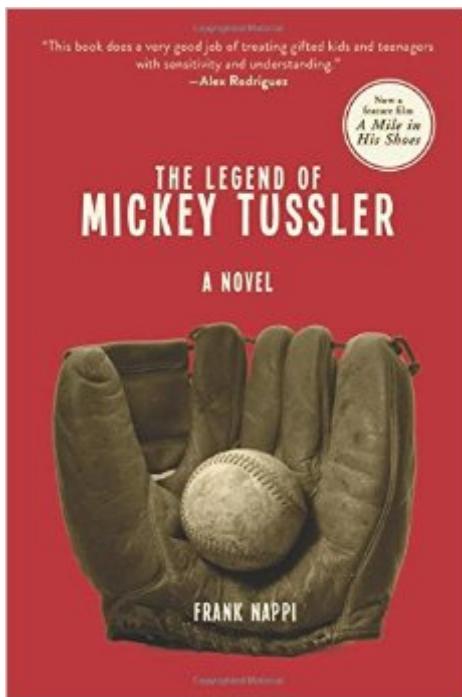


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# The Legend Of Mickey Tussler: A Novel (Mickey Tussler Novel)



## Synopsis

In the late 1940s, the minor league Milwaukee Brewers are foundering yet again and manager Arthur Murphy is desperate. When he sees seventeen-year old Mickey Tussler throwing apples into a barrel, he knows he has found the next pitching phenom. But not everyone is so hopeful. Mickey's autism; a disorder still not truly understood even today; has alienated the boy from the world, and he is berated by other players and fans. Mickey faces immense trials in the harsh and competitive world of baseball while coping with the challenges inherent to his disorder. An honest and knowledgeable book about overcoming adversity, and the basis for the television movie *A Mile in His Shoes*, Mickey's powerful story shows that with support and determination anyone can be triumphant, even when the odds are stacked against him.

## Book Information

Series: Mickey Tussler Novel

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (157 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #9,364 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Baseball & Softball #6 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Special Needs #12 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 6 - 11

## Customer Reviews

I've been a huge fan of author Frank Nappi ever since I read his inspiring, heart-breaking debut novel *Echoes from the Infantry: A Novel*, a WWII story of a young soldier who returned from the war a changed man. Nappi wrote about the soldier's post-war family life and his relationship with his wife and son. It moved me deeply and was my favorite debut novel of 2005. When I reviewed Nappi's "Echoes," I predicted he would be a "force to be reckoned with in the literary field," and in

writing another brilliant novel he is proving me right. I was delighted to learn that Nappi had written another powerful novel, *The Legend of Mickey Tussler*, and couldn't wait to read it. This is another masterpiece, the story of Arthur Murphy, manager of a local baseball team, and Mickey Tussler, an autistic seventeen-year-old boy with a "fearsome fast-ball." When Murph signs the boy for his team, he soon realizes, as another reviewer aptly describes it, that Mickey "comes with a blessing and a curse": the blessing is his caring mother, the curse, his abusive father. In the 1940's timeline of this novel, this disability was unknown and misunderstood; those suffering this affliction were thought of as "slow," and called "retarded" by less sensitive people, including Mickey's father.

I like to keep a little baseball in my life, and when a wonderful book like *The Legend of Mickey Tussler* comes along just brimming with baseball action, it's the perfect antidote to winter doldrums -- OR the perfect complement to the sandlot-and-stadium season. Author Frank Nappi has given us a lot to think about in this book, and the game action furthers the characterization and builds the drama. The story is set in Milwaukee in 1948. Arthur Murphy is the manager of the minor-league Brewers, stuck in a going-nowhere career path. Driving through farm country on a scouting assignment for the team, he stops at the Tussler farm and is astonished to find big, slow Mickey firing apples into a bucket of pig slop. Never mind his awkward demeanor and his unusual delivery, the boy can PITCH! Arthur persuades Mickey's parents to let him take the boy to the team. Arthur's known for bringing in odd-balls for the team but Mickey's the oddest of all. Mickey, of course, is autistic, though the nature of his condition isn't named or elaborated on. He recites poetry when stressed and knows how many pitches each member of the rotation threw in each of their games; but he knows nothing of social encounters, girls, jealousy, or the world in general. When his stunning fastball makes him the new team ace, there is no shortage of enemies from rival teams and even among the Brewers' pitching cadre. Nappi's style showcases the characters, some just a little too good, some unremittingly mean.

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