
HALF the CHILD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Heartbreaking, hilarious, emotionally raw, and still packed with suspense on every page... a laugh-through-your-tears kind of novel.”

— **Katherine Taylor**, author of *Valley Fever* and *Rules for Saying Goodbye*

“Smart, funny, and deeply moving, *Half the Child* offers a fresh and refreshing take on the perils of parenthood and the healing of damaged families.”

— **Judith Stone**, author of *When She Was White: The True Story of a Family Divided By Race*

HALF THE CHILD

By **William J. McGee**

Acclaimed debut novel explores custody, child abduction, and parental alienation — from a devoted dad’s perspective

* *Semi-finalist, James Jones First Novel Competition*
* *Semi-finalist, William Faulkner Creative Writing Competition*

HALF THE CHILD, a new novel by William J. McGee, tackles the rarely explored and volatile issues of child abduction and parental alienation—when one parent attempts to turn a child against the other parent. The story unfolds over four consecutive summers in the lives of Michael Mullen, a LaGuardia Airport air traffic controller, and his son Benjamin, who ages from 2½ to 5½. The novel chronicles the separation, divorce, custody battle—and heart-wrenching abduction—that threaten to tear apart father and son. Through it all, Mike steadfastly refuses to consider a life where he’d live apart from Ben. Ultimately, father and son write their own love story.

Tens of millions of fathers and mothers—and their children—are victims of parental alienation, which can take a variety of painful forms. Awareness of this issue of “family bond obstruction” has been raised recently in courtrooms, through celebrity break-ups, and by documentary filmmakers.

William J. McGee, author of **HALF THE CHILD**, received an MFA in Fiction from Columbia University and has taught undergraduate and graduate Creative Writing at Hofstra University. An award-winning nonfiction writer as well, McGee is the author of *Attention All Passengers* (HarperCollins, 2012), an exposé of the airline industry. He's following that up with *AirFear*, a scripted television drama now in development. McGee has worked in airline flight operations management at LaGuardia Airport and served in the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary. He is a native of Queens, where most of the novel is set. McGee now lives in Connecticut, where he is working on another novel. He is also a devoted father.

HALF THE CHILD

A Novel by William J. McGee

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“An irresistible page-turner but at the same time thoughtful, precise, and wise in its observations...It may be the best novel I've ever read about a father's love.”

— **Tom De Haven, author of *It's Superman!* and the Derby Dugan Trilogy**

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