



Streetball Crew Book One Sasquatch in the Paint

By Kareem Abdul-Jabbar



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Theo Rollins is starting eighth grade six inches taller, and his new height is making everyone expect more from him. Coach Mandrake wants to transform him from invisible science geek into star basketball player, even though Theo has little experience with the game. When Theo tries to hone his skills by playing pick-up ball in the park, kids are eager to include him at first; then they quickly see that he has no control of his gangly body. A girl named Rain even dubs him "Sasquatch." To make matters worse, all his time spent on training is starting to hurt his science club's chances of winning the "Aca-lympics," the school's trivia competition. Just when Theo thinks he can't handle any more pressure, he's accused of stealing. Can he find the real thief before he is kicked off the basketball and science club teams, or will his attempt at sleuthing be yet another air ball?

Loosely based on challenges that NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar faced while growing up, *Sasquatch in the Paint* is a slam dunk for fans of basketball action and absorbing mysteries.

Praise for *Sasquatch in the Paint*

"A crisp tale of sports, smarts and what it means to be your own man or woman-or boy or girl, if you happen to be 13...It seems to be an embarrassment of riches to be, say, one of the best basketball players in history and also write tightly entertaining novels for kids, but there you have Abdul-Jabbar. Fearless, caring sports fiction."

--*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

"A humorous novel that delivers a heartwarming story about growing up, facing down bullies, and learning what true friendship is all about."

--*School Library Journal*

"The depth and realism Abdul-Jabbar and Obstfeld bring to the novel keep it from being a run-of-the-mill sports story...Readers will feel a kinship with Theo as he maneuvers through tough but realistic choices."

--*Publishers Weekly*

"This smart, sensitive novel is full of simple truths that extend far beyond the court."

--*Booklist*

"This funny and inspirational novel based on Kareem's sudden growth spurt as a

middle-schooler captures the excitement of playing basketball and the anxiety of growing up--while growing tall, which I know a little something about. Kids will learn about the wonderful world of basketball and the importance of friendship and following your dreams."

--Magic Johnson

A Junior Library Guild Selection

Selected for the Texas Library Association's Lone Star List

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 5-8—Theo Rollins had been one of the most inconspicuous members of his class until he experienced a six-inch growth spurt before the start of eighth grade. Now, Coach Mandrake wants to build his entire offense around him, much to the dismay of the other team members because Theo is a science geek who stinks at basketball. The first game he plays is a disaster and, after a spectator makes a racist comment causing him to make a costly mistake, a classmate named Rain gives him the nickname “Sasquatch.” Later, Theo discovers that there is more to Rain than meets the eye. Faced with dismissal from the “Brain Train,” the school's Aca-lympic team, because of the time he spends on basketball, Theo must make an important decision about his future. Fans of Matt Christopher and Dan Gutman will enjoy this humorous novel that delivers a heartwarming story about growing up, facing down bullies, and learning what true friendship is all about.—Wayne R. Cherry, Jr., First Baptist Academy Library, Houston, TX©(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Thanks to the six inches he grew recently, eighth-grader Theo has lost his invisibility. The basketball coach conscripts him, but Theo's so uneasy in his new body that he's uncoordinated and self-conscious on the court. He doesn't want to quit, though, even when he's nicknamed Sasquatch during his first game. The more he studies and practices the game, the more he loves it, but “to want to do something you weren't good at was begging to be let down.” Meanwhile, he's having trouble balancing other responsibilities, including the “Aca-lympic” academic team that has been a huge part of his life. This smart, sensitive novel is full of simple truths that extend far beyond the court. Theo's dedication makes him an admirable role model for kids on the slow-burning value of practice, while his struggles to adapt to life changes and weather embarrassments make him relatable. Secondary characters, including his new Muslim friend Rain, realistically support and challenge Theo as needed. Pair with Candy Gourlay's Tall Story (2011) and Matthew Quick's Boy21 (2012) for a successful assist. Grades 5-8. --Krista Hutley

Review

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Harold McDonough:

This Streetball Crew Book One Sasquatch in the Paint book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is actually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Streetball Crew Book One Sasquatch in the Paint without we recognize teach the one who looking at it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't always be worry Streetball Crew Book One Sasquatch in the Paint can bring whenever you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even phone. This Streetball Crew Book One Sasquatch in the Paint having good arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

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Janet Baltimore:

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