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If I Ever Get Out Of Here



Synopsis

Now in paperback: The debut novel Laurie Halse Anderson praised for "fearlessly laying down the truth" about friendship, poverty, and the joys of rock 'n' roll. Lewis "Shoe" Blake is used to the joys and difficulties of life on the Tuscarora Indian reservation in 1975: the joking, the Fireball games, the snow blowing through his roof. What he's not used to is white people being nice to him -- people like George Haddonfield, whose family recently moved to town with the Air Force. As the boys connect through their mutual passion for music, especially the Beatles, Lewis has to lie more and more to hide the reality of his family's poverty from George. He also has to deal with the vicious Evan Reininger, who makes Lewis the special target of his wrath. But when everyone else is on Evan's side, how can he be defeated? And if George finds out the truth about Lewis's home -- will he still be his friend?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 870 (What's this?)

Paperback: 368 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (29 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #105,776 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century](#) #55 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty](#) #56 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Bullying](#)

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

America--or any nation--celebrates moments and events in its history that show that nation in a good light. Noting those moments is important, but so is noting that there is not a single story within any nation. Not everyone celebrates those same moments. Some people have a different view of those moments. Take, for example, the celebration of United States Bicentennial. In the opening

pages of his *If I Ever Get Out of Here*, Eric Gansworth's protagonist looks down the street at his elementary school. He imagines teachers getting ready to celebrate the U.S. Bicentennial, and notes that the teachers would be puzzled that the celebrations would not be a priority on the reservation. Knowing that Gansworth pokes at that celebration might turn you off. You might think that his book is an anti-American screed. Rest easy. It isn't. It also isn't one of those 'eat your veggies' kind of books...It is, however, a rare but honest look at culture and how people with vastly different upbringings and identities can clash. And dance. And laugh. Gansworth informs readers about cultural difference, but he doesn't beat anyone up as he does it. Within children's literature, there's a metaphor about how literature can be a mirror or a window. For some readers, the novel is a mirror of the reader's own life. For another reader, the novel is a window by which the first reader can peer in and see what someone else's life is like. Gansworth's debut novel is more than a mirror or a window. Reading *If I Ever Get Out of Here*, I sometimes felt it was a mirror. As a Native kid meeting non-Native kids from really different communities than my own, I identified with the things Lewis went through.

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