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Draw The Line



Synopsis

After a hate crime occurs in his small Texas town, Adrian Piper must discover his own power, decide how to use it, and know where to draw the line in this stunning debut novel exquisitely illustrated by the author. Adrian Piper is used to blending into the background. He may be a talented artist, a sci-fi geek, and gay, but at his Texas high school those traits would only bring him the worst kind of attention. In fact, the only place he feels free to express himself is at his drawing table, crafting a secret world through his own Renaissance-art-inspired superhero, Graphite. But in real life, when a shocking hate crime flips his world upside down, Adrian must decide what kind of person he wants to be. Maybe it's time to not be so invisible after all—no matter how dangerous the risk.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 590 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 528 pages

Publisher: Margaret K. McElderry Books (May 17, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481452800

ISBN-13: 978-1481452809

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #89,613 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Violence #74 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Violence #103 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Gay & Lesbian

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

In *Draw the Line*, 16 year old Adrian's voice grabbed me immediately. He is a self-proclaimed geek, artist and anonymous creator of gay, renaissance super- hero, Graphite. The solace he finds at his drawing table (more about this in a bit) is in stark contrast to Adrian's reality which consists of avoiding unwanted attention at school from football star and bully, Doug, and his toadies while protecting his secret; that he is gay. A violent scene erupts at a local hangout where Adrian and his

best friends Audrey (a plucky, fireball in Prada) and Trent (cool as hell, Goth, hysterically funny) witness something so surreal it's almost unfathomable. And now for Adrian, all the rules go up in smoke. There is SO much here that kept me turning pages. I particularly admired the way Laurent Linn tackled violence and fear and infused humor throughout the entire novel. I loved the brilliant, spot-on dialogue and Adrian's unexpected romance (ahhhh) plus the mystery that Adrian must solve. I also applaud the author's treatment of alcoholism, social media and standing up to violence. The emotionally charged artwork adds a unique dimension to Adrian's struggles. As a non-artist, I found it fascinating to experience the intimate depths of Adrian's psyche; fear, loss, friendship, love and triumph through his super-hero drawings that mirror his own life. So very powerful! From the moment you're drawn into Adrian's and Graphite's worlds, you will cheer for Adrian as he becomes the man he's meant to be. A multifaceted read! Beautifully done, Mr. Linn!

I loved this story and, especially, the artwork that goes along with it. The art is really (really!) well done, but more importantly it propels the story forward very authentically -- I can't imagine the story without it. I liked that there was very little teen angst going on in the story; that wears thin on me quickly. There's drama, sure, but no angst. The plot was a little predictable in some spots, but not horribly so. The characters and events were believable, very real (e.g. nobody was impossibly perfect). As a fellow non-conforming-to-stereotypes former gay teen (as in I'm no longer a teen, not that I'm no longer gay), I could completely relate to the main character, including the running inner dialogue, which was crazily accurate from my memories of that time. The interchanges between the friends felt very real, and the nascent interactions between the main character and a possible love interest were both awkward and adorable at the same time. In short: a great YA LGBTQ story, highly recommended. Slight spoiler here ----->The love story aspect was well done and the delicate parts of being an adolescent teen boy were handled appropriately. Where the two met was also handled well, though it was, perhaps, a little gratuitous/unnecessary. My only complaint, really, and a very minor one.

My daughter (13) really liked the book and made me read it too. I like the subjects (bullying, being gay, being different) but it is quite predictable. It almost seems like the author wanted to incorporate every touchy subject and on all occasions there is a happy ending. The drawings are nice but nothing exceptional and the writing itself is just okay. Nothing I would put on a literacy list for school, but good for reading on the side.

The story is ultimately predictable-gay teen coming of age and into his own. However the engaging characters compensate and there is a lot of nuance and layers to them that come through slowly and you would expect from a first person narrative

Draw the Line is a story of coming out, standing up, growing courage, and using art, not war, as a strategy. Laurent Linn's characters come to life, especially our protagonist, Adrian Piper. Adrian faces pressure on many fronts, and, like many high-school kids, has to weigh his friends' advice against his own instincts. Author Laurent Linn creates two worlds in this wonderful debut novel: a big suburban Texas high school, fraught with all the social complexities of high schools anywhere, and the secret graphic novel world of Graphite, Adrian's alter-ego superhero. Many pages of Adrian's art bring an extra dimension to the reading experience. When worlds collide is when the fun begins!

I've always admired Laurent Linn as an illustrator; he's created wonderful cover art for some of my favorite authors. So when I saw his byline on Draw the Line, I had to read it! I'm SO glad I did. Draw the Line tells a funny, touching story about gay-but-on-the-down-low Adrian Piper, an amazing comic artist who thinks of himself as invisible. The story takes us through the evolution of Adrian from his invisible, somewhat afraid self to someone who stands up for what is right, even if he's the only one standing. The character development is so strong that I wanted to cry when I finished reading the book (in two sittings - would have been one if I hadn't had a doctor appointment!). I adored all his characters, not just Adrian, but his friends Trent and Audrey, his classmates Kobe, Lev, Carmen and Kathleen, and even the bad guys were so wonderfully constructed I wanted to beat them up myself. Laurent Linn's debut YA is not just a great novel, it's also enhanced by "Adrian's" comic alter-ego, Graphite, and it's so beautiful to see the art incorporated alongside the eloquent text. If you only read one book this summer, make it Draw the Line.

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