



## Cruise Control (Stuck in Neutral)

By Terry Trueman

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### Cruise Control (Stuck in Neutral) By Terry Trueman

How sick is this: I'm the major jock-stud in high school, but my brother has the brain of a badminton birdie and a body to match. I've got everything and he's got nothing. I'm a three-year, three-sport letterman and Shawn can't even stand up! Like I said, sick, huh?

It's hard to be a brother to someone who doesn't even know you're there. How can you talk to him when he can't understand a thing you say? How can you listen to him when he can't speak a word? How can you love him when he's so messed up, he can't love you back? And how can you have a life of your own when your father bailed on the family, leaving you to be the "man of the house"?

Fueled by rage at what has happened to his family, Paul is ready to explode. And he is haunted by something even worse—something he can never tell anyone. It is something he will have to face if he is to have any hope of a future at all. While Cruise Control is a companion to Terry Trueman's Printz Honor book, Stuck in Neutral, it is the completely independent story of a family's "other" son—the one who is healthy, gifted, normal. It is a courageously hopeful story told with power, compassion, and humor.

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## **Cruise Control (Stuck in Neutral) By Terry Trueman Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

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Gr. 7-10. In this companion to *Stuck in Neutral* (2000), Trueman revisits the story of Shawn, the developmentally disabled teen whose point of view made that first novel so memorable. This time the narrator is Shawn's older brother, Paul, a gifted athlete. The irony of the family situation is not lost on Paul ("what a sadistic madman God must be to have thrown Shawn and me into the same family"). While Paul loves his brother, he hates their father, who, unable to cope, has abandoned the family. But Paul, like Shawn, is a victim of circumstance, and Trueman does a passionately convincing job portraying a boy who feels trapped and suffocated by responsibilities he never asked to shoulder. As he puts it, his life is "like a car roaring down the freeway in cruise control . . . and I can't even slow down." Only at the end does the story stray briefly into wish-fulfillment territory, but by that time, readers will be so invested in Paul's survival that few will quibble. *Michael Cart*

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### About the Author

Terry Trueman grew up in the northern suburbs of Seattle, Washington. He attended the University of Washington, where he received his BA in creative writing. He also has an MS in applied psychology and an MFA in creative writing, both from Eastern Washington University.

Terry is also the author of *Stuck in Neutral* and its companion novel, *Cruise Control; Hurricane; 7 Days at the Hot Corner; No Right Turn; and Inside Out*.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### **Dorothy Guillen:**

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or even read a book entitled *Cruise Control (Stuck in Neutral)*? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have other opinion?

##### **Laura Mason:**

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Control (Stuck in Neutral), you may tell your family, friends and also soon about yours guide. Your knowledge can inspire different ones, make them reading a book.

**Suzanne Cicero:**

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love Cruise Control (Stuck in Neutral), you can enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout people. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

**Annette Dixon:**

Reading a book to become new life style in this season; every people loves to go through a book. When you go through a book you can get a large amount of benefit. When you read textbooks, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information upon it. The information that you will get depend on what types of book that you have read. In order to get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, such us novel, comics, as well as soon. The Cruise Control (Stuck in Neutral) provide you with new experience in examining a book.

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