

The Hoopster



Alan Lawrence Sitomer



Synopsis

Andre Anderson is an African American teenager with a bright future. He loves to play basketball. He loves to hang out with his friends. He loves to laugh. Andre has skills, brains, and heart. He also has a dream. Then he is viciously attacked. Now everything he ever believed about the world has been called into question. Even his deadly jump shot. How can a man get up when he has been unjustly beaten down? Andre is about to find out. Andre is The Hoopster.

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Customer Reviews

Grade 8-10-Andre Anderson spends his summer playing basketball with his pals and working at a magazine, where he is assigned to write an article dealing with race. As an African American, the teen is reluctant to take on this subject as his first assignment, but he comes to think about it more deeply and writes an explosive piece. In fact, the article stirs such passions that a group of racists assault him, smashing his hand and sending him to the hospital. At the novel's end, Andre has recovered and is lauded for his courage and talent. At its best (especially in the first part), the novel captures the details of everyday life and the sometimes rough talk of teenagers. However, the second part becomes rather didactic and fuzzy. It would have helped, for example, to know more of the content of Andre's article and what made it so controversial. And it is doubtful that the thugs who attacked him would have been so stirred by something that appeared in what seems to be a rather sophisticated magazine-the written word doesn't have much influence on that type of guy. Finally, as the novel progresses, Andre becomes less of a well-rounded character and more of a cardboard "hero." It all adds up to a story that, despite some good moments, never manages to take off. Todd

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Full of action, humor, tragedy and inspiration. These pages have game. -- Jonas Martinez, 18, New York, NY I'm totally in love with Andre and his crew. -- Traci T. 21, Lynwood, CA This book is fresh and I never like to read! -- Dontae "D-Dogg" Webster, 17, L.A., CA --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Exactly what we needed. Thank you!

I bought this for my g/son, who was assigned it as part of junior HS Required Reading. His solid Report had this G/Father reading and enjoying the Hoopster.

fast and good price

This is a very good book. It came in a timely manner in great condition. We've been searching for this book for a while to no avail. Great find! Great book!

;)

Young readers will most take to the dialogue in Alan Sitomer's THE HOOPSTER because it's realistic, funny, and true to each speaker. The protagonist, Andre, is a thoughtful young man who hopes to be a writer. His friend Shawn is more in it (life, I mean) for the ride. And Cedric, his cousin, is the clown determined to cash in on his race by appearing at a night club and exclusively using black jokes for laughs. Cedric believes it's legit, but Andre finds it an insult. Where the book is less compelling is with the article Andre writes. Here we veer into TV make-believe, where a big magazine boss would suddenly ask his young black intern to write a feature article on racism, where the article (we see little of it) would be so good that it wins an award from an international journalism organization, and where Andre becomes the target of hate groups because of all of this. The ending compounds matters (I won't give it away, but it would make the book worthy of being a Hallmark Classic on Turner TV). That said, I think teenagers would forgive that due to the action and the humor. Teachers buying the book for classroom libraries should read it first as some of the banter is more adult (high school) than not (middle school). To the book's credit, basketball plays a role but is

not the exclusive focus. It has a message to make and it makes it. Overall, an admirable freshman outing for Sitomer.

The Hoopster wasn't what I expected it to be. I thought it would be one of those sports books where the main character lives and breathes his sport, culminating in "the big game" where he makes the winning basket/touchdown/homerun/goal. That isn't this book at all. The title does refer to Andre's love of basketball and the book does begin with a basketball game, but the focus of the book and of Andre's life is his goal to be a writer. It's a book about racism in modern America, but it avoids the stereotypical "us vs. them" storylines found in many novels. The Hoopster is thoughtful and thought-provoking, with characters I'd like to know better. I can't wait to read the sequel, Hip-Hop High School.

The HoopsterThe Hoopster, by Alan Sitomer, is a compelling book that allows you to see arguably the toughest year of Andre's life. Things look good at first; he has a hot new girlfriend, Gwen, just received a promotion in his job working for a magazine, and is his usual dominant self on the basketball court. Andre's new assignment is to write each month an article about race. Since he is a very bright African-American, his input on the topic becomes meaningful to nearly all the subscribers. One group, however, does not think so highly of his writings. One night when Andre is leaving work, his life forever changes... The Hoopster is the book for you if you enjoy fast-paced, action-packed, sports thrillers with many unexpected twists. This book is not for a sensitive reader and I would not recommend it to anyone below the middle school level, because the content is not always G or PG. Overall, I think anyone over 12 would truly enjoy this book, and it would open up anyone's eyes about and make the reader think twice before stereotyping another African American.

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