Regular folks and other kinds should not mix. It ain't natural.') to games that teach Mickey about life ('Baseball, Murphy, like life, my friend, can only be understood backward....It can only be understood backward, but it must be lived forward.'), Welcome to the Show is about achievement against all odds and the ripple effect of a game that spills into life experience, ethics, and psychological growth." D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Review "A marvelous blending of baseball history and first-rate fiction. The perfect conclusion to an outstanding baseball saga." Howie Rose, sportscaster for the New York Mets "A masterful final chapter in the incredible life of a most compelling baseball legend. The Legend of Mickey Tussler series is a baseball trilogy destined to become the definitive work in the genre." David Satriano, New York Post "Welcome to the Show is an action-packed, heartwarming story that completes the most captivating baseball trilogy ever written. Frank Nappi writes the way Miguel

Cabrera hits&#151;brilliantly, powerfully, effortlessly. Readers will stand up and applaud as Mickey Tussler's journey reaches new heights."&#151;Bill Madden, New York Daily News"Frank NappiÃ¢ ¬â„cs Legend of Mickey Tussler series reminds us why sports, above all else, remain the great unifier, the great teacher, and why baseball remains our beloved national pastime. MickeyÃ¢ ¬â„cs journey not only calls on our common ground as a people, but of the need to respect, appreciate, and understand those things that make us inherently individual and unique.Ã¢ ¬Â•&#151;John Valenti, Newsday"Bernard Malamud has the character of Roy Hobbs, and Frank Nappi has the intriguing character of Mickey Tussler. Through his award-winning series of three books, Nappi takes us on a journey through baseball life in the 1940s, as seen through the lens of autism. This is not a conventional baseball story, but one that lays out unique challenges and plot twists that differ from any series of baseball books that have come before."&#151;Bruce Markusen, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum"Wonderfully written baseball series with an accurate depiction of life in the minor leagues. Frank Nappi weaves throughout these stories the age old human condition of prejudice and narrow mindedness, things we all are still working on in the present. I cannot wait for the next book to see what Mickey and Lester can accomplish in the show."&#151;Craig Swan, former New York Mets pitcher"It is refreshing to read a series of books that celebrate the extraordinary talent that a very special young man with autism possesses. These books also show the real challenges those touched by autism must endure. The saga of Mickey Tussler spoke to me as a former professional athlete and as also a parent of another special young man with autism."&#151;Olie Kolzig, former NHL goaltender"In the third novel in his heartwarming, unforgettable Mickey Tussler baseball series, Frank Nappi has surpassed himself. In this latest tale of a young autistic pitcher with a 'golden arm,' Nappi hits another one out of the park."&#151;Betty Dravis, author of *Star Struck: Interviews with Dirty Harry and Other Hollywood Icons*

Frank Nappi has taught high school English and creative writing for over twenty-five years. His debut novel, "Echoes from the Infantry," received national attention, including MWSA's silver medal for outstanding fiction. "Welcome to the Show!" is the third book in his critically acclaimed Legend of Mickey Tussler series. Frank lives on Long Island with his wife and their two sons."

I am a huge fan of author Frank Nappi... and of Mickey Tussler, his larger-than-life autistic, base-ball-playing dynamo who has become a living legend in the annals of baseball. Mickey is not only a super-hero to me but an inspiration to all those with autism and to all lovers of the great American sport, in general. I was hooked on Mickey Tussler in NappiÃ¢ ¬â„cs first book

and the movie that followed, just as I was on the second, which became a movie too. Yep, they are THAT good. This series has everything: humor, pathos, heart-warming, heart-wrenching drama and a tender romance with Murph and his wife. "Welcome to the Show" is exciting reading that leaves one filled with hope, more knowledge about autism, and appreciative of Nappi's writing skills. He brings Mickey to life in such a strong way that his readers fall in love with the lovable, at times confused kid. We care what happens to him... This third book is just as intriguing as the first two, taking Coach Murphy, his wife, Mickey and the Brewers to the Big City baseball of Boston and to the World Series competition. Wow! But this is a big change for Murph, his wife (Mickey's mother) and Mickey. How do Mickey and Murph handle the change? And why does Murph's wife dislike Boston so much. Is the dissension over the move breaking them up? What new problems await Mickey, and how do they do in the baseball finals? All those questions are answered by the author, who proves once again what a masterful writer he is. In fact, he knows the game of baseball so well, that even the play-by-plays are lively and easy to follow. I was bowled over by Murph's dedication to the sport of baseball and Mickey's determination to succeed despite all odds. This is another amazing book by Frank Nappi. I truly enjoy following Mickey Tussler's life as he continues to overcome. Play ball, Mickey! Review by Betty Dravis, August 2, 2016 Author of "The Toonies Invade Silicon Valley"

Another present for my grandson to give him some recreational reading. He loves baseball. I am not certain this read has "clicked" with him but I am hopeful.

Loved Micky Tussler, and this is just as good. Love all Frank Nappi books! Excellent writer, awesome stories easy and enjoyable reads

In this third book of the Mickey Tussler series, Mickey now finds himself pitching in the major leagues for the Boston Braves. His manager (who is also now his stepfather) Arthur Murphy and catcher Lester are also employed by the 1950 Braves and the story of their adventures in the National League is the best of the three stories about the young autistic pitcher. Nappi writes with flowing grace no matter which particular topic is being addressed. Whether it's Mickey throwing his fastball with pinpoint accuracy, his budding romance with Jolene, the sister of a Braves teammate, or some of the poignant exchanges between Murphy and Molly, his wife and Mickey's mother, the reader will be gripped in the emotions of the moment. The

reader will also feel a strong connection with the characters in this story. Of course, those who have read the previous two stories already have had that attachment with Mickey, Molly, Murph and Lester, but it continues with the introduction of Jolene. Having suffered rejection by a parent during her childhood like Mickey, her character is the perfect match for Mickey and their conversations and budding relationship made for the best passages of the book. Which isn't to say that the baseball writing is bad – these parts are just as good as they are in the first two segments. Using real players from the 1950 season but taking liberties with actual baseball history, it was fun to read about the ups and downs of the Braves as they progress through the season. No spoilers to tell how the season ends, but how the young pitcher, his grizzled manager and level-headed catcher handle the adventures of the campaign will enthrall any baseball fan. With great storytelling, a tender romantic story and some life lessons along the way,

“Welcome to the Show” is a terrific read while following Mickey’s baseball career. His story is one of the best literary series of books I have read. I wish to thank Mr. Nappi for providing a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

The third book in the Mickey Tussler series, “Welcome to the Show,” is in many ways the best of the three. Yes, the story is told in classic Frank Nappi style, with beautifully lyrical passages that entertain and captivate a reader while delivering very profound messages. The links between baseball and life are never so apparent as when one reads a Frank Nappi Tussler novel. The characters are also equally rich and artfully drawn, and the baseball action is just as authentic and riveting as always. But what elevates this latest novel in the Mickey Tussler saga above the others is the bold leap to the

“Majors” that Mickey, Lester and Murph take, a leap that mirrors the courageous chance that Nappi takes by attempting to tackle a whole new challenge for the high functioning, autistic Mickey Tussler - love and romance. Nappi’s treatment of this delicate but very real aspect of life for an autistic young adult is both fair, accurate and wonderfully crafted. Jolene, a young lady who is no stranger to the harsh treatment of parents and contemporaries, is able to see the goodness that resides in the wonderful simplicity of this rising baseball star. Mickey sees something in her as well, even though he is unable to attach a label to it. The reader will enjoy the introduction of this new character and also revel in rooting for Mickey both on and off the field as he continues to figure out and navigate, with the help of some others, the oftentimes merciless and unfair world that adults occupy. Also noteworthy are the skillfully crafted fortunes of Murph and Molly, as well as Lester Sledge. All of these things plus

so much more make this yet another totally enjoyable Tussler novel.

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