



Are You Experienced?

By Jordan Sonnenblick

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Are You Experienced? By Jordan Sonnenblick

Rich is fifteen and plays guitar. When his girlfriend asks him to perform at protest rally, he jumps at the chance. Unfortunately, the police show up, and so does Rich's dad. He's in big trouble. Again. To make matters worse, this happens near the anniversary of his uncle's death from a drug overdose years ago. Rich's dad always gets depressed this time of year, but whenever Rich asks questions about his late uncle, his dad shuts down.

Frustrated by his dad's silence, Rich sneaks into his office and breaks into a locked cabinet that holds his dad's prized possession: an electric guitar signed by Jimi Hendrix. Before he knows it, Rich is transported to the side of a road in Upstate New York with a beautiful girl bending over him. It will take him a while to realize it's 1969, he's at Woodstock, and the girl's band of friends includes his fifteen-year-old dad and his uncle, who's still alive. In *Are You Experienced?* by Jordan Sonnenblick, what Rich learns, who he meets, and what he does could change his life forever.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8-10—October 2014. Rich is a guitar-playing 15-year-old whose parents, former hippies, are strict. When the teen's goth girlfriend talks him into performing at a rally for the legalization of medical marijuana, Rich lies to his father but gets caught when the man shows up at the event. After a blowup and Rich is grounded, he finds the guitar that Jimi Hendrix played at Woodstock in 1969 in his father's closet. Rich is suddenly transported back to that time and place. He lands naked in the street and gets hit by a car. The catch? The car is driven by his father's older brother, Michael, who is fated to die from a heroin overdose a couple of weeks later. His uncle's girlfriend convinces Rich to join them on their trip to a music festival: Woodstock. Rich shares the backseat with Michael's hyperactive younger brother, David, who will grow up to become Rich's dad. While the book is humorous at times, the vernacular doesn't quite resonate as realistic. In addition, the teen's antagonistic relationship with his dad feels somewhat forced. While readers may be able to suspend disbelief in regard to the Hendrix guitar, it's curious that the teen doesn't seem overly concerned about returning to his own world. The novel is well researched, but it's unlikely that teens will connect with all the references.—Ryan P. Donovan, New York Public Library©(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From Booklist

Dig it: Sick of his dad's uptight rules, 15-year-old Rich trespasses into a private room and discovers the off-white Fender Stratocaster played by Jimi Hendrix at Woodstock. What the hell? Per an attached note, Rich plays the Jimi chord and is blasted 45 years into the past, where he is struck by a van containing his 15-year-old father, David; 18-year-old uncle, Michael; and Willow, the most beautiful, sad, magical, amazing hippie love goddess in the universe. Yeah, it's a far-out trip. Soon Rich is living Woodstock firsthand, including special brownies, free love make-out sessions, mud, smoke, and the sort of music that changes lives. Aware that Uncle Michael dies of a heroin overdose after the festival, Rich sets out to save him—and in doing so, save his father's future as well. Despite some didactic passages, Sonnenblick's depiction of Woodstock is genuine, infectious, and groovy (he shares a joint with Jerry Garcia!), and Rich's future knowledge wrings aching melancholy from what, in 1969, seemed like a utopia. Unique, occasionally profound, and appropriately psychedelic. Turn it up, man! Grades 7-10. --Daniel Kraus

Review

“Readers will enjoy seeing the 1960s through Rich's eyes.” *?Publishers Weekly*

“Sonnenblick's depiction of Woodstock is genuine, infectious, and groovy (he shares a joint with Jerry Garcia!), and Rich's future knowledge wrings aching melancholy from what, in 1969, seemed like a utopia. Unique, occasionally profound, and appropriately psychedelic. Turn it up, man!” *?Booklist*

“This provocative, personal peek at legendary Woodstock rocks.” *?Kirkus Reviews*

“Captures the mood and magic of the famous weekend from a distinctly contemporary perspective.” *?BCCB*

“Teens who revere Woodstock will love this detailed and highly entertaining look at the famous festival. Any teen who has dealt with a difficult relationship with a parent will surely identify with Sonnenblick's sensitive and moving portrayal of a father and son discovering what makes each other tick.” *?VOYA*

“Humorous . . . well researched.” *?School Library Journal*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Harry Crawford:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a concern. What people must be consider whenever those information which is in the former life are hard to be find than now could be taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen within you if you take Are You Experienced? as the daily resource information.

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