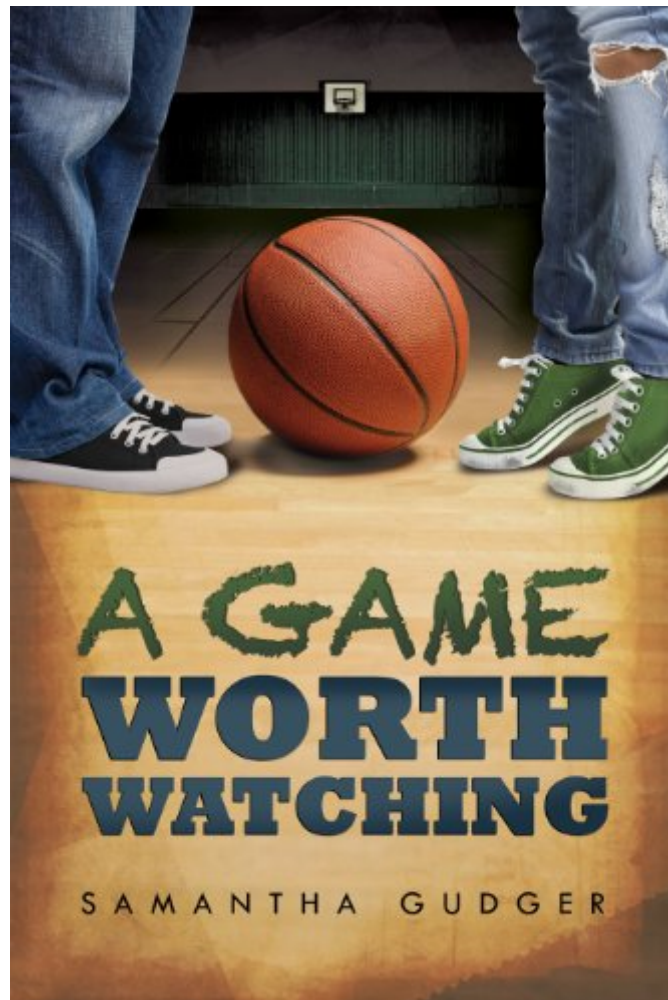




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A Game Worth Watching (Worth Series Book 1)



Synopsis

All her life, people have told 17-year-old tomboy Emma Wrangton that she's not good enough, smart enough, or strong enough to succeed in life. Somewhere along the way, she started to believe them. Without the promise of a respectable future after graduation, all Emma wants is to cherish her senior year by playing basketball with the guys and spending as much time as possible with her best friend before he heads off to some fancy university, leaving her behind. But when the high school basketball coach recruits her to join the team—the girls' team—Emma discovers life is anything but a slam dunk. How is she supposed to know how to be one of the girls when all she's ever been is one of the guys?

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Customer Reviews

As an avid book reader, especially teen books, there are many things that draw me into the story. The main thing that makes me LOVE to read are the characters. To be honest I was a bit hesitant to read this story to begin with as I am not a basketball player or a fan of basketball. I picked it up anyway based on the synopsis of the story and I was not disappointed. This book has a great group of characters that I fell in love with. The story is filled with strong characters, which make you laugh,

want to be friends with, and can connect with. I loved how strong the MC was, but also how she had her own set of real insecurities (the kind that we all face). The rest of the characters are fun with lots of great moments. If you are like me are a sucker for strong characters and have a deep appreciation for characterization, I think that you will enjoy the story as much as I did! :) I found this book to be a breath of fresh air. Wholesome, refreshing and real! The author created a book that was not only real, but not full of nonsense drama that doesn't add to the story. Instead, this book takes you on a ride as one girl, Emma, tries to make her life better for herself when it seems like everyone else is against her, except for basketball, which has always been there for her and the one person...her best friend, Riley. Sometimes in ways that she wishes she could avoid at all costs. :) The story isn't all peaches, though and has a great balance between humor, personal growth, angst, friendship, and love. Through this journey, the author made me laugh out loud, get chills, melt my heart, and want to punch someone all in the same book. For sports lovers out there, this book has great basketball scenes that were not overpowering to the story, but added depth and entertainment. I found these parts of the story to be easy for even my non-basketball mind to understand and follow. I loved how the main character was a great athlete along with being a strong character. I love it when that happens!!! If you are looking for a great book about a strong young athlete, discovering who she is and along the way finding love, friendship, and her own sense of family, then I recommend you read this book.

I had the privilege of beta reading for Samantha Gudger's *A Game Worth Watching* and when I first agreed to read it, never did I think I would get sucked into such a great story. It is a book geared towards a younger crowd but really hits such a broad range of readers. It has basketball in it, a lot of basketball...but don't let that scare you away! The basketball scenes are really written in such a way that you can see in your mind all of the moves and you find yourself really cheering on the players. Emma...she is a pretty intense character, the only girl in a family filled with boys, whose mom ditched and left her to fend for herself among family who cannot stand her simply because she shares the same gender as the one they see as the cause of all of their family's problems. She lives in a world where the girls who should be her friends tear her down instead, she is the outcast who has found her place among the guys on the basketball court. Riley, oh Riley!! Every girl wants, heck NEEDS a best friend like Riley. He is Emma's rock. He is so supportive, willing to drop everything to be there for Emma. He is such a strong force in Emma's life, you can't help but fall in love with him and I found myself waiting for their relationship to become more than just a friendship. When Emma is asked to join the girls basketball team, you really have to admire her for sticking with a group of

girls who hate her and treat her horribly. She fights any and all change that is presented and it is fun to watch her resolve to be the tough guy disintegrate forcing her to face her fears and for once, really get to know herself. Samantha Gudger really knows how to write a book that makes you truly feel something. I laughed, I got angry and I cried and was definitely left wanting more. Not into YA or sports books? Read *A Game Worth Watching* by Samantha Gudger and you will find yourself pleasantly surprised! This book is so inspirational and uplifting!

Another positive review for a really fun read. It was refreshing to read a book for young adults that had nothing to do with wizards or vampires. I am not saying that these books can't be fun too, but it was really nice to read a solid, entertaining story that involved real life. The characters evolve through the story and overcome their challenges through growth as individuals instead of magic. It is a book that makes the reader root for the heroine and her supporting cast and look forward to having more adventures with them. It is a wholesome story even though the main character faces many challenges--the author does a nice job not making the story overly dark, or conversely, overly saccharin. I would definitely recommend this book to others.

This is a sweet, powerful book about growing up and identity--a great read for adults as well as teens. Emma is a tomboy who comes from a dysfunctional family. She loves basketball, is an expert player, and it has become her life as well as a needed escape. Gradually, on her own and through the help of her ever-faithful friend Riley, she gains new and expanding views of herself and her capabilities, and comes to grips with realities that she can't change. This is an engaging, well-told story, and an encouragement to anyone who feels like the "odd man out." By the way, author Samantha Gudger is an expert on basketball!

An amazing, even surprising first effort for a young author. Highly enjoyable story told in gripping fashion. Though the idea that the two main protagonists would end up in love was no surprise, indeed it is almost a requirement in this genre, how they got there was a fun and happy ride. The female protagonist was someone that pulls you in and makes you cheer for her, even when she might not be cheering for herself. The male, a good guy like you'd wish your daughter would find. I'm looking forward to more books from Ms Gudger.

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