



Egghead: A Novel

By Caroline Pignat

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Egghead: A Novel By Caroline Pignat

Red Maple Book Award - Fiction Honour Book 2009

Snow Willow Award Nominee 2009

CLA Young Adult Canadian Book Award shortlist, 2009

Canadian Children's Book Centre Our Choice, 2009

Will Reid is a gawky kid who wears fake turtlenecks, is obsessed by his ant farm project, and is lousy at gym. In other words, he's the perfect target for Shane, the Grade 9 bully.

Katie has been Will's friend in elementary school, but defending him in the high school environment comes at an unforeseen cost - she dreads the rumours that link them in a boyfriend/girlfriend way she's never considered.

Devan has been part of Shane's bullyboy team until now, when he comes to realize that it's not so smart to mindlessly back up each nasty attack of Shane's.

Together the three young teens are struggling to find their way out of one of the classic dilemmas of life: how not to be a bystander to bullying, how to stand up for your friends, and how to deal with consuming rage.

Young readers will find lots to think about as they turn the pages of this crisp and compelling story by newcomer Caroline Pignat. Each character takes a turn at telling the story - through the spare blank verse of Will, wrapped up in the world of his single-parent father and his own eccentric preoccupations; through the clear-eyed accounts of Katie, wrestling with her own private demons; and in the sensitive narrative of the slowly awakening Devan, who comes to notice Katie as a spunky, attractive individual whom he'd like to know better but fears thinks he's a goof.

Note that Kids Help Phone's has included *Egghead* on their site as a book to help kids in their Get Information section under Bullying for Ages 13 and Up.

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Egghead: A Novel By Caroline Pignat Bibliography

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- Brand: Red Deer Press
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- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1

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- Binding: Paperback
- 173 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 7–10—Ninth-grader Will Reid, obsessed with ants and the science fair, wears a turtleneck dickie under his shirts. His only friend is Katie, a girl he has known since elementary school. Awkward and strange, he is the school bully's primary target. Shane has two lackeys—Brad, who is equally as sinister, and Devan, who goes along with the crowd even though he knows deep inside that it is wrong. The book is filled with stories of tormenting Will, from smashing his prized ant farm, to locking him out of the locker room naked. Told from the perspectives of Will, Devan, and Katie, the book delves into the psychology of the characters from a realistic standpoint. Devan battles with both his crush on Katie and his need to disengage himself from Shane's aggressiveness, and Katie wants to protect Will but also to maintain her relationships with her other classmates. When one particular prank goes haywire, Will ends up in a coma. However, the book ends on a positive note, and the short chapters and high-paced drama are sure to engage even the most reluctant readers. Unfortunately, the story tends to generalize the reasoning behind Shane's behavior (he is abused by his father). There are also subplots, such as the deaths of most of the characters' parents, which draw away from the focus of the story. Still, teens will empathize with the characters and see the personality types inherent within themselves or in their schools.—*Marie C. Hansen, New York Public Library*

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Review

"Pignat explores the sensitive issue of bullying from three different perspectives, weaving the narratives together to give the reader a sense of plot without overdoing any particular scene. . . . At the climax of the story, the bullying escalates to a life-threatening incident, and the impact affects all three of the protagonists. With a sensitive ending that does justice to the characters, the situation, and reality, the issues are supported by Pignat's clear prose and sensitive treatment of the perspectives of three very different characters."

Highly Recommended

-- *CM Magazine*

"Teens will empathize with the characters and see the personality types inherent within themselves or in their schools."

-- *School Library Journal*

". . . a sensitive examination of bullying and its psychological roots."

-- *Booklist*

"The novel is satisfying and provocative, leaving readers with much food for thought. Hopefully more titles are on the horizon from this gifted writer."

-- *The StarPhoenix* (Saskatoon)

"*Egghead* is a sensitive portrayal of the dynamics behind bullying, peer pressure, and search for identity."

-- *The Bureau County Republican*

"The complicated boundaries of friendship are challenged and redefined in this story."

-- *Today's Parent*

"The events of this novel are as poignant as they are deplorable, and students will likely see themselves or someone they know in each of the captivating characters. The novel is a quick and easy read and the format

lends itself nicely to a character study as well as illustrating different features of text. The use of poetry and short, perspective-driven chapters make this an enjoyable and highly teachable resource."

-- *Professionally Speaking*

About the Author

Caroline Pignat graduated from the University of Ottawa with a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Arts in English and Religious Studies. After working with children and youth for over fifteen years in roles such as teacher, seminar facilitator, mentor and coach, she began her writing career.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Damon Smith:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for all of us. The book Egghead: A Novel has been making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The e-book Egghead: A Novel is not only giving you a lot more new information but also to become your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with the book Egghead: A Novel. You never experience lose out for everything when you read some books.

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