



# Miracle's Boys

*Jacqueline Woodson*

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## **Miracle's Boys** Jacqueline Woodson

Nothing is like it used to be. If it were, Mama would still be alive. Papa wouldn't have died. Thirteen-year-old Lafayette's older brother, Charlie wouldn't have done time at a correctional facility. And oldest brother Ty'ree would have gone to college instead of having to work full time to support the three of them. If things were the same, Lafayette wouldn't be so full of questions, like why Mama had to die, why Charlie hates him so much now, and how they're all supposed to survive these times together when so much seems to be set against them.

This is the story of three remarkable young men; brothers who have only each other to rely on and who must decide whether they'll work with that or let it tear them apart.

## **Miracle's Boys Details**

Date : Published June 8th 2006 by Speak (first published April 24th 2000)

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Author : Jacqueline Woodson

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## **From Reader Review Miracle's Boys for online ebook**

### **Julie says**

I actually listened to this one on audio through the Cloud Library app and account through my school. Wonderful reading by Dule Hill. I am always looking for novels my male students could enjoy, and this is one to add to that category. All could enjoy, but especially young males.

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### **Adele says**

This was sweet and touching, not to mention a very quick read. If you like brothers with a good helping of hurt-comfort, you will enjoy this book.

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### **Lonica says**

I think this book would appeal to teens because it deals with issues that are wide-spread and common, no matter where you live. People have always dealt with racism, orphanage, family connections, etc. The reality of the book was appealing to me. So much so, that I was disappointed the book wasn't longer. I wanted to know more about Laf, Charlie, and Ty'ree.

The book deals with the following developmental aspects: familial love and responsibility, growing up and being independent, forgiveness and repentance, overcoming emotional conflicts and memories.

I thought the characters were incredibly believable and realistic. I think that the author, Jacqueline Woodson, did a nice job of depicting the reality of their situation. The dialogue between the characters smacked of authenticity; I could visualize their life and their reality just by the way they spoke with one another. I could hear them speak with one another and they came to life for me. I was amazed at their "centeredness" and the smart decisions the boys made on their own, when placed in their situation, though. It certainly made me want to see them succeed later in life.

I think this book could easily be promoted alongside other books/stories on similar topics: West Side Story, Jellicoe Road, or The Outsiders. The message and moral of this story could cross over into many different races and groups of people. I would probably speak of this one in conjunction with other similar novels.

4Q, 4P, M/J/H

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### **Alexis Beulne says**

How far would you go for your siblings if you will become orphan? That's what happened in the story, Miracle's Boys, a realistic fiction book, written by Jacqueline Woodson.

Ty'ree, Charlie and Lafayette are Miracle's sons; but he died, just before Lafayette was born, from hypothermia while he was trying to save a woman and her dog in a frozen lake, and their mother died two years ago too. So they are now alone. Ty'ree, the oldest, can't go to college because he has to work full-time to support his two little brothers. Charlie, the second son, just came back from jail, where he stayed two years. And Lafayette, who is twelve today, usually stays in the apartment asking questions, about his parents, to himself that he can't answer. But since Charlie came back from jail, he is a different boy, which worries his two brothers who want to talk to him about it. But their relations will never be the same after that.

In this story, we can see a family theme, with the three brothers that help each other to live in a world they aren't used to. I really like the following quote, "I don't feel like nothing anymore." because that's what shows how Charlie has changed in jail.

I enjoyed reading this book, firstly, because the way the story is written is very interesting and original; all the flashbacks explain and complete the story that is happening now. And secondly, I like the relationship between the three brothers and how it is shown. To conclude, I would recommend this book to people who like family relations and problems, and a little bit of suspense.

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### **Jong Yang says**

This book is called *Miracle's Boys*. It's about 3 brothers named, Lafayette, Ty'ree, and Charlie. Charlie was the oldest out of the 3 brothers. Ty'ree was the second oldest and Lafayette was the youngest. Charlie was a naughty kid so he went to this place where bad kids go. This place was called Rahway. Ty'ree was a good and nice kid. Their mom's name is Miracle, and she died from diabetes. Lafayette found her dead and didn't know what to do. The boys were sad and didn't go out at all because their mom died. Their dad died saving this dog and this lady. This book was mostly about the past. When their mom was still alive, they miss her a lot. The brothers were interested in gangs, and I'm kinda interested in them too. But I wouldn't want to be in one, I just like to watch movies about gangs because it's interesting. In my opinion, I thought that this book was boring because it just talked about the past. But if you like to read about sad stuff then you should read this book!

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### **Rebecca says**

This is a rather sweet story, considering the protagonist is an orphaned boy, being raised by a sibling who had to put aside an education at MIT and another who appears to be on his way back to juvie.

Woodson's protagonist is sweet, to say the least. He keeps the image of his dead mother near and talks with her to resolve problems. I rather liked these exchanges. I found them tender. However, her characters are placed in one horrible situation after another. This was a bit much for me. For such a small novel, there was a lot packed into it.

I found the ending of the story a bit too sudden and neat. As if all the middle child needed was to get beat up and then a loving discussion to turn him around. I suppose there are those cleansing moments in some people's lives. It has been my experience that change is a difficult and painful process. Rarely is it resolved in a day.

Regardless, I have suggested this book to a few of my students and they have reported that they **WOULD** recommend it. They said that the story was easy to follow and kept their attention. Many have asked if it is a

true story.

While this was not a life changing book for me, it is a book that I will continue to recommend to students.

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### **Joel Alfaro says**

Miracle's Boys is a book by Jacqueline Woodson about three brothers. The three main characters are Lafayette, Charlie and Ty'ree and they are living together because their parents died. The story deals with the return of Charlie who has been in a boy's home for two years after being arrested for theft. Ty'ree the oldest brother has been taking care of Lafayette after the sudden death of their mother. They both have to deal with the return of Charlie after two years away and learning to live together again and becoming a family. I recommend this book because it reminded me of my favorite book The Outsiders. How three brothers have to learn to survive and stay together through the different struggles of life.

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### **Mariah Roze says**

This book is good and the more recent book version of The Outsiders. I read this book with a lot of my male students and they loved it. The book takes place over 2 days.

This is the story of three remarkable young men; brothers who have only each other to rely on and who must decide whether they'll work with that or let it tear them apart.

The author is one of my favorite childhood books authors!

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### **Eric says**

I used to watch the short-lived series "Miracle's Boys" on "The N," which is now TeenNick in the early 2000s. I really liked the show, and it was just last week that I found out that the series was adapted from Jacqueline Woodson's novel of the same name. I immediately bought the novel, and began to read it. I remember little of the show as it completed its run in 2005. So reading the novel was good. I enjoyed reading this. Woodson's prose is so clear, the dialogue so crisp, and the characters pretty well-defined. Woodson deals with the hard topic of grief in this novel. Here we have three brothers who are living with the loss of both parents. Though the brothers deal with grief differently, they do begin to deal with their grief. This is an important note: Woodson offers her readers a counternarrative to the perception of black boys in society being "hard," and uninterested in a broad range of culture. Woodson pushes back on this, and offers an alternative narrative of black boys and their socialization. These boys cry; they slowly become honest about their feelings. It's alright for boys, especially black boys, to express their emotions in healthy ways, not conforming to violence and other destructive forms of dealing with grief and hurt. This is a fine piece for middle aged kids, and teens to read. It's definitely good for adults to read.

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## **Honore Friehe says**

What would you do if your mother and your father were suddenly dead? This was the case for Miracle's sons Ty'ree, Charlie and Lafayette in the book *Miracle's boys* written by Jacqueline Woodson. Ty'ree is the oldest son, he has attained majority, he is the legal supervisor of his two brothers and has stopped going to college to take care of his brothers. He has a full-time job. Charlie is the second child, he is repeating his 9th grade and he is fifteen. He recently came back from Rahway home for boys after an armed robbery. Lafayette is the youngest child, he is in 7th grade. Both three are very sad of their parents death and especially of their mother's death. They are poor and they live in New York City at the end of the 20th century. Ty'ree has to keep the family together but trying to live without parents is hard. The father died of hypothermia by saving a woman and a dog from drowning in a frozen lake. The diabetic mother because of an insulin deficiency. After coming back from Rahway, Charlie is not the same as before and he has become meaner. Lafayette has a lot of unanswered questions about his parent's death and needs to see a psychologist to help him. One day while Ty'ree and Lafayette were trying to remember their mum, Charlie nicknamed Newcharlie by Lafayette, got beaten by a gang and is injured. The three boys have to stay united to find an issue to their misfortune. Themes in this story are solidarity inside a family, because the three brothers have to survive and stay together; and poorness they are poor and need money. I want to share a quote that is important: "I stared at the guy standing in front of me. It wasn't Charlie. Charlie would never talk that way. This was somebody different. New. Newcharlie." This quote is important because it shows that Charlie has completely changed after coming back from Rahway and that it hurts his brothers. I liked this book because it is a very realistic story. It shows the way some people are maybe living today without parents. It is also very sad and emotional. I didn't like the fact that the story takes place over 2 days because we can't imagine how the boys will survive at the end of the book and what will happen next. I would recommend this book to people who like sad and emotional stories.

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## **Ashley Ruhl says**

Woodson beautifully illustrates the complexity of family relationships and how the world is not definitively black or white. People are not all good or all bad, but circumstances may cause us to make choices that we may not otherwise make. I cried more than once as I was reading. There is redemption, but it is not without having to sit through tension and discomfort. Even more importantly, the redemption is not tied up with a pretty bow. It is more true to life, showing that change takes work. Change and forgiveness are painful and are not linear. I appreciated that Woodson allowed the characters to be both good and bad, kind and selfish, forgiving and angry. They are multidimensional, so they each have moments that resonate with our own human experience.

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## **Mona Grant-Holmes says**

Ty'ree, Charlie, and Lafayette are brothers. Their father died several years ago, saving a lady and her dog from drowning in an ice covered pond in Central Park. Now, their mother has died and each of them is dealing with that loss in their own way. Ty'ree, the oldest, was accepted and plans to attend MIT, but stays home and becomes the legal guardian of his brothers to keep them together. Charlie, the middle brother, leaves his mother with the memory of him being taken from home in handcuffs by the police. Lafayette, the youngest, has the memory of trying to wake her from a sleep from which she will never awaken. With Charlie gone, Ty'ree and Lafayette become closer. When Charlie returns from the detention center he is withdrawn and

mean. Lafayette calls him Newcharlie and wants his brother, Charlie, back. Woodson weaves a wonderful story of how the three cope and eventually find their way back to each other.

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## **MaRk Gorbea says**

Wow is all I can say about the book miracle boys by Jacqueline Woodson thiS bOok was my favorite this year. Its a book most teens can relate to. And I know all teens will fall in love with it it shows how people change and how they act wen they with their friends I recomend this book to every single one!

Book Shout Out.!

One image or scene that stuck with me was when newcharlie was in the room acting like laffayette is invisible and not saying a word to him which means they have no emotion for him and his feelings.also and image that would stand out is when tyree and laffayette is talking about newcharlie changes in the living room.

Short retell:

This book is about a young men (New Charlie )who comes out of jail and is a completely changed person from before.He treats all of his family like they're invisible and they don't mean nothing to him its a great book that I would read 10 more times.We'll I've said to much stop being lazy and read it for yourself.!

My view of the world after reading this book:

I watch the way I act and I choose my friends very wisley now on and I also am very observent of my friends or family and how they act.

What I liked most:

I like how the author used real life Situations in this book

I also liked how newcharlie littles brother described with details how newcharlie was before he went to prison

I also liked how newcharlies little brother told the backround on his family.

creative response:

Dear NewCharlie,

why do you let your experence in jail taake over your life when you returned home i think you need to forget about the experence you had in jail and start brand new with life and take a new aproach in life and how you see it.i dont think you treated your brother Laffayette fairly i think you shouldve treated him like you did before you went to prison also i think you should stop hangin with aaron he is a bad influence on you and how you act towards everyone whos with you or around you. Also you should try your best to stay out of trouble try getting your life on the right track for your behalf and your friends and family behalfts

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## **Nina Bogaert says**

Miracle's boys is a realistic fiction book written by Jacqueline Woodson.

What would you do if your mother and father were dead and that your older brother was your legal guardian? This was the case of Lafayette in the story.

Ty'ree, Charlie and Lafayette are orphans who are facing poverty.

Ty'ree is the oldest, the one who is taking care of his brothers and the one who has a lot of responsibilities.

Charlie, the middle one, is also called NewCharlie because he changed since he came back from Rahway, a juvenile correctional center.

Lafayette, the youngest, is the main character.

The story is very emotional because it shows the relationship between three brothers who have to survive together. I liked it because it is easy to read and to understand and I think that this is a good book for teenagers because it shows how people can change and how life can change really quickly

I recommend this book if you like realistic and sad stories.

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### **Charlotte says**

This book was good except that it was almost just like *The Outsiders*: three orphaned boys trying to make it through the straits of life. Ty'ree is the oldest and didn't get to go to college because he has to support the family, Charlie (called Newcharlie throughout most of the book) is the troubled kid who just came back from a stint in a juvenile detention center, and Lafayette is the youngest who is just trying to understand the dynamics of their new life.

I don't know if this is representative of Woodson's work, if her books on the whole are reminiscent of other works. It's a good story and a quick read, but it was too much like *The Outsiders* for me. And don't get me wrong: I love *The Outsiders*, but I didn't think that Woodson's mimic matched the brilliance of Hinton's novel.

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