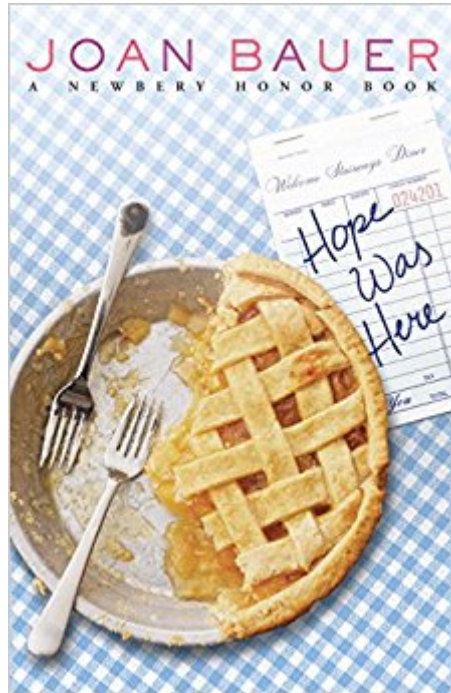


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Hope Was Here



Synopsis

A Newbery Honor Book
Joan Bauer's beloved Newbery Honor book--now with a great new look for middle grade readers! When Hope and her aunt move to small-town Wisconsin to take over the local diner, Hope's not sure what to expect. But what they find is that the owner, G.T., isn't quite ready to give up yet--in fact, he's decided to run for mayor against a corrupt candidate. And as Hope starts to make her place at the diner, she also finds herself caught up in G.T.'s campaign--particularly his visions for the future. After all, as G.T. points out, everyone can use a little hope to help get through the tough times . . . even Hope herself. Filled with heart, charm, and good old-fashioned fun, this is Joan Bauer at her best. "When it comes to creating strong, independent, and funny teenaged female characters, Bauer is in a class by herself ... Bauer tells a fast-paced, multilayered story with humor but does not gloss over the struggle[s]." "School Library Journal, starred review "Bauer has succeeded in creating another quirky, poignant, and funny novel about a strong girl who admits her frailties ... Hope's story is highly recommended for both middle and high school students." "VOYA" "Another entry in Bauer's growing collection of books about likable and appealing female teenagers with a strong vocational calling ... As always from Bauer, this novel is full of humor, starring a strong and idealistic protagonist, packed with funny lines, and peopled with interesting and quirky characters." "Kirkus Reviews

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Here's a book that's as warm and melty as a grilled Swiss on seven-grain bread, and just as wholesome and substantial. Ever since the boss promoted her from bus girl two and a half years ago when she was 14, Hope has been a waitress--and a darn good one, too. She takes pride in making people happy with good food, as does her aunt Addie, a diner cook extraordinaire. The two of them have been a pair ever since Hope's waitress mother abandoned her as a baby, and now they have come to rural Wisconsin to run the Welcome Stairways café for G.T. Stoop, who is dying of leukemia. But he's not dead yet, as the kindly and greathearted restaurant owner demonstrates when he decides to run for mayor against the wicked and corrupt Eli Millstone. As old-fashioned goodness lines up against the bad guys, the campaign leads Hope in exciting new directions: a boyfriend who is a great grill man, a new sense of herself and her mission as a waitress, and--when Addie and G.T. finally realize that they are meant for each other--the father she has always wanted. And all of it backed up with stuffed pork tenderloin, butterscotch cream pie, and the rhythm of the short-order dance. Joan Bauer, who won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for *Rules of the Road*, has served up a delicious novel in *Hope Was Here*, full of delectable characters, tasty wit, and deep-dish truth. (Ages 12 and older) --Patty Campbell --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Bauer (*Rules of the Road*; *Squashed*) serves up agreeable fare in this tale of a teenage waitress's search for a sense of belonging. Sixteen-year-old Hope has grown used to the nomadic life she has built with her aunt Addie, a talented diner cook. She doesn't mind the hard work it takes to make a diner hum; she seems to have inherited a knack for waiting tables from the free-spirit mom (Addie's younger sister) who abandoned her years ago. But Hope would gladly give up always having to say good-bye to friends and places she loves. When Addie accepts a new job that takes the pair from Brooklyn to the Welcome Stairways diner in Mulhoney, Wis., Hope never could have imagined the big changes ahead of her. She and Addie shine in the small-town milieu and gladly offer to help diner owner G.T. Stoop, who is battling leukemia, run for mayor. Along the way, Addie and Hope both find love, and Hope discovers the father figure she has so desperately wanted. Readers will recognize many of Bauer's hallmarks here: A strong female protagonist on the road to self-discovery, quirky characters, dysfunctional families, a swiftly moving story, moments of bright humor. Her vivid prose, often rich in metaphor (e.g., Hope's description of the Brooklyn diner: "The

big, oval counter... sat in the middle of the place like the center ring in a circus"), brings Hope's surroundings and her emotions to life. The author resolves a few of her plot points a bit too tidily, but her fans won't mind. They're likely to gobble this up like so much comfort food. Ages 12-up. (Oct.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

What a funny, heartwarming, bittersweet book! Joan Bauer's "Hope Was Here" is perfectly written. Hope was left by her mother, Deena, as a young, sick, fatherless baby, originally named Tulip, and given to Hope's aunt, Addie, a cook. So Hope spends her life moving from one place to the other, and in some cases, as a waitress. In "Hope Was Here", Hope and Addie move to Mulhoney, Wisconsin to work for a leukemia-diagnosed man, after their money was stolen from their previous boss, in Brooklyn. In Mulhoney, Hope finds herself in a crazy political race, while managing the busy restaurant. I highly recommend it!

Hope's mother was meant to be a waitress more than a parent. That's why after Hope was born prematurely, she left Hope with her aunt Addie and never looked back (though she does send Christmas newsletters). Just about the only thing Hope's biological mother left her was a bad name (Tulip) which she has had legally changed... plus a talent for waitressing, and frequent tips on how to get good tips. Addie has been the best mother a girl could ask for. Her pancakes are legendary, her pies are criminal and her meatloaf is drool-worthy. It's Addie's job to show up at diners that need help, get them back on their feet and then take off for parts unknown again. Which means she has dragged Hope and a U-Haul all around America - and Hope has made friends and said goodbye to them in countless states, always leaving behind the scribbled words 'Hope was Here' in some unassuming place. Now Addie and Hope are coming to Wisconsin, to help out a man called G.T. - owner of the "Welcome Stairways" diner who has recently been diagnosed with leukaemia, and needs a helping hand to keep the restaurant going while he recovers. But that's not all G.T. needs help with. He figures that since he's dying, he has nothing to lose - so he's taking on the local mayor, Eli Millstone, and the big business Dairy factory and running for local candidacy. G.T. intends to take on the corruption that is rife in town, bring down the tax-evading dairy factory, and Eli who is lining his pockets with dirty dealings. Helping G.T. accomplish his clean political campaign is young cook, Braverman, who Hope develops a small fascination with. Local pastor and best friend, high school politician called Adam and a slew of small-town customers. Hope isn't really used to permanency, or trusting people. But since coming to Wisconsin and seeing the integrity with which G.T. is trying to win a hopeless campaign ... well, it's got Hope trying to live up to her very big

name. 'Hope Was Here' is a Newbery Honor book, written by Joan Bauer in 2000. 'Hope Was Here' is continuing my love of Newbery Honor books, another sweet gem of the middle-grade readership that I gobbled up in one train ride. The book begins with sixteen-year-old Hope leaving New York behind and heading out to Wisconsin with her adopted mother, Addie, for yet another new food adventure. But when we meet her, Hope is becoming weary of the road and her and Addie's always-changing homes. Hope is feeling particularly disgruntled at this latest move, because it came after their NY diner business partner, Gleason Beal, took off with another waitress and all of Addie's life savings. Hope is a most interesting character; because when we meet her life has already beaten her down and moulded her some. She admits that it took a short boxing career to punch out her built-up anger at her mother; anger for leaving her as a sick baby, anger for not being the mothering type, anger for still calling her 'Tulip' when she changed her name to Hope. After the Gleason Beal debacle, Hope is both saddened but not all that surprised at the betrayal. Here we are meeting a kid who is already world-weary, and if it wasn't for Addie being her constant and comfort, she would have a completely negative outlook on life. Hope's low-expectations of people are confounded by her having to leave the best ones behind. She finds that making friends is the first step to accepting a new place as home, but having had to leave so many people she loves behind, she has taken to not making promises of seeing them ever again (though she does write them). When we meet her in Wisconsin, she's really feeling down and out; So, of course, the stickler of 'Hope Was Here' is reading Hope change her outlook on life, and try living up to her name. The journey Hope has to go on has an obvious end-result, but it's the way Joan Bauer gets her there that's so darn great. When Hope and Addie arrive at the "Welcome Stairways" diner, they don't realise they're stepping into brewing political warfare. Diner owner, G.T. is dying and intends to fight against small town corruption with his last breath. He is the embodiment of everything Hope isn't right now - he may not be a permanent fixture of this earth for much longer, but he's intending to do the most he can with what little time he has left. He can't promise people that he'll even be able to complete a full term if elected, but he can show them that he intends to do the best job he can for however long this illness he's battling will let him. I loved this book. Hope is an exceptional narrator - I sort of see her as this girl who's fighting a grin, so sometimes it looks like she has pursed-lips from sucking on sour grapes so long, but really that grimace is just a smile waiting to break out. Her thoughts sometimes turn dark - when she thinks about the mother that didn't want her, or the people she has had to leave behind - but her namesake is often bigger than her woes and she's this girl who is constantly breaking out in sunshine, despite the rain. I loved her. And I think she's the main reason that, despite being a 16-year-old narrator, Joan Bauer's 'Hope Was Here' is a proud

middle-grade book. This one also had me crying buckets by the end - as much for the story as to be leaving behind this cast of characters who I so enjoyed spending a little bit of time with. This is a beautiful, heartfelt book that asks big life questions in a small-town setting. Hope is one of the best narrators, and Joan Bauer's book is being added to my list of favourite Newbery's

Great book. Comfort reading!!

Joan Bauer books never stay on my shelf for long. This one is a favorite. The characters are real and the book is a hopeful story.

This is a book about a girl who is rejected by her mother, raised by her aunt and in search of her father. The yearning of every teen who wishes to be loved, held and wanted is in the heart of Hope. Her exterior tuffness is played out well in a diner environment where a thick skin is a job requirement. Some of the objections posted here I find unfounded. Hope's entire motivation in life is to seek out the love she misses from her MIA Dad while trying to accept her AWOL mother's attitude. She finds comfort in her imaginations about a loving father and ekes out bits of value from her mother's advice about waiting on tables. These two merge as a force that drives her forward in the book. Her head is motivated by her desire to be the best server and her heart by drawing near to a father. It's all there and justifies all her actions. Oh, there's one other motivation that fills any open gaps, her devotion to her aunt. I found that everything she does is propelled by these. I too felt a flaw in the book is the simplification of politics. The Mayor character is too flat, the Cheese company is Vadar like. But unlike one reviewer I saw the politics the other way around. Wisconsin can be a very blue state and small local politics is often devoid of real national issues. So I saw these as liberal people grasping for control, using corporations badly. Despite the usual corporate metaphors and our national rhetoric, we all know that dirty machine politics is the sole domain of no one party. Heck, the Dems wrote the book on corporate, government and local domination at Tammany Hall. But after a momentary bit of labeling, I discarded the cliches. The story transcended party politics. It's about struggle, finding a cause that's worthy and keeping hope alive. Integrity, love and hope are universal. This book weaves these three qualities into a dramatic story that touched my family. Can't wait for the movie version.

Our 10 year old grandson read this book recently, and I read it as well so that we could discuss it. It is a wonderful peek into a world where most children have little knowledge. The young protagonist

who has been given up at birth by her mother is raised by a loving aunt but has to move continually because of the aunt's jobs. The story tells of a child's struggle to find a way to feel that she has roots somewhere. Normally, I would have said that this is more of a book for girls. However our grandson was fascinated by the story and introduced to some sensitivities that all children can identify with regardless of their gender.

One of my favorite books from when I was a kid and I still find strength and hope in it as an adult. I'd recommend it for any young reader.

Deserted by her mother at birth, Hope is raised by her aunt and grows up moving from town to town, living in the world of the short-order diner cook. She changed her name from Tulip (what was her mother thinking?) to Hope, and does her best to live up to it. They end up in the middle of an election in a small town, working for a man who is fighting cancer and running for mayor. Hope learns about politics, both the good and the bad, and the importance of fighting for the best in life for everyone.

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