



Audition & Subtraction

By Amy Fellner Dominy

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Best friends Tatum and Lori are used to doing everything together-including a clarinet/flute duet for District Honor Band auditions. But all that changes when Michael transfers to their middle school, and into their band. Suddenly, not only is he competition for Tatum's spot on stage, but he's stealing Lori, too. Tatum doesn't like change no matter its form: not with her good friend Aaron, who seems to believe her fib that they're secretly boyfriend and girlfriend. And not with her mom either, who, to cope with a separation from her dad, is performing in community theater, of all things! **Amy Fellner Dominy composes an equally heartwarming and humorous story of how holding tight to the status quo can mean missing out on the future-and how often times the best way to move forward is by going solo.**

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 5-8-Since third grade, Tatum and Lori have been inseparable, but now that middle school is drawing to a close, things are changing. Tatum first notices this when Michael moves to town-the new kid, the new clarinet player who threatens Tatum's chance at getting into the District Honor Band, and whose immediate interest in Lori threatens the girls' friendship. As Lori begins to take Michael's side over Tay's, going so far as to ask her to throw her Honor Band audition so that Michael can claim the coveted spot, Tay struggles to cope with the change in her best friend. Tay is also wrestling with her parents' recent separation and a friend who might want to be more from their relationship. The plot focuses on the upcoming band auditions, but the story is driven by the changing dynamics, all of which ring true to middle-school dramas. Tay's parents, while not deeply developed as characters, are supportive without being intrusive. The ultimate message-that we don't always get everything we want, even after sacrifices and hard work-is a valuable one, presented subtly. Girls looking for a realistic story will enjoy this one, and even those without musical aspirations will identify with Tatum's problems.-Brandy Danner, Wilmington Memorial Library, MA(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Review

Dominy (OyMG) presents a believably conflicted protagonist with a narrative voice to match; musicians will appreciate the many details Dominy works into the story. Tatum confronts her predicaments with humor and growing maturity as she builds the confidence necessary to handle change. Ages 10-14. - **Publishers Weekly**

Dominy's characters and situations--shown through Tatum's authentic voice--ring wholly true as newly developing boy/girl connections inevitably affect the girl/girl friendships that preceded them. Tatum's maturing recognition of her own self-worth and realistic outcomes...make this a satisfying and believable read. -**Kirkus**

About the Author

AMY FELLNER DOMINY is also the author of *OyMG*. She worked as a copywriter in the advertising business for twenty years before leaving to earn her MFA as a playwright. Her plays for adults and children have been staged in various cities around the country. She lives in Phoenix, Arizona, with her husband and two teenage children. amydominy.com

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paul Frazier:

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