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A funny, refreshing look at the most awkward time in any young boy's life from school, girls, and parties to parents, friends, and the dreaded "sex talk".

Darcy Walker is a normal 16-year-old boy but he can handle that. He can even cope with parents, deal with parties, and soldier through the occasional fight. He's certainly got his infatuation with the beautiful Audrey under control, is clearly the best at spending quality chess-time with his nerdy best friend, Noah, and doesn't blink an eye at the misadventures that can occur when kayaking on a school excursion. He's a teenage boy – he can handle anything. That is, if only he'd learn to keep his mouth closed first.

Slice Details

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Author : Steven Herrick

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From Reader Review Slice for online ebook

Margot says

The book was pretty great. Simple, light, and hilarious. Darcy was the kind of character you want to be friends with, and Noah was definitely someone you'd love to hug.

I really liked it, but it felt too short. I'm not unhappy with the ending, it just felt like he just didn't want to write more. It wasn't abrupt, but it was odd that he ended it there. He developed the characters but didn't really give them closure, if that makes sense? The characters were real, but incomplete. Or maybe that's too harsh. I just think he could've written a lot more about them—especially Noah, who was a poignant, earnest character in an otherwise light story.

Anyone who feels like reading something happy and short should pick this up.

Amanda says

Slice by Steven Herrick is set in Katoomba, NSW. Told from Darcy's point of view, we get a look into what it's like to be a teenage boy.

Darcy has a great voice, he's witty and funny and this book made me smile and laugh a lot. Darcy has great parents which makes a change from a lot of YA about dysfunctional families. He's pretty lucky to have such a great home life.

Darcy is in love with his neighbour, Audrey, who he spies on while she meditates in her backyard. Their relationship was sweet, awkward and amusing and felt very real to me.

I adored Darcy's best friend, Noah. I loved that he didn't seem to care what anyone thought of him and how he often missed Darcy's embarrassment in certain situations like while kayaking. I was happy that Darcy was such a good friend to him and his father.

I haven't read any of Steven's other books but I'm going to make sure I do this year. Also, this book gets bonus points for the vegetarian and vegan references!

Kat at Book Thingo says

The reasons I picked up my review copy had nothing to do with interest: it was skinny enough not to weigh down my bag; I love watermelons. Seriously, there's something delightful about that cover.

This novel doesn't have much of a plot, but Steven Herrick is such a fabulous craftsman that he manages to connect tenuously related vignettes about teenage life into a story I couldn't put down. It's impossible not to

be charmed by Herrick's irreverent narrator, sixteen-year old Darcy. He's a bit awkward, a bit rude, a little too clever for his own good (and he knows it) and sometimes so funny I couldn't stop myself from laughing out loud.

While Darcy is the focus of the story, the supporting characters— Darcy's parents, teachers and classmates — are just as engaging. Although the male perspective dominates this book, the female characters have very defined personalities and strengths.

This is an excellent book for young teens. The characters continually surprise, and if the book seems relatively thin it's because Herrick does so much with so few words. Darcy is a witty, wonderful narrator and his shenanigans made for one of my favourite reads of the year.

You can read my full review at [Book Thingo](#).

Zahra says

There is really no plot and nothing of much note really happens but I flew through this. It was genuinely laugh out loud hilarious! An excellent pick me up after all the depressing YA about

Kristy says

If you're looking for vampires or fairies or bigfoot or whatever this is not the book to pick up. If you're looking for a realistic 16 year old guys thoughts this is your boy!

This was cute and quirky, nothing to deep or overwhelming. There's not much crazy or special about this story, but something about Darcy is so likeable, funny and charming. You will find yourself smiling at him many times. The cover depicts a slice of fruit that looks like a smile, very fitting isn't it?!?!?!

I don't have a ton to say about this one. It's just the story of Darcy, the sort of dorky guy at school who has a nerdy best friend and a crush on the girl down the street. I might have developed a little book crush on Darcy..... he is totally my type ;)

Ah. Goodtimes.

4 stars.

pick it up. Have a little fun. Have a little joy. Walk away smiling.

ALPHAreader says

Meet sixteen-year-old Darcy; he can't play soccer to save himself, he runs his mouth off and he spies on his next-door-neighbour (and love of his life), Audrey while she does yoga in her backyard.

‘Slice: Juicy Moments From My Impossible Life’ was the 2010 contemporary YA novel from Australian author Steven Herrick.

I really loved this book. Darcy is a lovable and sweet protagonist; navigating the pitfalls of having a barrister for a mother (he gets away with nothing, and never gets a fair trial) and his embarrassing soccer-obsessed father (who is looking for an outlet from his ho-hum accounting job). Darcy has to learn not to run his mouth off at school, because it can occasionally land him in a canteen-line punching match.

I'm sixteen years old and my mouth runs ahead of my brain. Our friend Pete would describe it as - ahem - premature enunciation. Mum say I talk without thinking. She's wrong. I mean what I say, I just shouldn't say it aloud.

He also has to learn finesse when it comes to comforting his chess-playing friend, Noah, who divulges some truths about his tough family life in the wake of his father’s stroke. And then there’s Audrey – the beautiful (yet attainable) next-door-neighbour who Darcy would do anything to make his girlfriend.

If it sounds like there isn’t much actual plot in ‘Slice’, then that would be because there isn’t. ‘Slice’ is definitely character-driven, and as the title suggests, it is just moments of wacky hilarity from Darcy’s ‘Impossible Life’. There’s no triggering event powering the story, nor is there much character-arc. This book is more of a lark than a well-rounded book with character motive & journey. And that’s okay, it just took me a little while to figure it out and let Darcy’s voice overtake the lack of story.

Once I allowed Darcy’s personality to be the driving force of ‘Slice’, I found myself settling into a wonderful little Aussie YA book. Herrick’s book is full of fresh and witty humour, narrated by a charming and well-meaning young man as he navigates love, life and the art of kayaking.

Yiwen Xie says

Slice: Juicy Moments from My Impossible Life by Steven Herrick, is a book about a 16 years old Australian boy’s life. (Life as in his school life, social life and love life.) Darcy Walker has a great sense of humour and a very straightforward temper, he once said : ‘I mean what I say, I just shouldn’t say it aloud.’ he talks without thinking and would say anything that comes up to his mind. His dad is a huge football fan and his mom a lawyer, his best friend Noah is a huge nerd who has a strong obsession towards chess, his big mouth got him into a bit of a trouble with Tim the bully at school, he enjoys Shakespeare and had a crush on Audrey the girl from his English class.

This book doesn’t have a very strong plot, an extraordinary character or a unique setting, it is just a story that could occur anywhere around us, even Darcy could just be an ordinary schoolboy we find in one of our classes, nothing is unusual about Darcy. However, the story is told much more interesting with the sense of humour like Darcy, even his ordinary daily life could turn into a play. It’s really cute that in the end Audrey has noticed Darcy and they started dating, how that even though sometimes he could be a little rude, a little awkward or sometimes a little bit too straightforward, Audrey could still find the part that shines within him. That is, also why Audrey is so lovely, she always finds the goodness in everything.

I think this book is more suitable for boys my age rather than girls to read, it has certain sensitive subjects such as sex talks between dads and sons, however it is also about a lot more than only this such as school,

friendship and romance. In general I find this a really easy and relaxing book to read, it doesn't require much thinking and doesn't have loads of twists in terms of the plot. It's quite an okay book even though not the best book ever, I enjoyed it a lot.

Emmeline says

Eeeehhhhhh. I couldn't find a plot anywhere, I didn't care about the characters, and although it was trying to be funny it really didn't work for me.

Maybe other people would like it, but it's not for me!

K says

Thank goodness, a little funny just when I needed it.

So, *Slice* really is just that—juicy moments. Darcy's an entirely average student at a small school. His entire year barely fills a classroom. His slices include drunken parties, run-ins with dumb jock bullies, PE failures, and the girl next door. Oh, and his parents who were worth their weight in gold for the sex talks alone ("Your Mum said I should mention... um... satisfaction." "What!" "She said young men should know things, should be told things so that the girl won't be..." his eyes plead for understanding, "... disappointed."). Seriously funny. Some of that background info seems a little disjointed at first, but there is a story eventually and it's pretty charming.

It was great getting to hang out with Darcy. He could skate by and have a totally unremarkable life, but he's got a problem with words bypassing his brain on their way out of his mouth. It gets him into trouble, but it makes him appealing too. My reading had been slumpy for a while, so this was like a palate cleanser in book form (which I mean in the nicest possible way). It was super quick and really enjoyable, the kind of awkward-sweet mix I'd love to see more of.

?????? ?? says

Yes i just love to laugh out loud when i read. And this one was just full of it. No cheesy teen romance, dialogues, dramas. Just the world of a 16 year old teenage boy and the peculiar thoughts of coming of age. :)

The writer did what he wanted to do, crafting the characters carefully- Not going too deep, but just enough to care for. Anyone looking for a perfect light read can rely on Darcy and his juicy life story. ^_^

Nomes says

Set in Katoomba ~ and I read it while in Katoomba on holidays :) Okay, that's irrelevant to the review, but it made the experience just that more cool, you know?

It's funny
and brilliant
and everything you'd expect from Steven Herrick.

See the watermelon on the cover? It's grinning. I couldn't stop smiling when I read this one.

It was also, sneakily, powerful and life-affirming.

And that's what I LOVE about Steven Herrick. He has characters that feel like you've known them forever. Characters that sneak up on you and then BAM you care about them completely and feel like you're the one sitting down at the dinner table with them. He takes those ordinary, mundane parts of day-to-day life and makes you appreciate them ~ and find the awesomeness in just being alive and being in the moment.

Okay, so this review just got a little Oprah-esque ~ so putting it back on track... This book is FUNNY. Grin-achingly, laugh-out-loud witty and clever and, mate, how I loved it. It's a male POV that makes you simultaneously love all male characters and also feel sorry for them in a lovingly-cringe-y way. Life is not always easy for the adolescent male. Particularly for Darcy who just can't keep his mouth shut (much to my amusement and to his detriment)

I loved it all but in particular, LOVED:

the school kayaking trip on the river

the shaving scenes

the awkward father/son sex talk moments, haha.

the romance with Darcy and Audrey. Cute and hilarious and when the kissing scene arrives ~ ahh, it's just grin-worthy and sigh-worthy and makes me all nostalgic :)

the whole side-plot with Noah's dad. That's the kind of stuff that just blows me away in books. LOVED it.

Steven Herrick is one of my all-time (I'm talking ALL-TIME) fave authors. His books are brilliant for teens and still just perfect for adults or anyone really. And he has another book coming out this year WAHOO WAHEY! :D

oliviasbooks says

"He looks again towards the door, expecting Mum to walk in and remind him of something he's forgotten. He smiles awkwardly. 'Is that it, Dad? I've got to go.' 'Your Mum said I should mention ... um ... satisfaction.' 'What!' 'She said young men should know things, should be told things so that the girl won't be ...' his eyes plead for understanding, '... disappointed.' [...] 'No worries, Dad. My biology teacher said I was a natural.' Dad looks confused. 'I'm kidding, Dad.' [...] Poor bloke, having to do the dirty work while Mum's off with her gang. 'Dad? What did Grandpa tell you about sex?' 'He said if I got a girl pregnant, he'd kill me.'"

I bought the realistic, Australian and funny young adult novel *Slice: Juicy Moments from My Impossible Life* by Steven Herrick on account of its official description – and I am glad about it although I think it got it all wrong:

The phrases "*Darcy means what he says. He just shouldn't say it aloud. [...] He's a teenage boy, he can deal with it. If only he'd learn to keep his mouth shut.*" make him sound like someone who perpetually says

annoying things or is generally misunderstood by his peers. This is not the case. Sixteen-years-old Darcy Pele Franz Walker just occasionally succumbs to the dangerous urge to say what's on his mind. So do I - because sometimes watching people's jaws drop is totally worth the price. Just yesterday I managed to keep myself from saying to the train conductor sucking frantically on his cigarette in the middle of the platform that "This is a non-smoking station. Please show respect to non-smokers, Sir." in the mechanical voice of the loudspeaker lady. And I only barely got away on my bike after remarking to a young guy waiting for his two friends, who were urinating onto the pavement, that it must be quite embarrassing for his poor mates to have such weak muscles in the groin area. Darcy has that sassy streak among his character traits, too. Plus there is always something Shakespearean waiting on his tongue. Popping out witty comments doesn't make Darcy an ousider, it just interferes with his intention to better stay off the radar of class thug Tim and his brainless but mischief-loving side-kick Braith.

Also the thing about being friends with nerdy and obnoxious chess-lover Noah oversimplifies the plot. For *becoming* friends with Noah - appreciating his unwavering attempts at spending time together, at sharing jokes and sad secrets and even a hug (I *loved* that moment. Talking about it makes me want to keep the book.) -, is one of the key story lines in my opinion. The others are finally bonding with his Dad in spite of not sharing his addiction to playing soccer, finding a balance between cowering and standing his ground in the vicinity of Tim and Braith and – certainly – getting the girl of his dreams.

I enjoyed the whole book, but maybe I liked the getting-the-girl part best. Well, yes, I generally have a thing for romantic subplots, but in Slice the romance turned out to be the sweet, tender and smile-inducing story of how-I-was gotten-by-the-girl, for all the female characters including the love interest, the English teacher and Darcy's Mum are strong-willed and cool and confident and absolutely wonderful. I loved the short interaction between Darcy's parents, I understood Darcy's admiration for his T-shirts-with-a-message-collecting teacher and I even liked Stacey and Miranda of the weekly brandy-and-pink-grapefruit-soaked class-parties, which are responsible for Darcy's first experiences with the opposite sex.

When I was reading Slice and laughing aloud in irregular intervals it reminded me of two books. One is the equally Australian, romantic and funny *Six Impossible Things* by Fiona Wood, which is also narrated in an extremely likable male voice. The other one is the French children's classic "*The Little Nick*" (Le petit Nicolas) by René Goscinny, because although Slice comes to tell a story with a noticeable timeline, it is also a collection of memorable bits and pieces – seemingly unrelated *juicy moments* from Darcy's childhood at home and his teenage years with his classmates at school.

Another aspect that makes Slice so very recommendable in my eyes is the believability amongst all the juiciness. Have you watched or read some of these supposedly hilarious stories that show how a awkward hero stumbles clumsily from one mental pothole into the next because he tries to hide or gloss over an embarrassing step he's made, and in the end he stands in front of a shitload of self-made problems that could easily have been avoided? Slice does - praised be the author - *not* make use of this common domino-effect-element, not once. There is embarrassment and there is awkwardness, but both in bearable doses and life-like proportions.

Yet Slice has pushed at a stone in my personal domino game called the "greed to read": It has made me want to read the other novel by Steven Herrick that has been lurking around my wishlist for some time: *Black Painted Fingernails*. If anyone feels like starting a tour or hosting an international giveaway, please give me a shout

Apropos giveaway: My international giveaway of my copy of *Slice: Juicy Moments from My Impossible Life* ends on Easter Monday. You can find it under events in Germany.

Maggie says

After reading Daughter of Smoke and Bone and The Book Thief back-to-back, I needed something light and happy. Both were terrific novels but the *angst*! After war, you need some of this:

Enter Darcy Franz Pele Walker. He's just a regular guy with a regular life -- two parents, some friends, a crush. I think the book was titled Slice: Juicy Moments from My Impossible Life because such normalcy is kind of impossible to find in YA these days. (Seriously, there needs to be a *No parents were harmed in the making of this book* disclaimer.) I forgot how charming a simple slice of life story can be. I loved Darcy and his smartass comments. I loved his parents and his relationship with them. I want there to be a sequel where Darcy meets Dan Cereill and the greatest bromance since Turk met JD ensues.

Isamlq says

I'm sixteen years old and my mouth runs ahead of my brain. Our friend Pele would describe it as - ahem - premature enunciation. Mum says I talk without thinking. She's wrong.

I mean what I say, I just shouldn't say it aloud."

This was funny with not a page going by without me laughing. And as that quote indicates, Darcy just couldn't shut it, do that we knew precisely what he was thinking. It got painfully obvious that the boy was clueless about certain things but spot on about others. It's simply that when he was wrong or about to stick his foot in it that had me cringing for him but laughing (with him), too. And boy, did I laugh!

A boy's life isn't all that easy after all. Except this boy's life while funny could get painfully... ergh, *painful*. Oh, the things this particular one put himself through! As illustrated in that funny but definitely awkward moment of his father (not) explaining the birds and the bees, or in him deciding the pros and con's of shaving (*Vaugh in Art class called me Frida Kahlo*), or him thinking of his dream girl, or him navigating through the whole social scene and pondering things like what it took to be a man or how to be just so and so.

But mostly I love that he's equal opportunity in poking fun at stuff, himself included. He's not one to take himself too seriously, that's for sure.

Funny stuff.

Nic says

My favourite quote: *"I'm sixteen years old and my mouth runs ahead of my brain. Our friend Pete would describe it as - ahem - premature enunciation. Mum say I talk without thinking. She's wrong. I mean what I say, I just shouldn't say it aloud."*

Slice was a deliciously fun read. I love books that make you laugh and leave you feeling good and that sums up Slice perfectly.

Slice is the story of 16 year old boy Darcy, who's mouth is constantly getting him into trouble. He is quirky, lovable and HILARIOUS. Herrick really did an amazing job of writing the character Darcy and he offers a brilliant and honest insight into the world of a teenage boy. It was interesting to see what guys really think.

There is also plenty of impressive and slightly off beat secondary characters like Audrey, Noah and Darcy's parents. It was awesome to read a book where parents were a positive and entertaining part of the story.

The writing was simple yet clever. Unlike the previous books of Herrick's that I have read this one wasn't written in verse. It was actually his first YA prose novel. Personally, I prefer his verse books because they get across more emotion. Don't get me wrong this book was still warm and touching just not as powerful. However, the slight lack of emotion is made up for by the dialogue that is full of humor. I loved the conversations that Darcy had in this book with various characters but especially Audrey.

'You say like to say the first thing that comes into your head, don't you, Darcy?'

'Not if I can help it.'

Audrey looks reproachfully at me.

I nod, 'Yeah, I can't help myself.'

'Have you ever played "word association"? You'd be an expert.'

'Is that where someone says a word and I say "sex" back?'

The romance between Darcy and Audrey is tender, amusing and realistic. Herrick captures how awkward yet sweet young love can be.

Overall, if you are looking for a smart and funny coming of age story this might be for you.
