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Muchacho: A Novel



Synopsis

An inspiring YA debut from the author of *Dangerous Minds*. Eddie Corazon is angry. He's also very smart. But he's working pretty hard at being a juvenile delinquent. He blows off school, even though he's a secret reader. He hangs with his cousins, who will always back him up when they aren't in jail. Then along comes Lupe, who makes his blood race. She sees something in Eddie he doesn't even see in himself. A heart, and a mind, and something more: a poet. But in Eddie's world, it's a thin line between tragedy and glory. And what goes down is entirely in Eddie's hands. Gripping, thought-provoking, and hopeful, *Muchacho* is a rare and inspiring story about one teen's determination to fight his circumstances and shape his own destiny. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1250L (What's this?)

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Ember; Reprint edition (May 10, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375859039

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #49,342 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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[United States > Hispanic](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up • High school junior Eddie Corazon and his Mexican-American family live in a crime-infested town in New Mexico where kids are often pressed into service as drug runners if found on the streets alone. Eddie has his older cousin to look out for him, and he tells of the day when he was eight, and felt so proud to ride along with Enrique, drinking beer and smoking. But when Enrique stopped the car, knocked on a door, and shot the man who opened it in the face,

young Eddie messed his pants, "smelling the stink of hopelessness that hung around my life." Eddie is now in an alternative high school and brandishing his role as juvenile delinquent until he meets Lupe, a bright girl with dreams of college. Keeping her as his girlfriend is the impetus for change, but poignant memoirs of a caring former teacher and the book *The Four Agreements* play a major role in Eddie's transformation into a reflective honor student. In the end, the future appears hopeful for the teen, though his change is a bit too didactic as he writes, "you can open a book and follow the words to some new place." Sometimes the first-person narrative is disjointed, and the story and characters don't always ring true. While the content may appeal to reluctant readers, the nonlinear story line will be a challenge. Also, the heavy-handed message could be a turnoff, and the numerous allusions to contemporary literature, while interesting, will be lost on most struggling teen readers. --Patricia N. McClune, Conestoga Valley High School, Lancaster, PA

END --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Review: MUCHACHO is a gem - and one that would be recommended for not only teens, but also for adults - particularly in education. Because for educators, the messages in the novel are priceless. --BookTrends --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I teach incarcerated juveniles and this was the perfect book to read with them. It is full of true to life experiences that my students can relate to and learn from. The author definitely knows the ups and downs of students who experience issues that can have lifelong consequences. I also appreciated the author's study guide that goes with this. I used parts of it--journals are a great way to get kids thinking.

This was a great book. The locations they talk about are real. Other than Truth or Consequences, they do not mention other cities he lived in. I know they are real though cuz I lived there. Those places really exist. His story is not unique to many Latino youth, which is unfortunate. This book is a window into a world most gringos never know.

We continue to get great response from our eleventh grade reading lab students to *Muchacho*; I wish we'd taken before and after pictures of them when they were working on their state tests - I have NEVER seen such a dramatic attitude change in students. Several mentioned, in interviews two weeks ago, that they had finally put the reading pieces together while reading this book...it was wonderful to hear. Teachers didn't understand, at first, how the book would reach students, because

most of us don't come from the same place as our students, but now that they've heard the rich discussion, and have seen the students' level of engagement, teachers are reading the book differently, as well.

great book for my Latino students and other ESL students. Good subject matter. good for high school library to have.

This book is great I loved it so much I'm only 15 and in highschool and the same thing happened I was a juvenile in training and I fall in love with this girl who changes my thoughts about everything

Bought this for my 14 year old little brother for his 8th grade promotion. we had a great discussion after he finished reading it, he really liked him.

OMG it's such a good book for YOUNG ADULTS not for little kids

awesome

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