

Call Me By My Name

By John Ed Bradley

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From former football star and bestselling author John Ed Bradley comes a searing look at love, life, and football in the face of racial adversity. “Heartbreaking,” says Laurie Halse Anderson, author of *Speak*.

Growing up in Louisiana in the late 1960s, Tater Henry has experienced a lot of prejudice. His town is slow to desegregate and slower still to leave behind deep-seated prejudice.

Despite the town’s sensibilities, Rodney Boulett and his twin sister Angie befriend Tater, and as their friendship grows stronger, Tater and Rodney become an unstoppable force on the football field. That is, until Rodney sees Tater and Angie growing closer, too, and Rodney’s world is turned upside down. Teammates, best friends—Rodney’s world is threatened by a hate he did not know was inside of him.

As the town learns to accept notions like a black quarterback, some changes may be too difficult to accept.

“John Ed Bradley skillfully shines a beam of humanity through the prism of the game, revealing to us the full spectrum of its colors, from love to hate, bigotry to tolerance, and devotion to betrayal. Anyone who ever played high school football or loved someone who has should read this book.” —Tim Green, retired NFL player and bestselling author

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Call Me By My Name By John Ed Bradley Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #290327 in Books
- Published on: 2015-05-05
- Released on: 2015-05-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .80" w x 5.50" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Gr 8 Up—Narrator Rodney Boulet first meets Tater Henry in 1965 when Tater strolls into whites-only South City Park, hoping to try out for Pony League. While the other players heap plenty of verbal abuse on the young black boy, 10-year-old Rodney gets Tater safely out of the park before they can do physical harm. Over the next few years, Rodney and his twin sister, Angie, occasionally run into Tater in their small Louisiana town, and the three develop a casual friendship. When their high school is finally desegregated and both boys make the football team, their friendship is cemented. By the time they are seniors, the pair are leading the team to the state championship, which somewhat softens the town's narrow-minded views but not entirely: as Angie's and Tater's relationship moves beyond friendship, the couple are pressured from all sides. They do their best to ignore it, but as they dream of the not-too-distant day when all three of them will be at Louisiana State University, something happens that completely obliterates their plans. Students looking for lots of sports action may be disappointed, as this is a more contemplative tale of friendship in turbulent times. Rodney's quiet and matter-of-fact narration underscores the casual prejudice prevalent well into the 1970s in the Deep South. Recommend to fans of Patricia McKissack or Kristin Levine.—Kim Dare, Fairfax County Public Schools, VA

From Booklist
It’s the late 1960s and desegregation has finally come to small-town Louisiana. Twins Rodney and Angie Boulett have always been friendly with Tater Henry, a black boy from the other side of town, but it isn’t until they are freshmen at the newly integrated high school that the three become inseparable. Rodney couldn’t be more loyal to his best friend, but their friendship begins to fracture when he discovers the truth of Angie and Tater’s relationship. This absorbing story shines a spotlight on the complexities and tension of racial integration. Most characters fall neatly into designated roles and the dialogue can feel didactic, but that doesn’t detract from the range of viewpoints reflecting the era’s social upheaval. The narration flows best during the lengthy football scenes, where the author’s history as a football player really shines. Rodney and Angie seem unusually close (how many 17-year-old siblings spoon?), but readers will connect with Rodney as he struggles to resolve his feelings. Grades 7-10. --Summer Hayes

Review
The book "is so many other things that football might come third or fourth on the list. It is unflinching American history, it is cultural anthropology and it is a riveting morality play. Probably most of all it is a love story of the finest kind because it hurts all over and it mercilessly pits one kind of love against another in a genuine blood sport. John Ed Bradley has gathered a fine and believable cast of characters to tell a tough story, but above all Rodney Boulet stands as one of the most authentically, uncomfortably honest adolescent males I have read in quite some time." (Chris Lynch, author of the National Book Award Finalist Inexcusable)

"John Ed Bradley skillfully shines a beam of humanity through the prism of the game, revealing to us the full spectrum of its colors, from love to hate, bigotry to tolerance, and devotion to betrayal. Anyone who ever played high school football or loved someone who has should read this book." (Tim Green, author of Unstoppable)

"Recommend to fans of Patricia McKissack or Kristin Levine." (*School Library Journal*)

“This engaging story shines a spotlight on the complexities and tension of racial integration...the author's

history as a football player really shines...readers will connect with Rodney as he struggles to resolve his feelings." (*Booklist*)

* "With its tense but subtle plot trajectory structured by Rodney's progress through high school, the novel adds nuance to the difficult American conversation on race with its honest examination of how a white youth, who sees himself on the vanguard of racial tolerance, is hit with his own limits when it comes to his beloved sister's interracial romance. This compelling tale will foster both engaged group discussion and serious personal reflection." (*Bulletin, starred review*)

"This heartbreaking story is as moving as it is poignant. Bradley forces the reader to examine deeper issues than racial tolerance.... This is a very well written tale that delves into an important issue." (*VOYA*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Harry Nelson:

Precisely why? Because this Call Me By My Name is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap it but latter it will surprise you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such remarkable way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of gains than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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Jose Jones:

The book untitled Call Me By My Name contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains her idea with easy means. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was published by famous author. The author will take you in the new age of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice examine.

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