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THERE'S A BOY IN THE GIRLS' BATHROOM



Synopsis

Bradley Chalkers, a fifth grader at the Red Hill School, has trouble getting along with his classmates until he meets Carla, a new school counselor. She not only listens to his wacky stories, but encourages him to use his powerful imagination. But just when Bradley's social world begins to broaden, the school board decides to let Carla go. What will happen to Bradley now? This heartwarming story of a young boy's search for friendship and acceptance is one of Sachar's most popular novels, and readers will identify with Bradley's troubles and eventual transformation when he finds a friend in Carla.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I never know what to expect when I pick up a novel by Louis Sachar. His style ranges from fairly straightforward elementary/middle school comedy ("The Boy Who Lost His Face," "Dogs Don't Tell Jokes") to high absurdity (the Wayside School series) to magical realism ("Holes") to slightly weightier drama ("Small Steps"). There's one thing I can count on with Sachar, though, and that's a perfectly entertaining read with thoroughly relatable, lovable (albeit touchingly flawed) characters -

and an insightful story that's sufficiently fast-paced and funny to appeal to Sachar's target demographic, yet packed with enough thoughtful ideas and witty insights to entertain and edify a mature reader. "There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom" is vintage Sachar. This time, he takes us into the life and mind of Bradley Chalkers, who wins our hearts almost immediately despite being a poster child for bad behavior: he destroys school property, bullies his classmates, lies almost as often as he opens his mouth, and refuses to do homework on principle. In the privacy of his bedroom, Bradley turns out to be a surprisingly sensitive boy whose only friends are his collection of toy animals, with whom he engages in a sort of spontaneous play therapy. As the novel begins, Bradley ventures upon a tentative friendship with the new boy in school, but it's only when his teacher convinces his mother to send Bradley to the school counselor that he really starts to turn his life around. The counselor, Carla (named after and patterned on Sachar's own wife, to whom the book is dedicated), is young, pretty, upbeat, and unconventional, and in addition to helping Bradley explore the reasons he makes the choices he does, she quickly becomes his first crush.

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