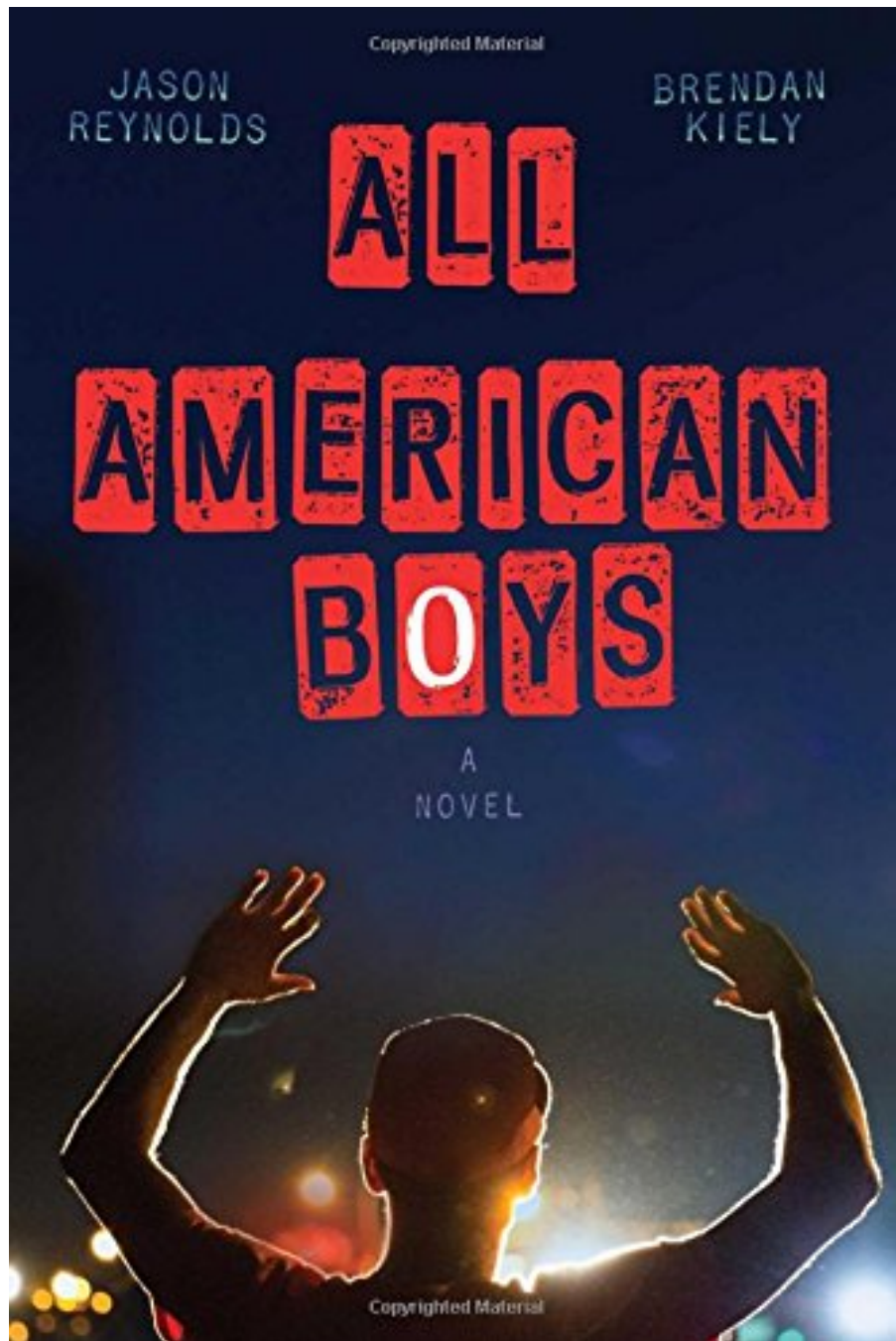


# ALL AMERICAN BOYS BY JASON REYNOLDS, BRENDAN KIELY



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From School Library Journal

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A 2016 Coretta Scott King Author Honor book, and recipient of the Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children's Literature.

In this Coretta Scott King Honor Award-winning novel, two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.

A bag of chips. That's all sixteen-year-old Rashad is looking for at the corner bodega. What he finds instead is a fist-happy cop, Paul Galluzzo, who mistakes Rashad for a shoplifter, mistakes Rashad's pleadings that he's stolen nothing for belligerence, mistakes Rashad's resistance to leave the bodega as resisting arrest, mistakes Rashad's every flinch at every punch the cop throws as further resistance and refusal to STAY STILL as ordered. But how can you stay still when someone is pounding your face into the concrete pavement?

There were witnesses: Quinn Collins—a varsity basketball player and Rashad's classmate who has been raised by Paul since his own father died in Afghanistan—and a video camera. Soon the beating is all over the news and Paul is getting threatened with accusations of prejudice and racial brutality. Quinn refuses to believe that the man who has basically been his savior could possibly be guilty. But then Rashad is absent. And absent again. And again. And the basketball team—half of whom are Rashad's best friends—start to take sides. As does the school. And the town. Simmering tensions threaten to explode as Rashad and Quinn are forced to face decisions and consequences they had never considered before.

Written in tandem by two award-winning authors, this four-starred reviews tour de force shares the alternating perspectives of Rashad and Quinn as the complications from that single violent moment, the type taken from the headlines, unfold and reverberate to highlight an unwelcome truth.

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- Released on: 2015-09-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 1.10" w x 5.50" l, .88 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

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## Most helpful customer reviews

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely's ALL AMERICAN BOYS is sure to change the way you see yourself and others

By Cyrus Webb

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor." ~ Desmond Tutu

The quote above which I discovered for the first time in reading this book says so much about the community responsibility we all have towards one another. I have read literally over a hundred books this year, and I can honestly say that very few have impacted me afterwards the way that ALL AMERICAN BOYS has. Even though I am a 40 year old man of color living in Mississippi I have not experienced the blatant racism and discrimination that others have, but a book like this shows that you don't have to have experienced the events personally to be impacted and changed by them.

What authors Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely have done is take what is a storyline that has become all too familiar and showed through fiction that things don't change until we do. Through the characters Rashad and Quinn we are able to see how quickly life can change and how people take sides not necessarily based on truth but the connection we feel with one person over another.

Does discrimination and profiling exist? Yes. Does it make all people who look like the guilty or accused bad? No. And those two questions are great reminders as we go through life. In one night both Rashad and Quinn's lives were changed, but it was up to them how they allowed the events to shape them moving forward. Told in their respective voices, ALL AMERICAN BOYS highlights the need to get to know those around us, to understand what others are experiencing and to speak out when others feel they have no voice.

Deeply moving and sure to leave a imprint on your soul, this book and the story it tells is not one you will be able to easily let go.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Important and Powerful Book

By Nicole @ Nicoles' Novel Reads

I have only read one novel written by Jason Reynolds but I have read nothing by Brendan Kiely. Both authors have created an important and powerful novel. All American Boys is about two high school teens who attend the same school. Rashad Butler is African American and Quinn Collins is Caucasian. One day Rashad goes to a convenience store to buy a bag of chips and is soon accused of shoplifting. A police officer ends up beating up Rashad so badly, Rashad is sent to the hospital. During this whole ordeal, Quinn is a witness. However, Quinn is conflicted. Although, the police officer is someone Quinn sees as family and a role model, the actions the police officer took against Rashad is wrong. Will Quinn march in the protest or will he side with the police officer?

Police brutality isn't a hot topic in most books these days. Yes, police brutality may be seen in a lot of books around the civil rights movement but this novel is about modern day. We think racism is over but it still exists everyday. All American Boys handles race where people are conflicted and don't know who they should side with. Some people speak up against the injustice and others assume that the police officer is just doing his job and Rashad is the troublemaker. We are living in a progressive age but how much have we learned from history? This cultural and racial divide needs to end. Are we still fighting for basic rights? Aren't we all of the same race? We all belong to the human race.

The novel is told in dual narrative from Rashad and Quinn's POVs. That ending! I loved the last chapter

which is told by both Rashad and Quinn. Although Rashad has no clue who Quinn is, Quinn is conflicted through the whole novel about what he should do about what he saw that day at the convenience store. By the end of the novel, readers will find out what Quinn decides. The narratives are compelling and it's interesting to read from a victim's POV and a witness's POV of the attack.

I highly recommend this book to be read in high schools and I will be recommending this novel to my students. It's an important novel that everyone should read at least once in their lifetime

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Good midpoint twist

By Debraj

Contemporary story that follows a young black man who experiences police violence and the young white man who witnesses it. Explores community and family along the way. Strong plot. Good midpoint twist. Neither sentimental nor preachy. It ends in exactly the right place. A well executed story. The partnership between a black and white writer adds authenticity to voice.

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