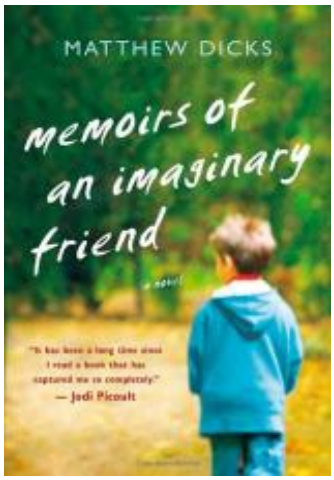
Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend

by Matthew Dicks



About the Book

Imaginary friend Budo narrates this heartwarming story of love, loyalty, and the power of the imagination?the perfect read for anyone who has ever had a friend . . . real or otherwise

Budo is lucky as imaginary friends go. He's been alive for more than five years, which is positively ancient in the world of imaginary friends. But Budo feels his age, and thinks constantly of the day when eight-year-old Max Delaney will stop believing in him. When that happens, Budo will disappear.

Max is different from other children. Some people say that he has Asperger?s Syndrome, but most just say he?s ?on the spectrum.? None of this matters to Budo, who loves Max and is charged with protecting him from the class bully, from awkward situations in the cafeteria, and even in the bathroom stalls. But he can?t protect Max from Mrs. Patterson, the woman who works with Max in the Learning Center and who believes that she alone is qualified to care for this young boy.

When Mrs. Patterson does the unthinkable and kidnaps Max, it is up to Budo and a team of imaginary friends to save him?and Budo must ultimately decide which is more important: Max?s happiness or Budo's very existence.

Narrated by Budo, a character with a unique ability to have a foot in many worlds?imaginary, real, child, and adult? **Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend**touches on the truths of life, love, and friendship as it races to a heartwarming . . . and heartbreaking conclusion.

Discussion Guide

1. ?I am not imaginary,? says Budo. Do you believe him?

2. Max?s mother wants desperately to understand what is wrong with Max, while his father wants desperately to believe that there is nothing wrong. Who do you side with?

3. Budo seems to watch a lot of television. How do his viewing habits shape his perception of the world?

4. Budo straddles many worlds: child and adult; real and imaginary. Could the same be said for other characters in this book?

5. Mrs. Patterson did a terrible thing. But is there any way in which her actions may have been beneficial to Max?

6. What does Budo fear most? Why does he think that Max?s mom and dad are his biggest danger?

7. The author, Matthew Dicks, is an elementary school teacher. In what ways can you see the influence of this ?day job? on his writing?

8. Did you have an imaginary friend as a child, and if so, which imaginary friend from the book most resembles your imaginary friend? If you didn?t have an imaginary friend, do you wish you had one? Who from the book would you have chosen to be your imaginary friend?

9. What is your interpretation of the epilogue of the book?

10. Did you ever have a teacher as important to you as Mrs. Gosk is to Max and Budo? Who was your Mrs. Gosk?

11. Mrs. Gosk is an actual teacher in the school where Matthew Dicks also teaches. What do you think about the idea that the author used an actual person in the novel?

12. How did you feel about Mrs. Patterson? Did you see her as a villain? Did you feel empathy for her?

13. Excluding Budo, which of the imaginary friends in the book was your favorite and why?

14. Budo describe Max as the bravest person on the planet because he has to go out into the world every day being himself even though no one likes him. Do you agree?

15. If the book is adapted for film, how do you think the role of Budo should be cast? By an actor (and if so, whom?) or through some form of animation?

Author Bio

Matthew Dicks is a writer and elementary school teacher. His articles have been published in the *Hartford Courant*, and he has been a featured author at the Books on the Nightstand retreat. He is also a Moth storyteller and a two-time StorySLAM champion. Dicks is the author of such novels as MEMOIRS OF AN IMAGINARY FRIEND, SOMETHING MISSING and UNEXPECTEDLY MILO. He lives in Newington, Connecticut, with his wife, Elysha, and their children, Clara and Charlie.

Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend

by Matthew Dicks

Publication Date: August 21, 2012

Genres: Fiction

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Press

ISBN-10: 125000621X

ISBN-13: 9781250006219