



Buddha Boy (Bccb Blue Ribbon Fiction Books (Awards))

By Kathe Koja

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Buddha Boy (Bccb Blue Ribbon Fiction Books (Awards)) By Kathe Koja

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How to survive being good

Like a flashback memory, he's there in my mind: skimming up the stairs at school, his sloppy old T-shirt big as a sail, red tie-dyed dragon T-shirt, who wears stuff like that? No one. Jinsen.

The kids at Edward Rucher High School call Jinsen "Buddha Boy" and condemn him as a freak. With his shaved head and perpetual smile, Jinsen certainly doesn't help matters when he starts begging for lunch money in the cafeteria. So when Justin is paired with Jinsen for a class project, he plans to get done with it as soon as possible, and climb right back into his safe social niche. Then Justin discovers Jinsen's incredible artistic talent and becomes curious about his beliefs. But being friends with Buddha Boy isn't simple, and Justin is forced into a cruel contest with the jocks who just can't seem to leave Jinsen, or his artwork, alone.

Kathe Koja introduces an unforgettable young man who will remind readers of the true meaning of friendship and demonstrate how to draw strength from the little gods inside each of them.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 7-10-Justin-an "average" kid-serves as the interface between readers (and to some extent his schoolmates) and Michael Martin, aka Buddha Boy, whose Buddhist teacher named him Jinsen, "fountain of God." Justin mostly wants to pass through high school unnoticed (beneath the notice of the school's "royalty"), doing his work and enjoying his friends. He is fortunate to have supportive, albeit divorced, parents-another facet of the novel that sets it apart in a field full of useless adults. But Justin is stirred out of his camouflage by the animosity that the new kid incites, quite unintentionally, simply by being different. Both irritated and intrigued by Jinsen's apparent imperturbability to his tormentors, Justin is also astonished by Jinsen's artistic abilities. Koja flawlessly walks a tightrope in her presentation of Jinsen-devout without being sanctimonious, insufferable, or simply unbelievable-and solidly nails the small-minded, fearful, and even paranoid mind-set that dominates the high school milieu. Like Chris Crutcher and Chris Lynch, the author is deeply concerned with the psychological motivations for behavior and the belief that explicable causes generally underlie what may seem to be inexplicable actions. At the heart of her story is a deeply religious character who is neither naive nor clownish, neither self-righteous nor pitiful. Buddha Boy has a whole lot of action compressed into a short time span, but Koja admirably refuses to yield to melodramatic writing or black-and-white solutions. Quickly paced, inviting, and eye-opening, this is a marvelous addition to YA literature.

Coop Renner, Blackshear Elementary School, Austin, TX

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 6-10. No one in the rich, suburban high school likes the weird new kid who looks like a Buddhist monk and begs at lunch. But Justin is drawn to the stranger and defends him against vicious school bullies. Koja's short novel is openly preachy, and the packed plot is absurdly contrived: the saintly outsider turns out to be an amazingly gifted artist who was once a delinquent as violent as the school bullies--until his parents died and he went catatonic and a Buddhist art teacher showed him how to find truth and beauty in art and religion . . . It's the simple writing, along with Justin's informal first-person narrative, that will draw readers to the crucial ethical issues, especially "the social-status in-out thing" among the kids, and the way school authorities accept it. Then there's the elemental question of how hard it is to do the right thing, and to keep on doing it. "We're all gods inside, right? Karma, right?" Teens will find much to talk about here. *Hazel*

Rochman

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Review

"Koja accomplishes quite a feat...A compelling introduction to Buddhism and a credible portrait of how true friendship brings out the best in people." -- Starred, *Publishers Weekly*

"A marvelous addition to YA literature." -- *School Library Journal*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marla Mestas:

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Jim Moffett:

The reason? Because this Buddha Boy (Bccb Blue Ribbon Fiction Books (Awards)) is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will surprise you with the secret it inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such awesome way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book get such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking method. So , still want to delay having that book? If I were being you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

May Chapa:

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Bonnie Camacho:

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