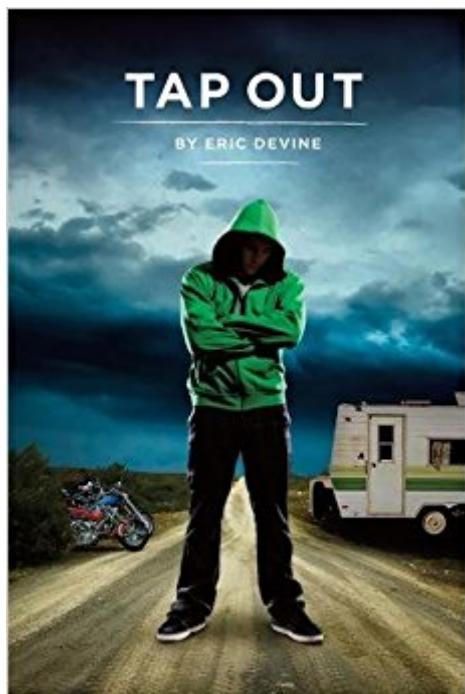


The book was found

Tap Out



Synopsis

2013 YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Readers *Booklist Top 10 Sports Book for Youth: 2013 selection*Seventeen-year-old Tony Antioch lives in Pleasant Meadows, a trailer park where questions aren't asked since everyone already knows the answers from their own experience. He dreams of rescuing his mother from her constant stream of abusive boyfriends but in reality can barely duck the punches that are aimed at himself. When Tony is coerced into joining his friend Rob's Mixed Martial Arts class, he is surprised to find that he has a talent that he actually wants to develop. But with a meth-dealing biker gang that is hungry for recruits and a vicious cycle of poverty and violence that precedes him, Tony is going to need a lot more than blood and guts to find a way out. Gritty, powerful, and unapologetic, *Tap Out* explores what it takes to stay true to oneself and the consequences of the choices made along the way in order to do so.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“I am a pussy. I know this, and not much else.” From the first line, author Devine announces that he plans to hit hard and hit often, and most of the strikes hit home in perhaps the grittiest sports novel since Joshua C. Cohen’s *Leverage* (2011). Life for 17-year-old Tony feels like bracing for the inevitable punch: his mother is regularly beaten by her meth-using boyfriend, their trailer park is infested with dealers trying to pull Tony into their racket, and his social life is a blur of dead ends and missed opportunities. Tony finally gives in to buddy Rob’s invitation to join his mixed martial arts gym, and it is there that he finds the rarest of

things—respect, hope, and confidence. Devine doesn't dodge the dismal sex, constant violence, and omnipresence of drugs that make up Tony's world, and he delivers it through an obscenity-laced, perfectly natural first-person voice that owes much to *The Outsiders*. To that end, the final fever pitch feels a bit frenzied, but for sure this strong outing deserves plenty of readers. Grades 10-12. --Daniel Kraus

"A boy who knows only grinding despair finds hope within the walls of a gym. . . . This is bound to have huge appeal." *Kirkus Reviews* "Devine instantly captures your attention and holds it until the very end. . . . The storyline, the drama and the characters were all thoroughly put together." *School Library Journal Teen* "From the first line, author Devine announces that he plans to hit hard and hit often, and most of the strikes hit home in perhaps the grittiest sports novel since Joshua C. Cohen's *Leverage* (2011)...this strong outing deserves plenty of readers." *Kirkus Reviews* "Devine doesn't pull any punches." *Publishers Weekly* "Highly recommended." *LifelsBetterwithBooks.com* "It is honest, raw and emotional, and deserves a place on every high school and public library bookshelf." *You Decide: Should I Read It or Not? blog* "It is a wonderful tale of realizing you have to make your own decisions if you want your life to go anywhere." *Barefoot Dokusha blog* "[A] book that is relevant to teenage boys and one that they will read." *The Literati Press*

There are very few books that reel me in on the first page. However, this story and its characters hooked me from the very beginning and never let go. Not only was this a gritty look at some of the undesirable parts of the American culture that are often purposefully ignored; it was also a time honored story of conflict and decisions. Good versus evil, right versus wrong and all the gray and indifferent places in between. Unfortunately for Tony the main character in this book, the decisions he faces are more pressured and life altering because of his socioeconomic status. The author also creates the supporting characters so colorfully that the reader feels a vested interest for each one as Tony's story unfolds. I will admit that the read was difficult at times. I shut down at 3am with only a chapter to go only to wake up 15 minutes later and finish the book. My recommendation for this book would be any teenager or young adult that would ever dare to complain about their existence in a white collar neighborhood to elicit some empathy towards their less fortunate peers. It would also be a suggested read for those less fortunate peers to elicit hope to find a way out. Great Job Eric keep up the good work!

Eric Devine's TAP OUT is a searing, unforgettable read. When I compare TAP OUT to S.E. Hinton's groundbreaking THE OUTSIDERS, I do not do so lightly. This book is absolutely amazing. Tony Antioch is a 17 year old facing decisions that no person of any age should have to make. Trapped by circumstances wholly outside of his control, Tony is representative of countless real-life young adults dealing with unimaginable horrors. This book should be required reading for anyone working with impoverished, disenfranchised youth. Even though it's fiction, it will give insight into what many of our students are dealing with. In reading TAP OUT, I was reminded of a speech given by one of the original Freedom Writers, when he explained that so many school days when he didn't have his homework, it was because he had been up all night taking care of his mother after she was beaten nearly to death by his father. As a teacher, I hope that TAP OUT will open some hearts to what others endure on a daily basis; as a reader, I found TAP OUT to be a heart-pounding piece of extraordinary fiction! Looking forward to more from Eric Devine.

I would recommend this for ALL parents, teachers, social workers -- heck, even parole officers-- anyone who works with challenging young men. As a former challenging young man, I was keenly aware that the adults around me had no idea what was going through my brain. Devine, however, does. If you have a child who is a reluctant reader, he will read this. It is "gritty," as others have said, but it rings true and does not stoop to preconceived ideas of youthful thinking. It stands up and says You Are Not Alone. After reading, I bought one for each of my nephews and one for my classroom's indie reading shelf.

Great book i wish they made a movie from it. Because it would be a great sell if you read the book pbviously

i really enjoyed this book. The challenges the young men face in this story are very real. it was well written and kept me entertained. i only ordered the book because the author is from the same area as myself and i saw an interview on TV. i felt i should review it so others can enjoy.

This book is a must read for anyone who ever felt they had no choices in life. This book will make readers realize there are always choices to be made. The last chapter brings this sharply into focus. It will leave you breathless. Well done Mr Devine! I cant wait for your next book.

Devine is a talented author that takes you inside the world of those on the fringes. This book hit me

like a ton of bricks. I recommend this to everyone that wants to understand "how the other half lives". I just can't stop thinking about this book!

I let my 12 year old daughter read this. Maybe I don't get the mother of the year award, but the message in it is important. Thanks for shipping on time. I read it myself. Good book.

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