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Invisible Lines



Synopsis

If there's one thing I'm good at it's making people laugh because when I'm standing up I'm what you call a stand-up comedian, and when I'm sitting down, I'm just plain funny. Trevor is just plain funny, and he's lucky he is. Because this year he needs a sense of humor. Moving to a new home is hard enough the sign reads Hedley Gardens, but everyone calls these projects Deadly Gardens. And the move to a fancy new school is even harder all the kids from Deadly Gardens seem to be in the same classes and keep to themselves, but somehow Trevor's ended up in an advanced science class with kids who seem to have everything, and know everything, including how to please their strange new teacher. Someone else might just give up, but Trevor has plans. This is going to be his year. And he is going to use whatever he has, do whatever it takes, to make it at this new school. He may not have what these other kids have, but Trevor knows he's got some stuff to show. No one is better at juggling in soccer, and he knows he can draw he calls himself the Graffiti Guy. But Xander, a star in the classroom and on the soccer field, has other plans for Trevor. He doesn't like anyone trespassing on his turf and begins to sabotage Trevor at every opportunity. Who is going to believe Trevor over the school star? Is there any way that Trevor can achieve his goals against a guy who is as good at bullying as he is at everything else he does?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Trevor, a seventh-grader, lives in a tough, run-down housing project, but his school is in a rich

neighborhood nearby, and it is hard for him to fit in. He is thrilled to join the soccer team, even though he cannot afford cleats, and his spoiled, rich classmate, Xander, won't pass him the ball. With his father in jail and his mom searching for work, Trevor has to balance soccer practice with babysitting for his beloved, irritating younger siblings. A gifted artist, he finds escape from his life's pressures when he begins to keep a required notebook for science class, which he fills with drawings, facts, and observations. With its exciting mix of soccer, science, art, friends, and enemies, Trevor's first-person narrative will pull in readers, and the story's class differences, a topic infrequently addressed in youth fiction, dramatize the invisible lines of the title. Without heavy messages, Trevor's anger and tenderness are heartbreaking, and readers will appreciate that he is realistically flawed, especially in his attempts to get into the rich crowd. Grades 5-8. --Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Mary Amato is making a name for herself as the author of quirky books that kids just love. Her debut novel, *The Word Eater*, appeared on many state lists, and *The Naked Mole-Rat Letters* followed suit, gathering even more fans. She is also the author of a chapter book series starring the Riot Brothers, which began with *Snarf Attack*, *Underfoodle*, and *The Secret of Life: The Riot Brothers Tell All*, about which *School Library Journal* wrote, "Move over Captain Underpants, a couple of new pranksters are in town.... (r)eaders will beg for a sequel." You can visit her online at www.maryamato.com.

Fantastic book! The narration takes you right back to what it feels like to be a youth of a certain age, and the book deals cleverly with questions of poverty, socio-economic division, and domestic violence without being heavy handed. An especially good read for boys who might not always find themselves reflected in children's literature.

I am only half way through this book.

very good book!

This is a great story with an imagination one could only hope to have. The art graphics are wonderful and amusing. The best of reading for all up to 80 years old.

After reading 9 good reviews(only one Verified Purchase, and that person gave *TheBook Thief* one

star), I purchased this book in hardback. I've come back to study reviews. No one has mentioned the print in the hardback, which could almost be labeled Large Print. It makes the book seem more juvenile than it is, and I know my 7th grade grandson wouldn't consider reading it, though it's been called suitable for middle school or young adult collections. It might be a good find for those whose eyes need larger print, or for those with reading difficulties. My copy will be at the library book sale.

I love soccer. I've been playing on teams since I was four and now play on a club team so when a book came along that had a soccer player as a protagonist, I was happy to dive in. While not my usual urban fantasy read, I wasn't disappointed. I like the way that Ms. Amato combines art, soccer and science (learning about mushrooms, of all things) into an endearing story that takes you through a roller coaster of emotions with an interesting cast of characters. Trevor has a gift for drawing and playing soccer. He's very poor so he makes money by drawing awesome designs on people shoes in order to pay for cleats for the club soccer team he wants to join, but can't afford. His mom is struggling to make ends meet and support the family but it isn't easy. Trevor deals with one bad break after another. Life just isn't fair. The one positive thing he has in his life is his science teacher who is pretty cool. I wish I had him for my teacher. *Invisible Lines* is a well written contemporary. So well written that it can be hard to read, emotionally. This kid has it rough. At times it seems like nothing can go right for him. And since you like Trevor, you connect with Trevor, and it's difficult to read about his trials and pain. But ultimately *Invisible Lines* is a book about hope, perseverance and the beauty and strength of the human spirit. This is a great inspirational middle grade novel.

I haven't read a MG book in so long and I'm so glad that I got the chance to read this one! Mary Amato writes in a way that captures the voice of a preteen boy so well that it feels as if you are witnessing the real thing. I absolutely loved reading about Trevor. He's living with his younger brother & sister and mother. They live in these bad apartments and don't have a lot of money. I loved that this book dealt with real life issues and all of which were written in a way that a younger audience can deal with. One of the issues in the book is Trevor doesn't have enough money to be on a club soccer team. You can tell that he has a passion for the sport and as I was reading the book, I just felt bad for him and the things he went through. Also, I envied Trevor's artistic talents. Drawing was another passion of his and he used it wisely. He started his own little business around school and drew stuff for his little brother. And at the start of each chapter there are illustrations and I thought those were nice! Another big aspect of the book is Trevor's science class. He is put in

Summit Science -an advanced class- by mistake. His science teacher is one of those teachers that always keeps the class interesting and fun instead of the more common reading out of the textbook type as well as being a teacher that really cared about his students. I really enjoyed the character of Diamond. She lives in the same apartment building as Trevor and is always singing throughout the book as she has dreams of becoming a famous singer one day. Amato does a great job describing a situation that Diamond and Trevor face. My only problem is I wished there had been more of this character!

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