



Sliding into Home

By Dori Hillestad Butler

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An adolescent girl learns that realizing a dream requires a good deal more than stubborn, steely resolve as she risks everything to follow her heart

It's not fair! Thirteen-year-old Joelle Cunningham is passionate about baseball. She loves to watch it, read about it, and, most of all, play it. But when her family moves from Minneapolis to the small town of Greendale, Iowa, she quickly discovers that there are strict rules preventing her from playing on the school baseball team.

At Hoover Middle School, only boys play baseball. Girls play softball. *It's not the same sport!* Joelle tries to tell everyone. But no one is listening. Not Coach Carlyle—even though his baseball team is at the bottom of the league, he doesn't want her on his team. Not Ms. Fenner, the softball coach—she wants Joelle to use her big-league swing to benefit the girls' team. Not her new friend, Elizabeth, who is growing tired of her complaints. Not even Jason, her older brother, who is too busy at college to be of much help.

But Joelle is determined to play baseball. And through some creative problem-solving and surprising alliances, she finds a solution to her dilemma that brings the disputing sides together . . . and baseball to the girls of Greendale.

Author Dori Butler has created a high-spirited, indomitable character that young girls will admire and root for in this story of frustrated ambition and ultimate triumph.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-8-Joelle, 13, has just moved from Minneapolis, where she was a star baseball player on her school's boys' team, to a small, rural Iowa town. At Hoover Middle School, there is only a girls' softball team and Joelle is not allowed to play with the boys. Upset by this and the fact that no one seems to understand that baseball and softball are not the same game, she is determined to play her sport of choice. Appealing first to the coach, then the principal, and next to the superintendent, Joelle is foiled at every step. Eventually she becomes involved in starting a girls' league with neighboring towns. When the school board finally changes its rules, Joelle turns down the offer to play with the boys. Filled with realistic emotions and dialogue, this involving tale has just the right amount of baseball action. It also provides an honest look at what it's like to be the "new kid" at school. The main character's thoughts are expressed in italics, which can be a bit distracting. Still, this is a winning story that will appeal to many readers.

Kate Kohlbeck, Randall School, Waukesha, WI

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-8. After she moves with her parents from Minneapolis to a small town in Iowa, 13-year-old baseball fanatic Joelle Cunningham cannot believe that she's not permitted to play on her new middle-school's baseball team. Convinced that girl's softball is not an adequate alternative to baseball, she starts a one-girl campaign to change the small town's rules, and her protest eventually expands into a community conflict that is televised on the local news. Determined Joelle is a fine protagonist. Readers will be caught not only by her drive to play ball and her willingness to take risks but also by her passionate commitment and the broadening vision that doesn't allow her to settle for just being the one female on an all-male team. Although there is only occasional play-by-play coverage of baseball games, the well-paced plot will engage readers, who will be moved by the story of a young teen who stands up for what she believes and goes after what she wants.

Roger Leslie

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Review

“The well-paced plot will engage readers, who will be moved by the story of a young teen who stands up for what she believes and goes after what she wants.” —*Booklist*

“Joelle is a well-drawn character, sometimes unsure of her place in the scheme of things, and at other times ready to take on the world. . . . Breezy and fast-paced, with a feminist slant.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Filled with realistic emotions and dialogue, this involving tale has just the right amount of baseball action. It also provides an honest look at what it's like to be the ‘new kid’ at school. . . . A winning story that will appeal to many readers.” —*School Library Journal*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lila Johnson:

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want reading a book. As long as we know about how is important a new book Sliding into Home. You can add understanding and of course you can around the world with a book. Absolutely right, due to the fact from book you can realize everything! From your country right up until foreign or abroad you will find yourself known. About simple point until wonderful thing you can know that. In this era, we could open a book or maybe searching by internet unit. It is called e-book. You need to use it when you feel uninterested to go to the library. Let's study.

Larry Devries:

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Robert Shaw:

With this era which is the greater individual or who has ability in doing something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you should do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to have a look at some books. Among the books in the top list in your reading list is usually Sliding into Home. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking right up and review this publication you can get many advantages.

Brenda Moulton:

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got pupils? We believe that that issue was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, All people has different hobby. And you also know that little person like reading or as studying become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important and book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update about something by book. Numerous books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them is actually Sliding into Home.

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