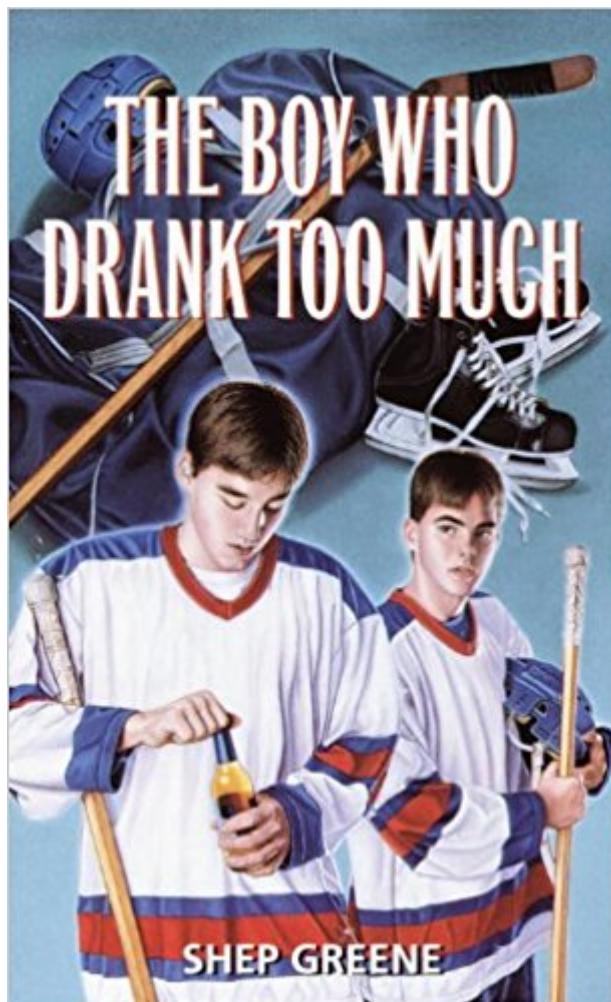


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# The Boy Who Drank Too Much



## **Synopsis**

A teenage hockey star tries to cope with his problems through drinking, but finally seeks help through his friends. "Highly involving, with a storyline that never goes overboard in its portrayal of youthful drinking."--Booklist.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 450L (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 160 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,790,756 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Hockey #227 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs #504 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Drugs & Alcohol Abuse

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

A teenage hockey star tries to cope with his problems through drinking, but finally seeks help through his friends. "Highly involving, with a storyline that never goes overboard in its portrayal of youthful drinking."--Booklist.

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was a little surprised it took two weeks to ship this from DE to philly. Got it the day I was giving it as a gift, whew, juat in time!

Told from a 15 years old hockey player's perspective, this is a tale of friendship, alcoholism, dealing with an abusive alcoholic parent and first kisses. The boy who drank too much is not the teller of this first person tale but a team-mate who's dealing with an abusive might-have-been of a father. The book has a bit of the after-school special feel but deals with a serious story in a way that just might reach some teen males that are not reached in other ways. It's a worthwhile read but not a true classic.

The narrator, whose name never appears, is a fifteen year old boy who lives with his parents in Chicopee (probably in Massachusetts) and plays high school hockey. His best and oldest friend since Cub Scouts at age seven is Art, a fellow hockey player whose girlfriend is Tina; they have been dating since seventh grade. He meets a new girl in school named Julie. There is also a new boy named Buff Saunders from Toronto, Ontario, Canada, who plays hockey as well and is an incredible athlete. All of these kids seem to be sophomores. However, Buff's father was almost a great hockey player too, but after Buff's mother was killed in a car wreck due to Mr. Saunders' drinking, he began drinking even more to help drown his sorrows, and is now putting so much pressure on Buff to be a star hockey player that the boy himself turns to drinking in order to help him cope with his difficulties. Buff's friends want to help him. Will he let them? Will his father let them? What can they do about Mr. Saunders? And what will happen to Buff? Before getting to the main plot issue of drinking, I must point out that the book has a lot of typical public school worldliness with references to making out, dating, kissing, dancing, and swearing. The language includes the "h" and "d" words, both used several times even by the narrator, as well as one appearance of the "s" word and a couple of instances of a vulgar term for the rear end. Also, a lot of sex talk occurs. Concerning Art and Tina, it is said, "But as far as I can tell, they haven't gone to bed with each other. Art wants to, but she won't. She says they're both too young." Ugh! for Art, and yeah! for Tina. When Tina plans a party while her parents are away, Art encourages the unnamed narrator to bring a date. "You have a chance to score, dummy. Do you understand what I'm saying? You, a man, can have sex with the woman of your choice this Saturday night." At least the narrator explains, "I'm no dummy. I know about sexual intercourse. But I'm not going to get worked up about it the way Art does. Life is already complicated enough. Sex would only make it more confusing for me." Good for him!

Yet even he „tried to imagine Buff in bed with Tina.“ And it appears that most of the other boys think only of sex. In one raunchy locker room conversation, an upper classman, Sweeney who is the first string center, is asked by fellow senior John Murphy, „You get anything last night?“ He replied, „I got everything, man.“ The narrator says, „I knew what everything meant, but I didn’t understand why it was so funny.“ Then he learned whom Sweeney had gone out with, saying, „Even I knew about Carol Langulis. She had had an abortion when she was fourteen.“ I am guessing that we might be nudged to go ahead and accept all this filthy language and lasciviousness because of the supposedly good message of the story about teenage drinking. Yet even here there is a major problem. In this book, everyone drinks. The parents drink. The underage kids drink. Nothing negative is ever said about that. The only issue occurs when someone „drank too much.“ We were always told, wisely and rightly so, that one didn’t have to worry about drinking „too much“ if he never started drinking in the first place. This is not to say that the novel is all bad. It is well written and will keep the reader interested. The events of Tina’s party, at which Buff and Art get into a fight, Art severs a tendon in his foot by stepping on a broken bottle, and Tina temporarily breaks up with Art, could be used to illustrate the undesirable consequences of drinking in general. The narrator’s elderly neighbor, Ruth Benedict, who has had her own problem with alcoholism in the past, offers some good advice on the dangers of alcohol. And the end does have a positive and hopeful note. The book won the South Carolina Book Award for Young Adult Book in 1982 and was made into an ABC Afterschool Special with Scott Baio and Lance Kerwin. However, it is a very earthy story, and, because of the vulgar language and casual sexual references, which were probably included just to titillate and appeal to the baser instincts of hormonally crazed teenage boys, I simply cannot recommend it to people who are Christians or trying to be godly.

This story really had my concentration from the beginning to the end. It had well placed settings which it made it easy to understand and follow along through every detail that was going on. I read this book in my English class. This is a really great book choice; something interesting was happening every chapter. I was so engaged by the book things kept telling me "Don't stop now! The best part is about to start!" This is such an unbelievably well written book, that if any person had the chance to read this book, they would be able to understand the problem that Buff is going through. I would recommend this book to any one that faces a problem with alcohol because they might

remember why they started drinking in the first place. They might realize that drinking is not the thing to do to deal with there problems and that it's not worth all the damage they are doing to there bodies, and, with some luck, they will understand that they are destroying there life.

The Book "The Boy Who Drank Too Much" is a great book for teens. Because it helps them to understand the reason not to drink. The new kid at Chicopee High School was Buff Saunders. He was a born skater. Much too good for 3rd string, but because of his atitude, coach kept him there. None of the kids really liked him. He just seemed too odd and mean. Not the right kind of kid to hang out with. His father was almost a star hockey player and is now determined to push Buff to the limit. Buff and his father only have each other now since his mother died. His father is an alcoholic and buff followed in his footsteps. Buff had a problem which needed serious help. He became friends with a boy who helps him. but he has to start with Buff's father! The author of this book used sensery language when discribing what Buff and his friend had for dinner. The author also used a surprise ending but in order to find out you must read the book. At first you'd think the book "The Boy Who Drank Too Much" isnt that great but after you really start reading it, it becomes interesting. I personaly dont like the name of this book. I dont htink its interesting. It should be more catchy. Once I started reading I couldnt put it down!

Do you like books that relate with sports or action, well this a book for you! The book The Boy Who Drinks Too Much by Shep Greene is a very good book. It was about a teenager named Buff Suanders. He is a very good hockey player who has problems. He deals with them by drinking. Until drinking becomes his biggest problem. His friends do their best to help him with his problem. They finally found Buff drunk at the school. The point of view in this story is that 3rd person, the setting is mostly at each of the characters houses and at the ice rink, never in the book where there was a slow part or a boring part. The relationship between the characters are very strong, they become very good friends.This is suitable book for anyone who likes sports also who like books when each other have to help with each other. Some of the feelings I had was if Buff was going to be okay, also will everything turn out be good. I highly recommend this book for anyone! Two thumbs up!!

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