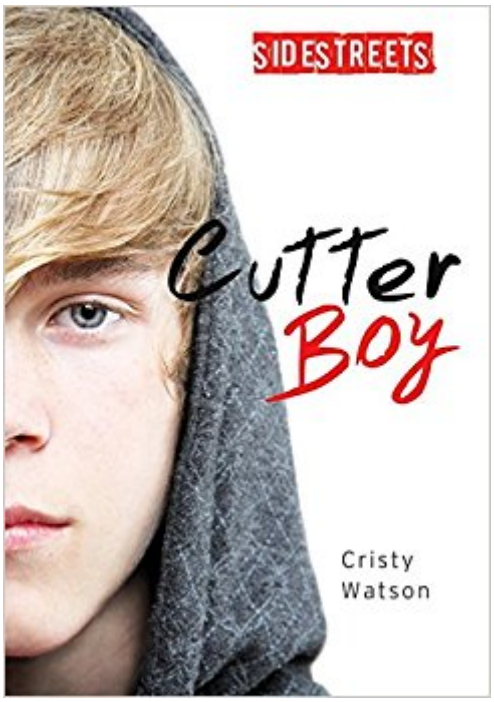
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Cutter Boy (Lorimer SideStreets)



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Synopsis

Bullied at school and ignored at home, Travis has a secret: cutting himself with a razor blade is the only thing that lets him control the pain in his life and find some peace. When he becomes friends with Chyvonne, a new girl at school, he doesn’t know how to get close to her without revealing his secret and making himself even more vulnerable. Spending time with Chyvonne spurs Travis to try to discover why his mother can’t seem to face his very existence. It’s only when he learns about the art form of paper cutting that he realizes there might be other ways to make himself feel adrenalin-fueled and in control.Although self-harm through cutting is a problem usually associated with teenage girls, many young men are involved in different sorts of self-injury. This story explores a teenager’s motivations for cutting and the options for overcoming the need to self-injure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Thoughtful and provoking without insulting high schoolers with babyish language." (Elaine Paparonis, Educator 2016-01-18)"Wow! Simple language and short chapters make the emotional impact of this book all the more powerful. I liked that it took on a tough issue in a real way, and that while the ending was hopeful, it didn’t try to tie up all the loose ends." (Gillian Wiseman, Librarian 2016-01-15)"With well developed characters and a fast moving plot, Cutter Boy tackles the very current teenage problems of bullying, fitting, in, and self mutilation head on in a caring, realistic manner. This book should appeal to middle and high school students. Its low reading level (3.1)

makes it accessible to a wide range of students. I wouldn’t hesitate to recommend Cutter Boy to students." (Judy Gottschalk, Educator 2016-01-17)"I was amazed at how much I was drawn into the story ... I had of course heard of teens who were ’cutters’ and had even seen some specials on TV about it but I never truly ’got it’ until I read this book ... As a reader you could truly feel the pain that Travis was in that caused him to cut in the first place." (Debbie Griffith, NetGalley Reviewer 2016-03-23)"It’s written with clarity, honest and definitely a good motivational book for the young adults. It may not be filled with excitement but it depicted the truthful, genuine emotional roller coaster of a troubled teenager." (Susan Lee, Sholee.net and NetGalley Reviewer 2016-03-10)"I found this Hi-Lo title to be very engaging and well-paced. The topic of teen cutting is important, and I think it is well-addressed in the main character Travis in terms of possible reasons for cutting, response when a classmate finds out, and some references to getting help . . . There is much that is good in this book, it tackles a touchy subject that needs addressing, and it is an easy read. Recommended for those reasons." (Carlyn Morenus, Librarian 2016-01-18)"What first grabbed me about this book was that the subject of cutting fills a gap in teen literature. One often sees books on drugs or different forms of abuse, but self-harm does not seem to be represented very often...Cutter Boy is definitely one of the better high interest reads out there today, and it fills a very important gap in teen literature...Recommended." (Stephanie Johnson, CM Magazine 2016-06-03)

CRISTY WATSON is passionate about teaching and writing. She loves living near the beach in White Rock, B.C., where she hosts an Open Mic at her local coffee shop. She is the award-winning author of three hi/lo novels -- Benched, Living Rough and On Cue -- published by Orca.

Bullied constantly at school and ignored by his mom all throughout his life, Travis found solace, adrenaline, satisfaction and peace through bleeding. Hidden behind his mattress was a razor-sharp blade which he slide and cut on various parts of his body - wrists, arms, shoulders and thighs. Travis was a mess, ridiculed, unwanted.Travis was a cutter boy. And boy, what an excruciating pain he must have been living in.When new girl, Haitian-Canadian Chyvonne became his partner in English and companion in PE, Travis’ life took on a new spin. She made him smile, grin, cook Meatballs and mashed potatoes and look forward to the next day at school. And soon he found an alternate way to cut out his frustrations. He became a paper artist. He was able to channel his anger through paper cutting and became a significant mess.But his mom still didn’t talk to him nor even tried to get near him. He was like a plague, a virus, a disease she never wanted to encounter or get in contact with.I was really so absorbed in Travis’ life and struggles that I didn’t realize I was able to

finish this book in about an hour. I couldn’t help but cringe every time Travis cut his skin with a sharp blade. I get hurt when he hurts himself. I get hurt when the bullies punch him in the face. I get hurt when he sees his friend talking to the enemy. I get hurt when his own mother can’t even look at him but she can be very charismatic when his son’s girlfriend talks to her. I get hurt for him.This book is an eye opener. First, I didn’t realize guys could do such thing as cutting themselves. With girls, I have encountered many circumstances where this had happened. But rarely in guys.Second, I was blown away about the people who use blades and paper to create a masterpiece. ’Tis my first time to learn about Beatrice Coron and her paper cut designs. I even googled all the paper artists mentioned in the book. They were all astounding!And lastly, I didn’t know there are people who resorted to not giving a damn or plainly ignoring their own family members because they are incapable of coping.Cutter Boy is a powerful book. Cristy Watson wrote a story that felt like a knife twisting your guts until you could no longer feel anything. I was emotionally unprepared with this kind of pain. I felt tortured, yes, but in the end, I was able to breathe.

[I received a free digital edition from NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review]ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Cutter BoyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is a book that went straight to my heart. I admit I was scared to read it because the emotions it contains hidden behind the pages are overwhelming. This can be the story of a teenager in our days, the message is not to judge, but to understand and just be there for when they are ready to share a burden.Travis has had a poor relationship, or better, has had very few interactions with his parents. He doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t understand why he is ignored by them; he struggles for their attention but doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t receive any reaction. In a life that is voided of any feelings, he resumes to self-inflicted pain using a razor blade. His bullying at school doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t help much either. Still, when a new girl comes to his school, he feels a strong attraction and finds a courage he did not know he possessed. With help from one of his teachers and his new friend he enters a world of possibilities and discovers a new way to express his feelings.I fell I am not well prepared emotionally, nor my mind is mature enough to judge this enormous amount of feelings. Still I must agree to the authorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s dedication lines and even state that this book should be a must for teachers, friends and parents. We are all influenced by what happens around us, there are events that shape us in more ways that we can imagine. A child or teenager is even more susceptible and the effects can be even more dramatic.To the end of the book, the reader will understand the motive behind his parentsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ attitude. This will be a turning point for Travis and his family. To be honest, I see him as a hero. Yes, he is a hero! Because in the end he is stronger than those who

should be (for him). He is strong and wise enough to enter the world of true artists and understand its enormous power.I feel the need to write more, but my words are small in comparison to the way ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Cutter BoyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• made me feel. I am now rich, with joy, gratitude towards the author for sharing this story with us small readers and I feel less superficial as a human being. Thank you!

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