



Mudball

By Matt Tavares

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Mudball By Matt Tavares

Matt Tavares brings to life a winning tale of the shortest home run in history with the help of his luminous artwork and an infectious love of the game.

CRACK!

Somehow, Andy's bat had hit the ball. Everybody heard it . . . but nobody saw where it went.

Andy Oyler is the shortest player on his baseball team, the Minneapolis Millers, not to mention the whole league. And no matter how hard he tries, he just can't seem to get a hit. But one fateful spring day in 1903, a sudden change in the weather leads to a change in Andy Oyler's luck—and as Andy soon discovers, even the shortest player can become the game's biggest hero! Matt Tavares brings one of baseball's legendary stories to life and champions the underdog in all of us. Helping readers keep score is a bibliography and final note from the author about this uplifting all-American tale.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Mudball By Matt Tavares Bibliography

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- Original language: English
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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 1-4—A lighthearted picture-book romp based on baseball's shortest home run. In 1903, Andy Oyler hit the only home run of his entire career, but it's the subject of a much-loved baseball legend. Tavares casts his hero as the classic underdog: Oyler's the shortest player in the league, and he's trying to overcome a batting slump and the heckling of fans. As he steps to the plate on a cold, drizzly day, he represents the Minneapolis Millers' last hope. The drizzle becomes a downpour, but the umpire, believing that the batter stands a good chance of making the final out, lets play continue. Oyler somehow connects with the ball, which then gets lost in the wet, muddy infield. Tavares hilariously details the ensuing chaotic play as fielders scramble to find it and the batter makes his way around the bases. The artist evokes a nostalgic mood using pencil and watercolors in subdued shades of gray, brown, and navy blue. Similar in spirit to Marilyn Sachs's classic baseball tall tales, *Matt's Mitt* (1975; o.p.) and *Fleet-Footed Florence* (1981, both Doubleday), this story is sure to delight fans young and old.—*Marilyn Taniguchi, Beverly Hills Public Library, CA*

From [Booklist](#)

K-Gr. 3. The year is 1903. Andy Oyler, the shortest player in his baseball league, is batting for the Minneapolis Millers with two outs, the bases loaded, and rain falling onto a field of puddles. Oyler's bat connects with the pitch, but no one can find the ball in the mud and standing water until all four runners have crossed home plate. According to the epilogue, Oyler "became a hero by hitting the shortest home run in baseball history." The author's note mentions that the story owes more to legend than history; its earliest mention in print appeared in 1966. The large-scale, softly shaded pencil drawings have plenty of motion, just right for a sports story. Some of the players' gestures and facial expressions are a bit exaggerated, but other pictures reveal characters with a more natural grace. Giving the artwork an old-fashioned air, the drawings are tinted with watercolors in sepia tones, with subtle highlights in other colors. An attractive book for baseball fans who enjoy watching small heroes triumph and don't mind a bit of nostalgia. *Carolyn Phelan*
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About the Author

Matt Tavares is the illustrator of 'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, and the author-illustrator of ZACHARY'S BALL and OLIVER'S GAME. He says of MUDBALL, "We have all found ourselves in situations where we feel helpless, small, and ready to quit—but as Little Andy Oyler's story demonstrates, good fortune may rain down on us when we least expect it."

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Barbara Stewart:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent 24 hours a day

to reading a e-book. The book Mudball it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book has high quality.

Rebecca Clark:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you, why because this Mudball reserve written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who read the book. Written inside good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still hesitation Mudball as good book but not only by the cover but also by the content. This is one publication that can break don't determine book by its handle, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Helen Mota:

The book untitled Mudball contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains your ex idea with easy technique. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read that. The book was written by famous author. The author brings you in the new age of literary works. You can read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice read.

Nick Peoples:

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