



***All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds & Brendan Kiely**

ISBN: 9781481463348 (Trade Paperback)

Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2015

\*Age Range: 12+ (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 8+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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In this *New York Times* bestselling 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 tour de force shares the alternating perspectives of Rashad and Quinn as the complications from that single violent moment, the type taken directly from today's headlines, unfold and reverberate to highlight an unwelcome truth.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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★ “With Reynolds writing Rashad's first-person narrative and Kiely Quinn's, this hard-edged, ripped-from-the-headlines book is more than a problem novel; it's a carefully plotted, psychologically acute, character-driven work of fiction that dramatizes an all-too-frequent occurrence. Police brutality and race relations in America are issues that demand debate and discussion, which his superb book powerfully enables.” —[Booklist](#), **starred review**

★ “Diverse perspectives are presented in a manner that feels organic to the narrative, further emphasizing the tension created when privilege and racism cannot be ignored. Timely and powerful, this novel promises to have an impact long after the pages stop turning.” —[School Library Journal](#), **starred review**

**Updated 1.3.24**

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★ “The scenario that Reynolds and Kiely depict has become a recurrent feature of news reports, and a book that lets readers think it through outside of the roiling emotions of a real-life event is both welcome and necessary.” — [Publishers Weekly](#), **starred review**

★ “This nuanced novel explores issues of racism, power, and justice with a diverse (ethnically and philosophically) cast and two remarkable protagonists. — [The Horn Book](#), **starred review**

“At once timely and timeless, funny and wickedly smart, ALL AMERICAN BOYS is a beautifully written narrative about ... about so many things — but most importantly — what it means to be a young man in America — across lines of race — and what it means to be a GOOD person in America — across lines of Everything.” — *Jacqueline Woodson (Author of Brown Girl Dreaming, Winner of the National Book Award)*

“This life-changing, nation-changing book is written with fire and love and courage. Read it, weep, and then share its power with everyone you know.” — *Laurie Halse Anderson (New York Times Bestselling Author of Speak)*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- ALA Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book
- ALA Margaret A. Edwards Award
- ALA Top Ten Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
- Amazing Audiobooks for YA
- Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award (NCTE/ALAN)
- Bank Street Best Books of the Year - with Outstanding Merit
- Capital Choices Noteworthy Books for Children's and Teens (DC)
- CBC/NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Book
- CCBC Choices (Cooperative Children's Book Council)
- Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award Nominee
- Evergreen High School Book Award List (WA)
- Florida Teens Read Award
- Florida Teens Read Master List
- Georgia Peach Book Award for Teen Readers Honor Book
- Grand Canyon Reader Award Nominee (AZ)
- Green Mountain Book Award Master List (VT)
- High School Sequoyah Book award Master List (OK)
- In the Margins Book Award List
- James Cook Book Award Honor (OH)
- Kansas NEA Reading Circle List Starred High School Title
- Kentucky Bluegrass Award Master List
- Keystone to Reading Book Award Reading List (PA)
- Lincoln Award: Illinois Teen Readers' Choice Master List
- Louisiana Teen Readers' Choice Award Nominee
- MSTA Reading Circle List
- New York Times Bestseller
- Nutmeg Book Award Finalist (CT)
- Oregon Reader's Choice Award Nominee
- Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award Master List
- Rhode Island Teen Book Award Nominee
- South Carolina Picture Book Award Nominee
- South Dakota Young Adult Reading Program
- TAYSHAS Reading List (TX)

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- Thumbs Up! Award (MI)
- Virginia Young Readers List
- Volunteer State Book Award Nominee (TN)
- Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children’s Literature
- Westchester Fiction Award (CA)
- Wisconsin State Reading Association's Reading List

## **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

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- [Reading Group Guide](#)
- [We Need Diverse Books Discussion Guide](#)
- [Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely’s Coretta Scott King Author Honor Speeches](#)
- [One Maryland One Book selection article](#)
- [Teen Librarian Toolbox author interview](#)
- [Rethinking Schools author interview](#)
- [American Federation of Teachers Teaching for Social Justice article](#)
- [NBC News author interview](#)
- [Library of Congress author interview](#)

## **RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES**

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[Comic Book Legal Defense Fund Statement of Support](#)

[National Coalition Against Censorship Statement of Support](#)

## **AUTHOR STATEMENT**

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“As a black man and a white man, both writers and educators, we came together to cowrite a book about how systemic racism and police brutality affect the lives of young people in America, in order to create an important, unique, and honest work that would give young people and the people who educate them a tool for talking about these difficult but absolutely vital conversations,” said Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely.

## **\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

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