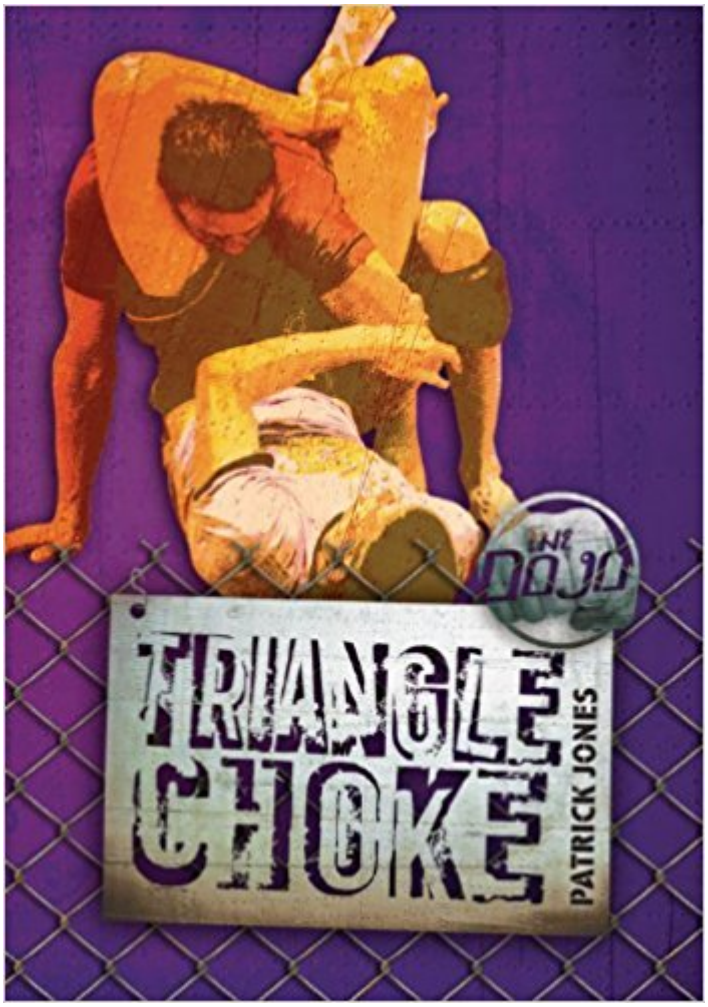
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Triangle Choke (The Dojo)



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Synopsis

Hector’s father used to be a Golden Gloves champion boxer. Now he’s an unemployed alcoholic. Hector is trying to stay focused on winning his first amateur MMA fight, but it’s not easy when his dad is MIA, his mom is against his training, and his best friend and girlfriend have betrayed him. Can he find the right moves to win over his opponents inside the cage and out?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With nods to the traditional and popular predecessors of boxing and wrestling, Jones adds to the Dojo series a heavy dose of drama. Hector, on the verge of 18 and also his first big mixed martial arts fight, has a lot going on. His fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s alcoholism has split the family apart, his girlfriend and his best friend choose each other when his commitment to MMA leaves little time for socializing, and his mother disapproves of his passion, constantly worrying about potential injuries. Hector bears all of this well, and he maintains his focus. But sometimes he finds himself giving in to his fears and rage. Flashing back to as far back as eight years prior, the narrative uncovers HectorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s motivation inside the cage. Jones posits the titular strategic move as a symbol of HectorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s adversity on all sides, including the battle he must wage with himself. A worthy addition to MMA-based youth titles, and particularly newbie friendly, with a glossary of MMA terms and an appendix of weight classes as back matter. Grades 7-10. --Courtney Jones

Patrick Jones is the author of six novels for teens, most recently the supernatural tome The Tear Collector. His 2007 novel Chasing Tail Lights was a finalist for the Minnesota Book Award, while his first novel Things Change was a runner-up for Ohio Teen Buckeye Book Award. A former librarian for teenagers, Jones received lifetime achievement awards from the American Library Association and the Catholic Library Association in 2006. While he lives in Minneapolis, he still considers Flint, Michigan, his hometown. He can be found on the web at connectingya.com and in front of his television on Monday nights watching wrestling.

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) appealed to fifteen-year-old Hector Morales big time, but he had to convince his parents to let him train. Mr. Hodge's Missouri MMA dojo could probably use a middleweight striker who'd learned from his father when he was young. That same father had pulled away from the family when he started pulling on that beer. There was a lot of friction over the possibility of Hector becoming a fighter like his father, Victor. When Victor claimed that his "parents squashed my dreams," it looked like the MMA dojo was in Hector's future. After a couple of years into training, he was getting ready to fight his first amateur bout in the cage.Hector once had a father, a best friend, and a girlfriend named Rosie, but all of that had somehow drifted away. Now he had the dojo and the best fighters, Nong, Meghan, and Jackson, had become a part of his life. "The cage is hard, cold, and unforgiving," Hector thought to himself, "Just like I've become." Those "fast and furious" hands could just take him places one day, but in the meantime he had to practice. He worked at a garage to make money for the tuition. Hector would work full-time when he got out of school and could hardly wait to get into that cage when he hit eighteen.Their dojo was going to be going up against the MMA Academy. Hector was all psyched about fighting a new opponent. That was until he learned who he had to fight. It was Eddie Garcia, his one-time best friend who had stolen his girl, Rosie, right out from under him. Nong Vang was way confident that he was going to win his bout. "Just wait until we spar with those guys. I'll show all of you I'm ready." Yeah, Nong figured he'd be on "Fight Night" and into UFC before any of them. Hector's first amateur fight and the UFC all seemed so far away in comparison to what he had to deal with. Could he really face Eddie like a man or was he going to wash out?This is an exciting new series about MMM that young readers will love. Mixed martial arts has been increasingly popular with people of all ages. Hector is struggling with personal issues, including ones that threaten to tear his family apart. His personal struggles don't overwhelm the story, but instead are woven in quite nicely and add to the plot. Young fans will learn a lot of hints when Mr. Hodge instructs his students by saying such things as "You use your opponents' aggressiveness against him." It wasn't action-packed, but has a nice flow

and is of high interest. This short story will appeal to all kinds of readers from the reluctant one to those interested in the sport.THE DOJO:Body ShotHead KickSide ControlTriangle ChokeThis book courtesy of the publisher.

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