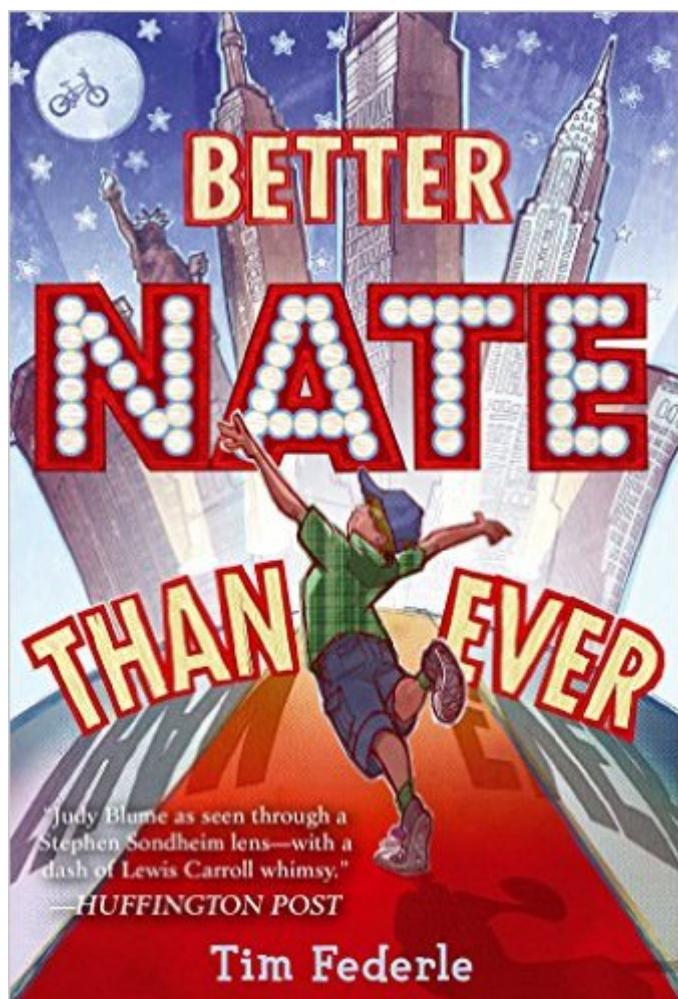


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Better Nate Than Ever



Synopsis

The Nate series by Tim Federle is a wonderful evocation of what it's like to be a theater kid. Highly recommended. • Lin-Manuel Miranda, star and creator of the musical, Hamilton A New York Times Notable Book of the Year, a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year, and a Slate Favorite Book of the Year. A small-town boy hops a bus to New York City to crash an audition for E.T.: The Musical. Nate Foster has big dreams. His whole life, he's wanted to star in a Broadway show. (Heck, he'd settle for seeing a Broadway show.) But how is Nate supposed to make his dreams come true when he's stuck in Jankburg, Pennsylvania, where no one (except his best pal Libby) appreciates a good show tune? With Libby's help, Nate plans a daring overnight escape to New York. There's an open casting call for E.T.: The Musical, and Nate knows this could be the difference between small-town blues and big-time stardom. Tim Federle's hilarious and heartwarming debut novel is full of broken curfews, second chances, and the adventure of growing up "because sometimes you have to get four hundred miles from your backyard to finally feel at home.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #73,781 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Theater #86 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Gay & Lesbian #282 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship

Customer Reviews

I have to start by saying that I loved this book. It was adorable, fun, and heartwarming. It was also neat to experience the first trip to New York with Nate. He grew a lot on his trip, and I loved seeing that growth. He was naive yet quick, funny yet real. Overall, just flat out wonderful. Now, I work in a public library. We started with this book down in the children's department. says ages 9+. I cannot think of any 9 year old that I could possibly give this book to. Honestly, I can't think of any child I

would give this book to at all. Nate is definitely showing signs that he wants to be with boys, but he is only 13 and hasn't made that decision yet. There is nothing wrong with that to me. To some parents, they might not feel the same way, or they might just not be ready to discuss that with their children. I wouldn't want to be the person that handed this book to a parent that wasn't ready for their child to read about it. Also, they use a word that starts with "f" and is a derogatory term for homosexual person. (won't let me say the word in my review, yet it appears many times in a book for children ages 9+???) Again, something many parents don't want their children introduced to. So there is a chance I could find a parent to discuss this with, and they could give it to their child fully prepared for discussion afterward. Unfortunately, I fear that most kids will see the cover and pick it up because it's cute, and these kids very well could have parents that don't want that discussion. We decided to move this up to the teen section. It is a pretty juvenile story, but I'm hoping some 13 or 14 year old kids who love theater will pick this up and fall in love with it. Also, it might find an audience in people questioning their sexual preferences.

Better Nate Than Ever was such a complete joy to read (devour, really)! This book sparkles and shines as bright as the lights of Broadway, and is as heartwarming as it is hilarious. Debut author Tim Federle has delivered a smash hit and has done so with addicting charm and flair. In Better Nate Than Ever we follow Nate Foster as he sets out on a big journey to make his dreams come true. Nate dreams of starring in a Broadway show and with the ingenious help of his BFF Libby, he concocts an exciting plan. When his parents go on a weekend trip and leave Nate in the care of his teenage brother, Nate and Libby put their plan in motion and Nate finds himself on an overnight bus trip to NYC and to an audition for E.T.: The Musical. Nate is dazzled by the city, but soon finds that navigating the streets (and people) of the big city isn't as easy as he hoped. And auditioning for a Broadway show is nothing like Nate imagined. But with a little help from a long lost relative and Libby back home, and a lot of courage and heart, Nate has one heck of an adventure and may just see his dreams come true. Better Nate Than Ever is wildly entertaining, laugh-out-loud funny, surprisingly poignant, and dazzling all over. I simply fell in love with Federle's story, characters, and voice. Federle brings Nate's story to life with a pitch-perfect and captivating middle-grade voice. Federle captures the often confusing, painful, and cringe-worthy middle-grade years in a way that young readers will relate to and older readers will appreciate. Federle is a fantastic storyteller with buckets of writing talent. Nate's world isn't a perfect one, in fact, it's pretty far from perfect.

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