

[Free] The Whole Sky Full of Stars

The Whole Sky Full of Stars

Von Rene Saldana

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Von Rene Saldana : The Whole Sky Full of Stars before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Whole Sky Full of Stars:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Courtesy of Teens Read Too Von Teens Read Too THE WHOLE SKY FULL OF STARS is a story about the strong bonds of friendship. Through the experience of the main characters readers will learn that true friendship can survive. Barry and Alby have been friends against all odds. Barry's father's recent death from cancer has put a huge financial strain on life

for him and his mother. They never had much before and now that is stretched even thinner. Alby, on the other hand, doesn't need to worry about cash. His dad is a successful car dealer and his mom is a lawyer. Yet, the two boys have been friends since the first grade. Alby finds himself in some trouble involving his gambling debts. With the help of his friend Barry's boxing skills, he hopes to concoct a scheme to take care of both the boys' needs. The Man o' Might fighting contest offers a chance for Alby to win what he owes in gambling debts, and, hopefully, provide some financial relief for Barry and his mom. At first reluctant to get involved, Barry finds that preparing for the fight helps him remember the good times with his dad. They used to spend hours together working out on the bag and down at the gym. When they weren't boxing, they were working on an old 1964 Ford Galaxie that Barry might someday drive to the prom. Will Alby's crazy scheme placing side bets on Barry's boxing abilities have what it takes to ruin their friendship? Rene Saldana, Jr. provides the answer in this fast-paced read that is sure to please even reluctant middle grade boys. Reviewed by: Sally Kruger, aka "Readingjunk"

Kurzbeschreibung Barry can punch anyone hard enough to make them see a whole sky full of stars, though that's not really his style. Barry and Alby have been friends since the first grade. They've always protected one another. When Barry's pop dies, times are tough and the only thing Barry has of value is his dad's 1964 Ford Galaxie. Meanwhile Alby's got himself into big trouble with a cardshark. So he hatches a plan to make money. To help out Barry, but also to help himself. The problem is, Barry could get hurt, and it just might cost Alby their friendship. How much can you ask of a friend? From the Hardcover edition. From Booklist *Starred * Saldana (The Jumping Tree, 2001) delivers another moving coming-of-age novel about the perils of friendship and the burdens of parental expectations. Barry Esquivel is a high-school senior dealing with the responsibility he feels as the new man of the family in the wake of his father's death. Barry's best friend, Alby, has problems of his own: in trying to live up to his father's credo that "we're winners not losers," he has amassed gambling debts to an unsavory type who wants his money now. Playing on their friendship, Alby convinces Barry, long schooled by his father as a boxer, to enter a shady competition called the Man o' Mite. Knowing this kind of exploitive venture would be condemned by his father, Barry still agrees to fight-- anything to keep the family from selling Pop's treasured 1964 Ford Galaxy to make ends meet. The premise screams Rocky, but Saldana skillfully dodges that punch, focusing less on the fights and more on the boys' imperiled friendship. Comparisons to Markus Zusak's Fighting Ruben Wolfe (2001) are inevitable, but Saldana avoids the overwriting that marred Zusak's first novel. Bill Ott Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal Grade 6-9 Barry Esquivel and Alby Alonzo, two Mexican-American teens growing up in a Texas suburb, have been friends since first grade, but their relationship is challenged by Alby's secret gambling. In debt to Ciro, a thug who runs poker games in his garage, Alby convinces Barry, whose recently deceased father trained him as a boxer, to enter a local competition so they might split the prize money. Barry is reluctant but agrees in order to help his mother through their financial difficulties. Remembering his dad's advice to aim for the liver, Barry wins all of the matches, and even though the prize money is only a fraction of the boys' expectations, Alby has bet on the fight and wins big. Then his true motives and his callous exploitation of Barry's emotions are revealed and the boys become estranged. Refusing to take any of Alby's ill-gotten winnings, Barry must sell the 1964 Ford Galaxy he and his father had been restoring in order to help his mother. In an unexpected show of character and wisdom, Alby's father, portrayed earlier as a boastful car salesman, comes up with a way to help his son redeem himself. Minimal character development, a mere passing nod to the boys' ethnicity, false-sounding dialogue, and the simplistic resolution keep this novel from realizing its potential, but its brevity and vivid descriptions of the boxing matches are likely to attract male reluctant readers. Marie Orlando, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.