



If I Ever Get Out of Here

By Eric Gansworth

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Lewis "Shoe" Blake is used to the joys and difficulties of life on the Tuscarora Indian reservation in 1975: the joking, the Fireball games, the snow blowing through his roof. What he's not used to is white people being nice to him -- people like George Haddonfield, whose family recently moved to town with the Air Force. As the boys connect through their mutual passion for music, especially the Beatles, Lewis has to lie more and more to hide the reality of his family's poverty from George. He also has to deal with the vicious Evan Reininger, who makes Lewis the special target of his wrath. But when everyone else is on Evan's side, how can he be defeated? And if George finds out the truth about Lewis's home -- will he still be his friend?

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6-9—In 1970s upstate New York, Lewis Blake inhabits two separate universes: the reservation where he lives in poverty with his mother and uncle, and school, where the fact that he is American Indian (and his sardonic sense of humor) has made him an outcast and a victim of bullying. The seventh grader has begun to accept his status until a new kid shows up in his class. George Haddonfield grew up on air force bases around the world and doesn't seem to know or care about the divisions between the reservation kids and everyone else. Although Lewis and George bond over their shared love of the Beatles, George's friendly overtures to visit are constantly rebuffed by Lewis, who isn't sure if their tentative friendship will be able to withstand the jarring differences between George's home and his own. Can a love of rock and roll overcome all? Lewis's relationships with his mother, his uncle, and even his peers ring true and draw readers deep into his world. Life on the reservation is so vividly depicted that scenes set elsewhere, such as the air force base where George lives, feel a little flatly drawn in comparison. Nonetheless, the overall tenor and wry humor of this novel more than make up for its weaknesses.—Evelyn Khoo Schwartz, Georgetown Day School, Washington, DC(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Lewis Blake is bright and scrawny and the only kid from the Tuscarora Reservation tracked with the brainiacs at their county junior high in upstate New York. For the duration of sixth grade, he was invisible, but when burly, polite George Haddonfield arrives on the Air Force base and shows up in their seventh-grade class, Lewis might have found a friend. The boys bond over girls and music (the Beatles, Paul McCartney and Wings, and Queen—it is the 1970s, after all), slowly letting their guards down, but when a vicious, well-connected bully sets his sights on Lewis, their friendship is sorely tested. Gansworth, himself an enrolled member of the Onondaga Nation, explores the boys' organic relationship with generosity and tenderness and unflinching clarity, sidestepping stereotypes to offer two genuine characters navigating the unlikely intersection of two fully realized worlds. All of the supporting characters, especially the adults—from Lewis' beleaguered mother and iconoclastic uncle to George's upright father and delicate German mother, and a host of teachers and administrators who look right past the daily violence perpetrated on Lewis—are carefully, beautifully drawn. And although Gansworth manages the weighty themes of racism and poverty with nuance and finesse, at its heart, this is a rare and freehearted portrait of true friendship. Grades 7-10. --Thom Barthelmess

Review

"[A] funny, poignant young-adult debut." -- *Washington Post*

"Eric Gansworth fearlessly lays down the truth about what it's like to grow up poor, and the strength it takes to hold your head high and find a way out." -- Laurie Halse Anderson, author of *The Impossible Knife of Memory* and *Forge*

* "Gansworth, himself an enrolled member of the Onondaga Nation, explores the boys' organic relationship with generosity and tenderness and unflinching clarity, sidestepping stereotypes to offer two genuine characters navigating the unlikely intersection of two fully realized worlds.... And although Gansworth manages the weighty themes of racism and poverty with nuance and finesse, at its heart, this is a rare and freehearted portrait of true friendship." -- *Booklist*, starred review

"*If I Ever Get Out of Here* rings true with a sophisticated look at what it's like to be an outsider and what it takes to be a true friend.... More than just engaging, [it] is the sort of book that can spark all kinds of meaningful conversation." -- *Los Angeles Times*

"Readers will appreciate the teenager's sharp insights into being an outsider and Gansworth's intimate knowledge of the prejudices and injustices inherent to Lewis's life." -- *Publishers Weekly*

"A heart-healing, mocs-on-the-ground story of music, family and friendship." -- Cynthia Leitich Smith, author of *Tantalize* and *Rain Is Not My Indian Name*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gary Lane:

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Dorothy Walker:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with their household or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spend 24 hours a day to reading a e-book. The book *If I Ever Get Out of Here* it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can more easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book offers high quality.

Laura Enriquez:

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Julie Slocum:

In this time globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher which print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended to your account is *If I Ever Get Out of Here* this e-book consist a lot of the information with the condition of this world now. That book was represented how do the world has grown up. The words styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some study when he makes this book. This is why this book acceptable all of you.

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