
REVIEWS FOR PULL

The characters' feelings are realistically portrayed and the raw language is not gratuitous. ...this is Binns's first novel and she is an author who definitely has potential. –**School Library Journal**, May 2011

...the kind of book you should read on a weekend because once you've started it, you won't want to stop...many young adults will enjoy reading about the many challenges David faces and his unruly wooing of Yolanda. –**Voya**, Jan 2011

...this compelling story gives authentic voice to the social politics of teens, the long-term consequences of domestic violence, and a maturing teen's need to differentiate the expectations he has of himself from those even the adults he respects have of him. This is a good group discussion book. –**Booklist**, Dec 2010.

Tautly written, gripping and realistic...the story of what we owe our parents' dreams for us—and what we do not. The strength of this story comes from the author's refusal to take shortcuts or make up a traditional happy ending.... Readers happier to work with their hands than sit in a classroom will find themselves comforted to find a book which places value on David's choice. –Tanita S. Davis, recipient of the 2010 Coretta Scott King Author Honor

... one of the most powerful Y.A. books I've read all year. This book is seriously, utterly, powerfully compelling." –Courtney Milan, USA Today Bestselling Author

...an urban coming of age story that is compelling in its dealings with the role of marriage, the definition of family, recovering from horrific trauma, and domestic abuse as it plays out in homes and as it plays out in the schoolyards. The way the characters move forward and make decisions is not at all trite or condescending to teens. –Bethany Hegedus, author of *Between Us Baxters* and co-editor of Hunger Mountain literary journal

This is better than cable – a “reluctant reader”

PULL

B. A. Binns

WestSide Books/Hardcover/Fiction

On Sale: 10-27-10/\$16.95

ISBN: 978-1-934813-43-0 / 1-934813-435

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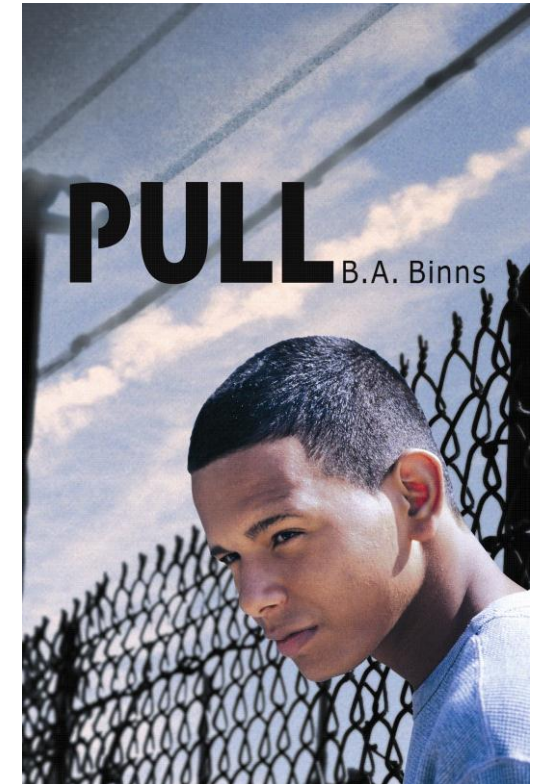


www.babinns.com
binns@babinns.com

P. O. Box 1583
Arlington Heights, IL 60006

STORIES OF REAL BOYS

GROWING INTO REAL MEN



Award winning novel by
author
B. A. Binns

Nominated for the 2012 YALSA
Quick Pick for Reluctant YA Readers list

PULL EXCERPT

It's fourth period, and so far not one teacher has questioned who I am. Like everyone else, the gym teacher accepted the transfer papers for David Albacore and waved me over to join the rest of the rejects in this class.

We're supposed to be practicing basketball passing drills. Not one of these guys, especially the nit wearing a dirty Chicago Bulls jersey, could even beat my sister. They're laughing and joking, and they barely know what to do with a basketball. I never wanted to go back to any school, but at least Farrington's a place where I can be invisible.

Then it happens--again.

The pain that's made its home inside me for so long that I've learned to ignore it suddenly roars to life, flexes its claws and tears at me from the inside. The voices around me fade, and sweaty bodies vanish as memory catches me in a stranglehold and I'm back. Back in that house, caught up in that horrible night.

Only this time things are different. This time I see him raise the gun. Hear the shot. See the bullet racing toward her chest.

This time I *will* save her.

Sweat pours from my forehead and salt stings my lips as I step into the path of death. I have no delusions--I know what's about to happen. I'm just David, not some superman. I brace for the impact, my hands clench and my muscles tense, grateful for this chance to set things right.

My life for hers. This time I will not fail.

AUTHOR B. A. BINNS



Finalist in the 2010 RWA Golden Heart® contest.

Winner of the 2009 Golden Rose contest and the 2010 National Readers Choice Award

I am the eldest of five children and grew up in Chicago, Il. I now reside in a Chicago suburb where I work with the youth group at my church and volunteer at my local library and senior center where I assist users with computer problems. I find writing an exercise in self discipline, and the perfect follow-up to my life as an adoptive parent and a cancer survivor.

After graduating Hyde Park High School, I obtained degrees in Biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin and Michigan State University; and in Computer Science from Roosevelt University, and DePaul University. My writing skills were honed at Chicago State University and Harper College. In addition to PULL, I have had numerous short stories published. I write to attract and inspire both male and female readers with stories of "real boys growing into real men...and the people who love them."

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Library Association – <http://www.ala.org>
- Chicago Writers Association – <http://www.chicagowrites.org>
- Romance Slam Jam (African American Writers) – <http://www.romanceslamjam.org/>
- Romance Writers of America)– <http://www.rwanational.org>

- Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators - <http://www.scbwi.org/>
- Write It Now – Rolling Meadows Library writers' group
- The Writing Place – Arlington Heights Memorial Library writers' group
- YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) – <http://www.ala.org/yalsa>

EVENTS

- **Domestic Violence and Teens**, Trinity United Methodist Church, Oct 24, 2010
- **Getting In Print**, Arlington Heights Library, Nov. 9, 2010
- **Writing for Young Adults**, Love Is Murder conference, Feb 5, 2011
- **Writing for Young Adults**, 31st Annual Literature Conference, DeKalb, Mar 11, 2011
- **Man Talk Workshop**, Online class, May 2011
- **Writing for Young Adults & New Adults** – DePaul University Summer Writing Workshop, July 17, 2011
- **Edgy YA** discussion with Midlothian Library Teen Book Club – Oct 11, 2011
- **Attracting Teen Boy Readers** – Ohio Educational Library Media Association, Columbus, Oh Oct 13, 2011
- Author discussion, Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, Rosemont, Oct 18, 2011
- **Love Stories: Boundaries and Extensions**, National Council of Teachers of English, Chicago, Nov 21, 2011
- **Man Talk Seminar**, Spring Fling Writer's conference, Schaumburg, April 2012

I would love to do an event for your bookstore, book club, library or school. I work with grades 6-12 and adults on topics including Dealing with Writer's Block, Time Management for Writers, and Writing for Reluctant and At-risk Readers.

Please visit me at www.babinns.com, or email me at binns@babinns.com for more information or to arrange a visit. You can also find me on Facebook as barbara binns and follow me on Twitter as barbarabinns.