

To All the Little Blamers Out There!
~Love, Julia

BOYS TOWN
Press

Boys Town, Nebraska

But It's **Not** **My Fault**



Written by
**Julia
Cook**



Illustrated by
**Anita
DuFalla**



But It's Not My Fault

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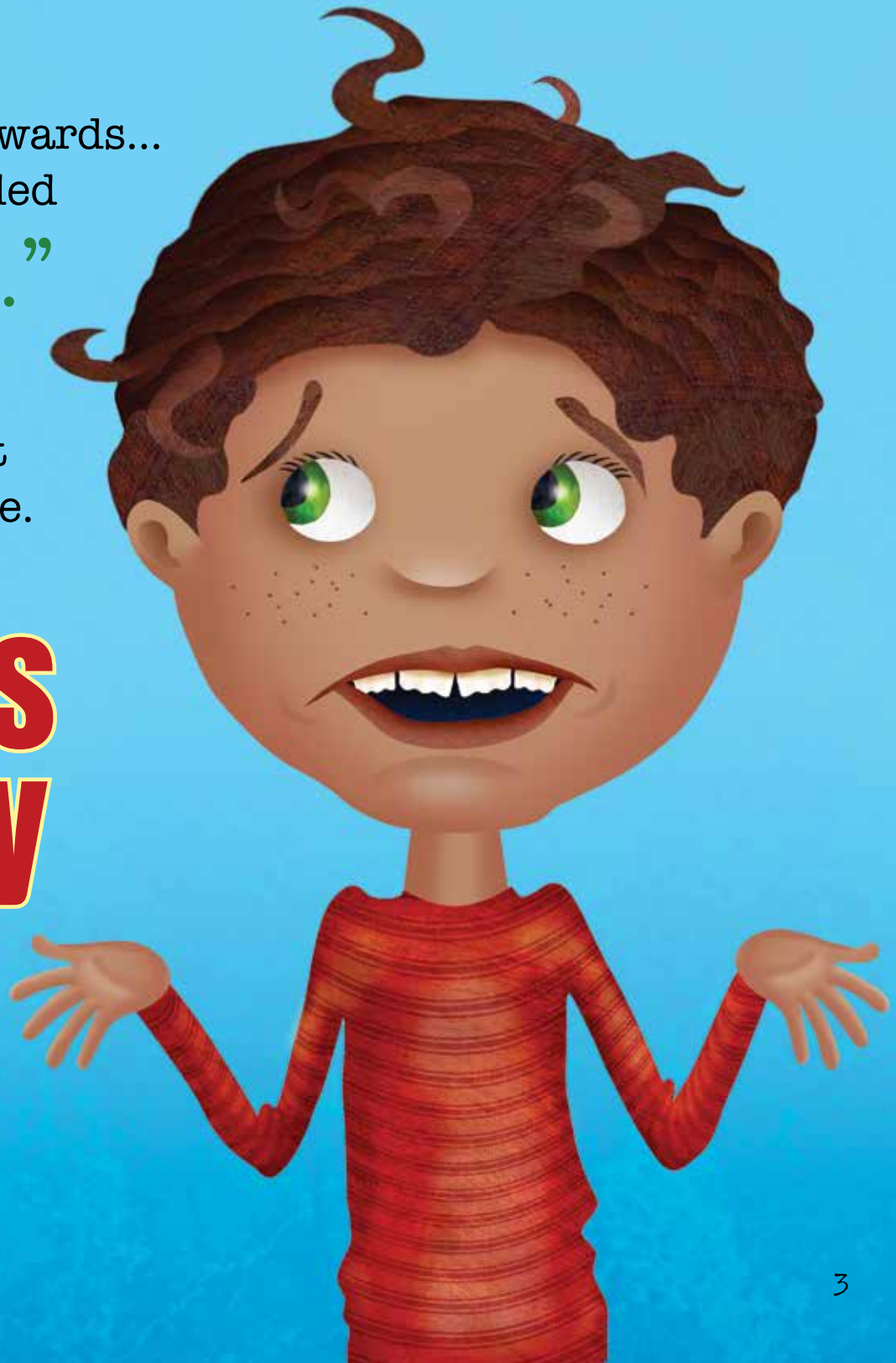


Boys Town Press is the publishing division of Boys Town,
a national organization serving children and families.

My name is
Norman David Edwards...
but I like to be called
“Noodle.”


Sometimes things
happen to me that
get me into trouble.

**But it's
not my
fault.**



Things just aren't the way they should be.
I feel like everybody's always picking on me!
I always get blamed, and it's not my fault.
Seems like I'm the only one that ever gets caught!





Yesterday, I didn't get my math homework done. So, this morning, I couldn't turn it in on time like everybody else.

**But it
wasn't
my fault!**

Last night I had to go to my big brother's basketball game, and it went into overtime, and by the time I finally got home, it was too late to do my homework so my **MOM** made me go to bed.

After morning recess, we all headed to the library to work on our science reports. I'm pretty sure recess wasn't long enough, because I still had a lot of extra energy. I felt kinda twitchy. On the way down the hall, I jumped up high and tried to touch the light. On the way down, **MARY GOLD** got in my airspace and her head hit my arm.





"Ouch!"

Teacher... Noodle hit me!"

"But it's not my fault!"

*I felt kinda twitchy,
and my legs needed to jump.
It wasn't my fault, my arm did it.
And it was just a little bump."*

I got sent to the end of the line... **RATs!**

Pages 8-31 are not included in this excerpt.

CHILDREN/LIFE SKILLS

Ages 5-11



His name is Norman David Edwards... but he likes to be called “Noodle.”

The poor guy is having a really rough day at school. Nothing is going right, **but it's certainly not his fault!** It's Mary's fault. Her head was in HIS airspace. It's the media specialist's fault, too. She made the rule about turning in overdue library books before you can borrow another. And it was Ross's fault. He tripped him. And Georgie's fault. He blabbed first.

Noodle blames all his troubles on anyone and everyone but himself. He certainly can't be blamed for having a horrible day, can he? Well, his mom thinks it's high time Noodle take a little responsibility, too.

**“YOU are responsible for the things you do.
For your choices at home and your choices at school!”**

Is Noodle ever going to learn to accept responsibility for his poor choices, or will he keep on playing the blame game?

The *Responsible Me!* series for young readers features entertaining stories filled with life lessons about being honest, staying organized, and accepting responsibility.

“Julia has once again used her extraordinary talent to create a character, Noodle, all kids can recognize. Noodle is in all sorts of trouble... but he's not at fault, or so he says. The story teaches children how to accept responsibility, which is vital to their character development and success. I especially love that Noodle learns from his mistakes AND realizes that tomorrow is a new day. But It's Not My Fault is a must-have for anyone who works with children. I'm so excited to add this book to my counseling library.”

– Jennifer H. Adams, School Counselor, Lexington, SC



JULIA COOK, a former educator and school counselor, has written many books for children and teachers, including the popular page-turners *I Just Don't Like the Sound of No!*, *Making Friends Is an Art!*, and *The Worst Day of My Life EVER!* Her activity guides for teachers offer classroom-ready fun to reinforce the life lessons shared in her storybooks. Among her many awards, Julia has received the *Association for Educational Publishers Distinguished Achievement Award*, and her books have been honored by The National Parenting Center and Mom's Choice Awards.

ANITA DUFALLA is an award-winning illustrator, editorial art director, and university adjunct faculty member in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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JULIA COOK

