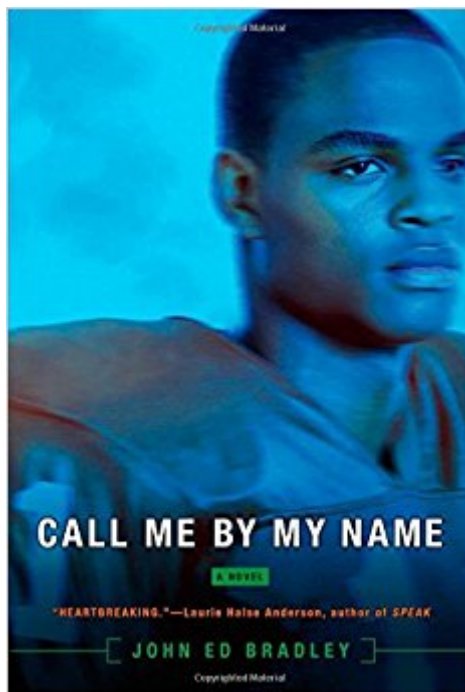


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Call Me By My Name



Synopsis

From former football star and bestselling author John Ed Bradley comes a searing look at love, life, and football in the face of racial adversity. “Heartbreaking,” says Laurie Halse Anderson, author of *Speak*. Growing up in Louisiana in the late 1960s, Tater Henry has experienced a lot of prejudice. His town is slow to desegregate and slower still to leave behind deep-seated prejudice. Despite the town’s sensibilities, Rodney Boulett and his twin sister Angie befriend Tater, and as their friendship grows stronger, Tater and Rodney become an unstoppable force on the football field. That is, until Rodney sees Tater and Angie growing closer, too, and Rodney’s world is turned upside down. Teammates, best friends—Rodney’s world is threatened by a hate he did not know was inside of him. As the town learns to accept notions like a black quarterback, some changes may be too difficult to accept. “John Ed Bradley skillfully shines a beam of humanity through the prism of the game, revealing to us the full spectrum of its colors, from love to hate, bigotry to tolerance, and devotion to betrayal. Anyone who ever played high school football or loved someone who has should read this book.” —Tim Green, retired NFL player and bestselling author

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up
•Narrator Rodney Boulet first meets Tater Henry in 1965 when Tater strolls into whites-only South City Park, hoping to try out for Pony League. While the other players heap plenty of verbal abuse on the young black boy, 10-year-old Rodney gets Tater safely out of the park before they can do physical harm. Over the next few years, Rodney and his twin sister, Angie, occasionally run into Tater in their small Louisiana town, and the three develop a casual friendship. When their high school is finally desegregated and both boys make the football team, their friendship is cemented. By the time they are seniors, the pair are leading the team to the state championship, which somewhat softens the town's narrow-minded views but not entirely: as Angie's and Tater's relationship moves beyond friendship, the couple are pressured from all sides. They do their best to ignore it, but as they dream of the not-too-distant day when all three of them will be at Louisiana State University, something happens that completely obliterates their plans. Students looking for lots of sports action may be disappointed, as this is a more contemplative tale of friendship in turbulent times. Rodney's quiet and matter-of-fact narration underscores the casual prejudice prevalent well into the 1970s in the Deep South. Recommend to fans of Patricia McKissack or Kristin Levine.
•Kim Dare, Fairfax County Public Schools, VA --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

It's the late 1960s and desegregation has finally come to small-town Louisiana. Twins Rodney and Angie Boulett have always been friendly with Tater Henry, a black boy from the other side of town, but it isn't until they are freshmen at the newly integrated high school that the three become inseparable. Rodney couldn't be more loyal to his best friend, but their friendship begins to fracture when he discovers the truth of Angie and Tater's relationship. This absorbing story shines a spotlight on the complexities and tension of racial integration. Most characters fall neatly into designated roles and the dialogue can feel didactic, but that doesn't detract from the range of viewpoints reflecting the era's social upheaval. The narration flows best during the lengthy football scenes, where the author's history as a football player really shines. Rodney and Angie seem unusually close (how many 17-year-old siblings spoon?), but readers will connect with Rodney as he struggles to resolve his feelings. Grades 7-10. --Summer Hayes --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is a lovely coming of age story about teenage youth navigating a world that is changing with desegregation. It describes a friendship that is fraught with love and tension by the teenagers and the worry that parents who are used to the status quo also have to come to terms with a new reality.

It is somewhat predictable, but I could not put the book down because I really rooted for the characters who all desired a relationship in spite of the obstacles. Unfortunately, this book is as timely then as it is now, and is a semi quick read for those looking for a book that is reflective without judgement. It is designed for older teenagers and adults who wish or need to have a conversation of how the past continues to spill into the present despite progress. I would recommend the book.

This beautiful book by the wonderfully talented John Ed Bradley is one I think all American teens should read---and would enjoy. He does not "write down" but uses his normal vocabulary---excellent everything. The story is one that should appeal to all ages, not just teens Only one flaw----his writing about the foods of Acadiana would have those on diets wondering how they could find those treats! And the food is such a major part of the culture in SW Louisiana that it rightly plays a role in creating the feel of the place. After you read this one, buy all of John Ed's books-----you will be glad you did. They are treats.

This story is told with so much heart! True emotions are examined with great clarity and honesty - race relations and all relationships.It is a universally applicable commentary of the highs and lows of the state of humanity.It's a page turner that will remind you how to try and live a better life for yourself and others.

A friend told me that book was written about him. It was a must read for me. I enjoyed it tremendously.

great book with a good story

I liked the narration from Rodney's perspective. He was able to see how Tater's presence affected everyone in the town and most of all himself. I didn't expect it to end this way.

If readers still don't know the depth of racism after reading this there is no hope for them.

So true

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