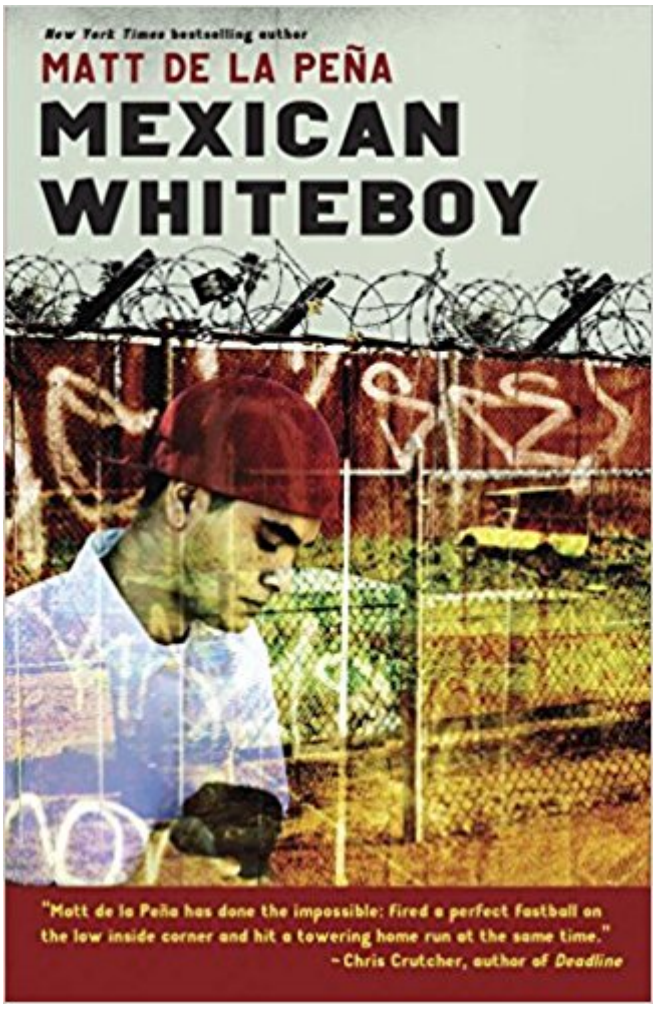
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Mexican WhiteBoy



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Synopsis

Newbery Award-winning author Matt de la PeÃƒÂ a's Mexican Whiteboy is a story of friendship, baseball, acceptance, and the struggle to find your identity in a world of definitions.Danny's tall and skinny. Even though heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s not built, his arms are long enough to give his pitch a power so fierce any college scout would sign him on the spot. Ninety-five mile an hour fastball, but the boyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s not even on a team. Every time he gets up on the mound he loses it.Ã Â Ã Â But at his private school, they donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t expect much else from him. DannyÃ¢â ¬â„¢ s brown. Half-Mexican brown. And growing up in San Diego that close to the border means everyone else knows exactly who he is before he even opens his mouth. Before they find out he canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t speak Spanish, and before they realize his mom has blond hair and blue eyes, theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve got him pegged. But it works the other way too. And DannyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s convinced itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s his whiteness that sent his father back to Mexico. Ã Â Ã Â ThatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s why heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s spending the summer with his dadÃ¢â ¬â„¢s family. Only, to find himself, he may just have to face the demons he refuses to see--the demons that are right in front of his face. And open up to a friendship he never saw coming."[A] first-rate exploration of self-identity."-School Library Journal"Unique in its gritty realism and honest portrayal of the complexities of life for inner-city teens...De la PeÃƒÂ a poignantly conveys the message that, despite obstacles, you must believe in yourself and shape your own future."-The Horn Book Magazine"De la PeÃƒÂ a does an excellent job...Readers see themselves in Danny, Uno, and Sofia, whether or not they share their backgrounds. In the end, they find themselves wanting the characters to succeed."-VOYA"The baseball scenes...sizzle like Danny's fastball...Danny's struggle to find his place will speak strongly to all teens, but especially to those of mixed race."-Booklist"De la PeÃƒÂ a blends sports and street together in a satisfying search for personal identity."-Kirkus Reviews"Deftly explores the subject of interracial mixing."-Multicultural Review"Matt de la Pena has done the impossible; fired a perfect fastball on the low inside corner and hit a towering home run at the same time. A tough, funny, edgy, hopeful story about friendship under fire and love in its true sense."-Chris Crutcher, author of Deadline and Whale Talk"Mexican Whiteboy...shows that no matter what obstacles you face, you can still reach your dreams with a positive attitude. This is more than a book about a baseball player--this is a book about life."-Curtis Granderson, New York Mets outfielderAn ALA-YALSA Top Ten Best Book for Young AdultsA Junior Library Guild SelectionFrom the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 UpÃ¢â ¬â •Danny is constantly out of place, or at least that's how he sees it. He has a gift for pitching-his lanky arms can throw a baseball fast enough to get noticed by any coach or college scout-but he loses his cool on the mount. His mother is a blue-eyed blonde, but the color of his skin sets him apart at the private school he attends in San Diego, where he isn't "white enough." He isn't "Mexican enough" for the barrio either though. He looks Mexican so everyone assumes he speaks Spanish, but he doesn't. He can throw a baseball 95 miles per hour but isn't on any team. All in all, he is out of place. When he spends the summer with relatives in his dad's old neighborhood, Danny becomes convinced that if he saves up enough money he can go to Mexico and find his father. Danny is desperate to find his place in this world and develop a sense of self, longings that will ring true with any teen. Narrator Herny Leyva effortlessly eases among various tones, accents, and languages, creating an audio experience with a lot of depth. This is an essential purchase for communities serving Latinos, urban, and reluctant readers.Ã¢â ¬â •Katie Llera, Bound Brook High School, NJ --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Biracial Danny Lopez doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t think he fits anywhere. He feels like an outsider with his Mexican fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s family, with whom he is staying for the summer, and at his mostly white school, and he wonders if his confusion drove his father away. He also struggles with his obsession for baseball; a gifted player with a blazing fastball, he lacks control of his game. With the support of a new friend and his caring cousins, Danny begins to deal with the multitude of problems in his life, which include his tendency to cut himself, an unusual characteristic in a male YA protagonist. The author juggles his many plotlines well, and the portrayal of DannyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s friends and

neighborhood is rich and lively. Where the story really lights up is in the baseball scenes, which sizzle like DannyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fastball. A violent scene, left somewhat unresolved, is the catalyst for him to confront the truth about his father. DannyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s struggle to find his place will speak strongly to all teens but especially to those of mixed race. Grades 9-12. --Lynn Rutan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I loved this book. I was reading another YA book at the same time with my English classes, but I liked this one enough that I abandoned the first book and finished this one first. I look forward to reading other books by this author.

I loved this book when I was in high school and lined to have this book. I expected a torn up book because of price but upon arrival every page was intact and just add I remember it from 8 almost 9 years ago

Shipped very fast, came in brand new and was very cheap. If I got the chance, would buy one for a friend.

I loved this book I couldn't put it down once I started reading it warning there is a decent amount of swearing in it

My 12 year old son enjoyed reading & this was on our school's 7th grade reading list.

A definite read for high school age students through adult. I just happened to pick this book in a high school classroom where I worked. I read a few pages and I was hooked! It's not the type of book I would typically read, so it was surprising page turner. I really hope there is a sequel!!!!

Wonderful, engaging story about family and identity.

I met Matt de la Pena at a conference, and this books is well recommended and lives up to the hype. It shipped quickly and in great condition. de la Pena's books are very hard to find in my area, and having access on really helped.

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