



Into The River (Devon Santos)

By Ted Dawe



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Into The River (Devon Santos) By Ted Dawe

Winner of the Margaret Mahy Award

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"Some rivers should not be swum in. Some rivers hold secrets that can never be told."

Te Arepa is an adventurous Maori boy, bound to the history, customs and rituals of his people. Yet when he comes upon a giant eel while fishing, he is convinced the creature is a taniwha, or water demon, and follows it. Yet what Te Arepa finds in the river is far different, far more sinister. And it will change his life forever.

Te Arepa has always been curious about experiencing life beyond his tribe. His wishes seem granted when he is awarded a scholarship at a prestigious boarding school, far away from the Maori. Leaving behind his family and their traditions, Te Arepa sets out to discover a strange new world with customs of its own...as well as new enemies.

When he arrives at school, Te Arepa finds the freedom and everything it offers intoxicating. But to fit in, he realizes that he must shed his identity, culture, and even his name. And he comes to realize that what the water demon showed him in the darkness of the river that day changed him, and that freedom comes with a heavy price.



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Into The River (Devon Santos) By Ted Dawe Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #296392 in Books
- Published on: 2016-06-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.60" h x 1.30" w x 5.40" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 304 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—Te Arepa Santos is a 13-year-old Maori boy living in a remote rural town in New Zealand. Life is slow but rich with family and friends. He can easily spend a day catching eels with his friends, or nights with his grandfather telling stories of the ancestors he is named after. When the teen wins a scholarship to a prestigious Auckland boarding school, he goes with expectations from his family. The school resembles an English private school—Te Arepa is expected to study Latin and to put up with bullying by senior pupils, which is traditional within the setting. His Maori language and culture are not valued. As all the boys are given nicknames, Te Arepa becomes Devon, changing not only in name but in nature as he struggles to fit in. Devon's best friend is Steph, who has his own identity issues. Familiar with boarding schools, Steph manipulates teachers and other students to get what he wants. This work has won multiple awards in New Zealand and has been at the center of much controversy there. Aimed at older teens, the novel contains very strong language, underage sex, sexual relations between a student and a teacher, drug use, and violence. However, these elements are not gratuitous but are integral to the narrative, which the author based on his experiences as an educator in this kind of setting. While the story is firmly rooted in New Zealand, the themes are universal to all teens. **VERDICT** This is not a book for sensitive readers, because of its content and challenging scenes. The Maori words and setting will be unfamiliar to many, but determined and curious teens will find this work thought provoking, eye-opening, and maybe even familiar.—Michelle Anderson, Tauranga City Libraries, New Zealand

Review

"Both daring and compulsively readable, in *Into the River* Ted Dawe combines mythology, history and gritty realism into a powerful novel. An outstanding piece of world literature."

—**John Boyne, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas***

"I was entirely gripped by INTO THE RIVER, and struck by how relevant its content is to a contemporary teenage audience. This is an important, skillfully-told novel, and it deserves to be talked about. In short, I love this book. I'm not sure I can praise it enough."

—**Lucy Christopher, author of *Stolen*, a Printz Award honor book, and *Flyaway*, shortlisted for the Costa Award**

"Te Arepa/Devon is a deeply compelling character...Readers will either see themselves in Devon and his story or will reconsider their own roles in their schools' social structures...an object lesson in how systems of power perpetuate themselves."

—**Kirkus Reviews**

"Determined and curious teens will find this work thought provoking, eye-opening, and maybe even familiar."

—**School Library Journal**

"Te Arepa, who cycles through a believable variety of identities and struggles, is beautifully vivid. The compassionate depiction of the teen's choices, both good and bad, as well as the candid portrayal of life at an all-boys school, packed as it is with drugs, drinking, sex, and violent bullying, will give this significant appeal for fans of character-driven novels where the conclusions aren't very rosy, let alone clearly definitive."

—*Booklist*

"Riveting...Into the River is a raw story that rings true. Older teens will devour this fresh, engaging coming-of-age novel about personal identity and poisonous social inequality, the excitement and terror of adolescence, the nuances of friendship and freedom and much more."

—**Shelf Awareness**

"Emphasizes the complications of culture, loyalty, and consequences when "there is freedom and then there is everything else."

—*Publishers Weekly*

About the Author

Ted Dawe has worked over the years as an insurance clerk, store man, builder's labourer and fitter's mate, and flown hot air balloons over Hyde Park. He's also been a university student, world traveler, high school teacher, and English language teacher. His first novel, *Thunder Road*, won both the Young Adult Fiction section and the Best First Book award at the New Zealand Post Book Awards for Children & Young Adults and will be released by Polis Books. *Into The River* won the Margaret Mahy award, which is "presented annually to a person who has made an especially significant contribution to children's literature, publishing or literacy, and honours New Zealand's leading author for children."

Visit him online at TedDawe.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Loren Velasco:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive currently, people have to do something to make these survive, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a publication your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading any book, we give you this particular Into The River (Devon Santos) book as beginner and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Lori Barnes:

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Susan Spiegel:

Often the book Into The River (Devon Santos) has a lot info on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was written by the very famous author. The writer makes some research prior to write this book. This book very easy to read you will get the point easily after looking over this book.

Virginia Shrader:

This Into The River (Devon Santos) is great publication for you because the content which can be full of information for you who else always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it information accurately using great arrange word or we can say no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but challenging core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having Into The River (Devon Santos) in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no reserve that offer you world within ten or fifteen minute right but this e-book already do that. So , it is good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt in which?

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