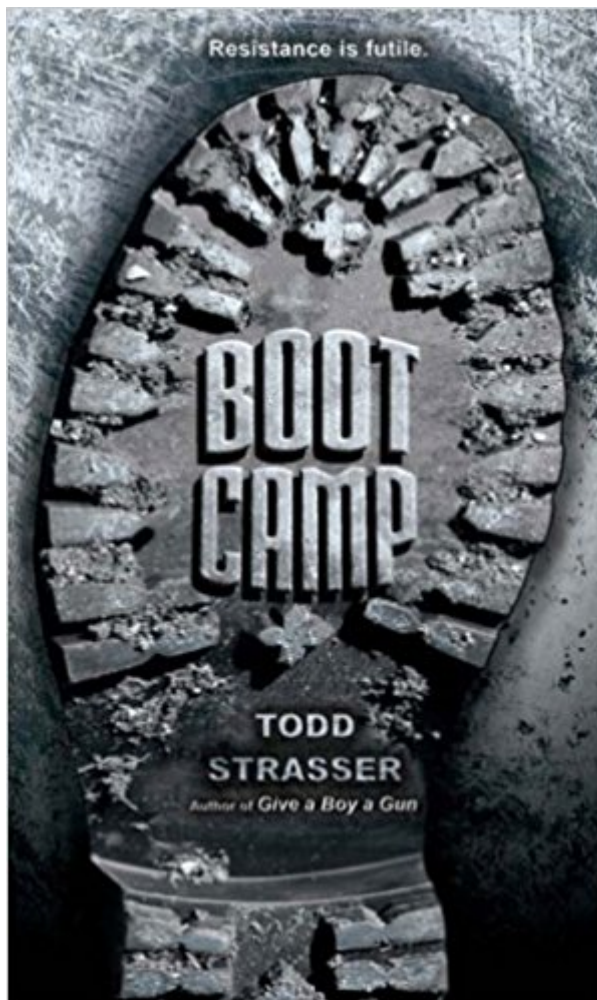


The book was found

Boot Camp



Synopsis

In the middle of the night Garrett is taken from his home to Harmony Lake, a boot camp for troubled teens. Maybe some kids deserve to be sent there, but Garrett knows he doesn't. Subjected to brutal physical and psychological abuse, he tries to fight back, but the battle is futile. He won't be allowed to leave until he's admitted his "mistakes" and conformed to Harmony Lake's standards of behavior. And there's no way to fake it. Beaten, humiliated, and stripped of his pride, Garrett's spirit is slowly ebbing away. Then he hears whispers of an escape plot. It's incredibly risky -- if he's caught, the consequences will be unthinkable -- but it may be his only way out. In this tense, riveting novel, award-winning YA author Todd Strasser reveals what really goes on in highly secretive -- and notoriously dangerous -- boot camps, a stealth prison system where any teenager under the age of eighteen can be imprisoned at his parents' whim.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 750 (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 238 pages

Publisher: Simon Pulse; Reprint edition (July 29, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416959424

ISBN-13: 978-1416959427

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.7 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 49 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #69,388 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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[Family Issues > Being a Teen](#) #168 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action &](#)

[Adventure > Mystery & Thriller](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up
In this vivid and realistic novel, Strasser describes the horrifying violence and injustices experienced by teens sent to a disciplinary boot camp at the behest of their parents. Abducted by transporters in the middle of the night, 15-year-old Garrett finds himself handcuffed in the back of a car trying to make sense of why he is being sent to a facility for troubled teens.

Convinced that he does not belong in Lake Harmony, he has difficulty conforming to the camp's standards. As a result, he is subjected to continuous physical and mental abuse. Drawn in by two other students, Garrett takes part in an ambitious plot to escape this never-ending "behavior modification." Throughout the story, readers are given a strong sense of the hopelessness the teen feels, especially when he realizes that he is completely isolated from anyone who can help him. The ending is both realistic and disturbing as his fate at Lake Harmony is revealed. Writing in the teen's mature and perceptive voice, Strasser creates characters who will provoke strong reactions from readers. While most teens will undoubtedly identify with the protagonist's sense of being misunderstood by his parents, many will be outraged by the manipulation, torture, and hopelessness experienced by the residents at Lake Harmony. However, all of them will certainly find themselves engrossed in this fast-paced and revealing story about the hidden side of teenage incarceration. --Lynn Rashid, Marriots Ridge High School, Marriotsville, MD Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Louis Sachar's *Holes* (1998) described a juvenile detention camp with tall-tale trappings. For a somewhat older audience, this documentary-style novel tackles similar "boot camps" without the fablelike buffer, delivering a troubling glimpse of what might go on in such camps (and backing it up with an author's note and sources). Garrett, 15, is trapped in the "secret prison system for teenagers" when his controlling parents, enraged by his affair with a teacher, are lured by the promise of a boot-camp brochure: "The child who returns from the Lake Harmony experience is the child you always knew you had." Once at the camp, Garrett endures a battery of brainwashing techniques, including physical abuse, and eventually meets two other desperate teens who want to escape. Some plot elements don't add up; it's hard to believe, for instance, that the one supportive adult Garrett encounters; a warden would let the camp continue without blowing the whistle. But as in Strasser's *Give a Boy a Gun* (2000), the real-world issues will hit a nerve. Mattson, Jennifer --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Todd Strasser has crafted a book that manages to both educate and for lack of a better word entertain. It's hard to say that something so grim could entertain but suffice it to say that the pacing and format kept me moving steadily through the story. Although there are obviously distinct chapters, at no point did I feel that there was a point when I wanted to stop reading. This is the sort of story that makes you keep reading, hoping that at some point things will turn around for the

character. I don't do spoilers but I will say that I can see why this book is recommended reading in schools. I plan to loan it to my own boys and use it to spur several important discussions. The responsibility of bystanders to act when they see injustice is only one thought provoking topic that Mr. Strasser skillfully raises by the interaction between Garrett and more than one other character. Buy this book, read it with your kids and then talk about these difficult topics.

Todd has written a fictional piece based upon what really happens at these behaviour modification camps. You can feel the hopelessness of the main character and others in the programme and the sadistic nature of those in charge. It is true that some hardened offenders need some structure, but to send a teen off to one of these places because of nothing other than the child is not what the parents want him/her to be is unthinkable. I have personal experience with this one. I did not like the ending...but it does illustrate what happens and how a person becomes broken.

Todd Strasser's novel is a riveting account of one teen's experience at a boot camp for troubled teens. Students, even those who do not like to read, will find themselves riveted by this novel. Once they start reading they simply cannot put it down. What is more, it prompts them to seek out other books to read.

Sad, sad story.

Picked this book up for university assignment but would recommend for teens of any age. The incorrect spelling that appears in Garretts writing is odd but I think intentional. Horror story about what can happen books of this nature that seem unlikely but at the same time are entirely plausible are great reads anyone that finds this a good read would recommend cory directories little brother

I gave the book 4 stars because the ending I disliked I felt that garret should explain. how awful his time was at the boot camp to his parents and get the place either shutdown or restrict the abusive beatings.

Guuci and super Gucci Gucci jovvnb lol I like it very Gucci and read easy cause it fun yay !

It was an interesting book. I would recommend this to teens from 14-17+ because even though it's a shorter read it requires some thinking and comprehending.

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