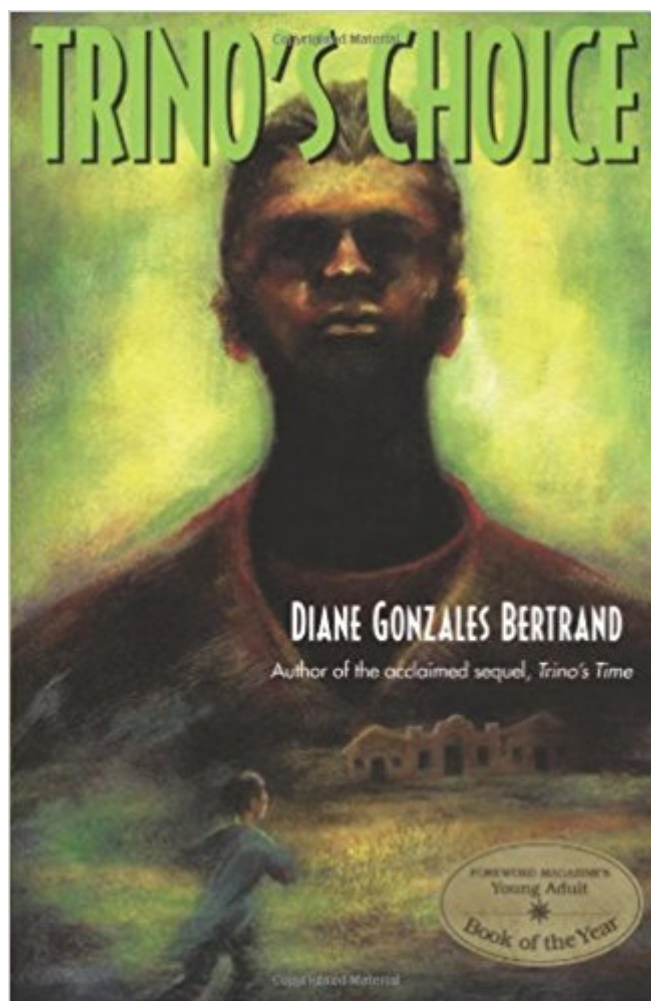


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Trino's Choice



Synopsis

Frustrated by his poor financial situation and hoping to impress a smart girl, seventh grader Trino falls in with a bad crowd led by an older teen with a vicious streak.

Book Information

Paperback: 124 pages

Publisher: Arte Publico Pr; 1st edition (May 31, 1999)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #90,728 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Peer Pressure #149 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Esteem & Reliance #203 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Being a Teen

Customer Reviews

Run or die, seventh-grader Trino thinks when he sees rat-faced Rosca and some other eighth-graders beating up the neighborhood convenience store owner, and they see him. Desperate, he ducks inside a dark bookshop, which he briefly considers robbing before some "school types," including the lovely Lisana, show up, interested in an upcoming poetry reading by a Latino poet who writes about the barrio. Although Trino and Lisana go to the same school, their lives seem worlds apart. Living in a Texas trailer park with his working mother, three younger stepbrothers, and freeloading drunk of an uncle, Trino hates his life and, frustrated, is drawn by Rosca's offer to hang out and maybe make some quick cash, which leads to tragedy. Although the story's pat last line reads like a heavy-handed, middle-school equivalent of riding off into the sunset, overall, this is a dramatic and realistic contemporary novel, in the tradition of Frank Bonham's *Durango Street* (1965) and Walter Dean Myers' *Scorpions* (1988), about a Latino boy struggling to grow into manhood and somehow make the right choices in the absence of adult guidance or even his own understanding of the serious consequences. Annie Ayres --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Realistic characters and settings . . . Skillful descriptions . . . Conversations are genuine . . . Deserves a sequel." -- VOYA [Voice of Youth Advocates] "Tough, gritty . . . will keep readers turning the pages." --Sacramento [California] Bee

I'm a special ed teacher. This book is a fantastic choice for reluctant readers--and any reader. It has a fast pace at times but also has lots of opportunity for 'close reading' (figurative language). My Latino students, in particular, love the book. One said it was the first book he had ever read cover to cover. I will keep teaching this year after year.

Great book! Daughter read the whole book in 2 days.

This story is wonderful. It is a must read for students, teachers, and parents as it is reflective of the students themselves, those we teach and will allow parents to get some insight into how their kids are possibly feeling.

When I choose this book for school. I thought it was going to be boring. But when I starting reading It, I couldn't put it down!

good book my daughter loved it

love the book and the condition it came in very good i read it when i was on middle school

The book Trino's Choice is a great book to read for children aged 12 and above. The story is centered on the main character Trino Olivares. Trino's family is facing serious financial problems and they are barely getting by on a daily basis. Trino's circumstances have forced him to grow earlier than his age and share his family's responsibility. His life gets worse after he witnesses Rosca and his small gang beat Mr. Epifaño, the owner of the neighborhood grocery store. He runs for his life when he meets Lisana, a fellow student. Trino is pushed in a situation where he has to decide between keeping his old friends who hung out with dangerous kids or being friends with Lisana and her group. Trino agrees not to tell the cops about Rosca's crime. Rosca offers him money to join his gang. He is faced with a difficult decision because his mother recently lost her job and the family needs the money, Trino considers the option. He must choose between taking the job Rosca has offered or staying away from trouble. On his way to meet Rosca about his new

job, Trino witnesses another murder; his friend Zipper was shot. There are some very important messages conveyed in this book, such as choosing between right and wrong, independence, issues related to identity, peer pressure, love, loneliness, and family problems. This book helps all children to learn and understand the complexity of taking decisions and the thought process required in making a choice. The language of the book will appeal to young readers as well as older ones. This book teaches the reader that not all decisions should be based on the need for money and sometimes one has to go through a lot of trouble while doing the ethical thing. What will be Trino's choice? Read to find out.

This book is an excellent read for young adults. It deals with the themes of person vs. person and person vs. self. This novel focuses on how Trino views his life and why he feels the way he does. He struggles with entering manhood with no guidance from a male role model and deciding whether to hang out with a school-type crowd or a rough crowd. Trino is a character that many children of this age level can identify with. He faces realistic conflicts between himself, friends, enemies and family members that young adults might be facing in their schools or at home. The author begins the book by Trino running away from someone who wants to kill him. This grabs the reader's attention because you don't know why he is trying to hide and who he is hiding from. The author draws her readers in and makes them want to know what is going to happen to Trino next. The Spanish dialogue that is incorporated into the text gives the reader a more realistic view of the novel because all the characters in this book are Latino. Trino is definitely a dynamic character because he experiences major changes in his life such as dealing with the death of a close friend, entering a new relationship with a girl, and entering manhood. This novel is highly recommended for teenagers because it focuses on issues that they are concerned about and can experience at this age.

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