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Flying Lessons & Other Stories



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Synopsis

Whether it is basketball dreams, family fiascos, first crushes, or new neighborhoods, this bold anthologyÃ¢â ¬â •written by the best childrenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s authorsÃ¢â ¬â •celebrates the uniqueness and universality in all of us. Ã Â In a partnership with We Need Diverse Books, industry giants Kwame Alexander, Soman Chainani, Matt de la PeÃƒÂ a, Tim Federle, Grace Lin, Meg Medina, Walter Dean Myers, Tim Tingle, and Jacqueline Woodson join newcomer Kelly J. Baptist in a story collection that is as humorous as it is heartfelt. This impressive group of authors has earned among them every major award in childrenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s publishing and popularity as New York Times bestsellers. From these distinguished authors come ten distinct and vibrant stories.
Ã¢â ¬Å“ThereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s plenty of magic in this collection to go around.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist, Starred Ã¢â ¬Å“A natural for middle school classrooms and libraries.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus Reviews, Starred Ã¢â ¬Å“Inclusive, authentic, and eminently readable.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •School Library Journal, Starred Ã¢â ¬Å“Thought provoking and wide-ranging . . . should not be missed.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly, Starred Ã¢â ¬Å“Read more books by these authors.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Bulletin, Starred

Book Information

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Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #7,564 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States #16 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Story Collections #24 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational
Age Range: 8 - 12 years
Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 4Ã¢â ¬â œ6Ã¢â ¬â •This anthology, published in partnership with We Need Diverse Books, presents 10 short stories from a stellar list of authors: Kwame Alexander, Matt de la PeÃƒÂ a, Jacqueline Woodson, Soman Chainani, Grace Lin, Walter Dean Myers, Tim Federle, Meg Medina, Tim Tingle, and Kelly Baptist. De la PeÃƒÂ a's linguistically grooving basketball story will have readers swaying in their seats. Verbal roadblocks are hurled at the protagonist from the street-smart players inside the gym: he's too young, too skinny, too Mexican. His resolve yields multiple life lessons on and off the court. Woodson's haunting "Main Street" follows Celeste, the only girl of color in an all-white New Hampshire town, and her friendship with lifetime resident Treetop. Both are suffering from different losses: Treetop's mother has recently passed away, and Celeste isn't accepted in her new home. Their warm connection soothes their mutual pain and promises to last even after Celeste and her mother decide to return to familiar and welcoming New York. Each tale offers realistic and fully developed characters with whom a wide range of readers will identify. VERDICT Inclusive, authentic, and eminently readable, this collection of short stories is an excellent addition for libraries and classrooms.Ã¢â ¬â •Diane McCabe, John Muir Elementary, Santa Monica, CA

Ã¢â ¬Å“ThereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s plenty of magic in this collection to go around.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist, Starred Ã¢â ¬Å“A natural for middle school classrooms and libraries, this strong collection should find eager readers.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus Reviews, Starred Ã¢â ¬Å“Inclusive, authentic, and eminently readable, this collection of short stories is an excellent addition for libraries and classrooms.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •School Library Journal, Starred Ã¢â ¬Å“Thought provoking and wide-ranging, this first anthology from WNDB should not be missed.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly, Starred Ã¢â ¬Å“Whether or not middle-schoolers read the afterword . . . they are sure to agree that they need to read more books by these authors, whose storytelling styles and genuine feel for adolescent struggles and triumphs will inspire them to seek out their other work.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Bulletin, Starred

This book is a treasure chest bursting with gems. From funny to heartrending, they pack a wallop of feelings, the most palpable being hope.

I've been working with my middle schooler on getting through this book. When he told me that most (all?) of his friends found it boring and difficult I was skeptical given the high rating.That was until we sat together and started reading it together.If you like stories that don't go anywhere. Stories

that, while thankfully short, still seem to drag on forever. Stories that are written more to support a narrative of inclusion and social mission than the actual enjoyment -- well, then I guess this would be a good book.Let’s take one of the better short stories: Sol Painting, Inc., about a young girl, Merci, who wants to take over her father’s painting business, and doesn’t much love school. She’s smart, resourceful and interesting. Her father "surprises" her and her brother that they will be painting the private school for free in exchange for her tuition. Fast forward and some girls at the school accidentally mess up the paint on a door, don’t apologize and Merci is mad that her father didn’t yell at them. Until her brother explains that if dad had yelled, she might have lost her scholarship. And... that’s it.This is the "hard lesson" in life she has to learn.It doesn’t get much better.I think this is the sort of book that some adults feel that kids should read -- whether they enjoy it or not.

I absolutely adored this anthology. Each of these stories features a marginalized kid and the stories address and incorporate their identity without being exclusively an "issue" story. They were all enjoyable reads with thought-provoking themes. My personal favorites were The Difficult Path by Grace Lin, in which a poor servant girl who loves to read finds an unexpected way to use her skill; Secret Samantha by Tim Federle, which involves a queer/gender-nonconforming kid developing a crush on the new girl in their class and drawing her name for Secret Santa; and Flying Lessons by Soman Chainani, in which a shy Indian American boy goes on vacation to Europe with his grandmother and finds unexpected friends.

This was a fantastic short story collection for middle grade readers! Stories were unique & diverse and offered a wide range of characters & subject matter! I really hope that this collection is not the first of its kind! A few stories seemed to drag and throw off my pace - hence the 4 stars instead of 5! Can’t wait to book talk this title with my fifth graders!

I bought this as a present for one of my daughter’s Middle School teachers. She had asked for this title and was thrilled to get it.

A great mix of short stories. Easy to read, with plenty of thoughts for the head and "feels" for the heart. Perfect for Middle Schoolers or advanced 5th Graders.

This book packs a whole lot of feeling in the short stories from empathy to happiness. It also talks

about diversity, which is good for young readers. I liked this book because it talks about situations you might be in and how to overcome them. I think authors shouldwrite more of these diverse books to teach young reading about it. This is a very thoughtful, good book!-Alexander H. 11 years old

I love middle grade fiction, and these stories are by some of the best authors out there. The multi-cultural nature of the book is a bonus.

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