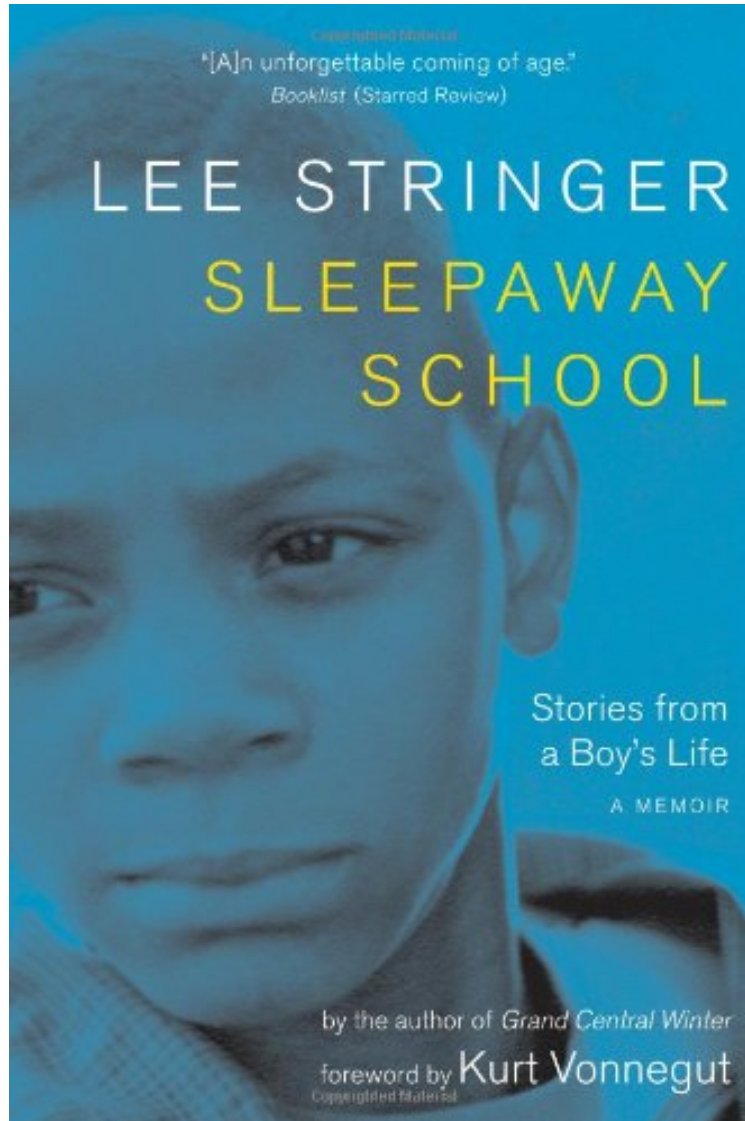


[Ebook free] Sleepaway School: Stories from a Boy's Life: A Memoir

Sleepaway School: Stories from a Boy's Life: A Memoir

Lee Stringer

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Lee Stringer : Sleepaway School: Stories from a Boy's Life: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sleepaway School: Stories from a Boy's Life: A Memoir:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Strange bookBy MykidsjamiceThis book was different.. overly it's okay. I don't believe I would suggest it for anyone to read. readers digestion advised.7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Growing up is hard to doBy The RAWSISTAZ ReviewersSLEEPAWAY SCHOOL is a touching memoir of the formidable years of Caverly Stringer. The reader is taken on an amazing journey as this young

boy becomes a young man in a world where color matters and living in poverty is part of one's existence. Caverly's mother, who is unable to take care of a new son, puts both her children into foster care, only to return for them six years later. By this time, Caverly and his brother Wayne, have been in the foster care system long enough for the harshness to have a profound affect on the two young boys. In hopes of the family having a better life, their mother moves them into a mostly white suburb. Caverly becomes a young boy who is brimming with anger, loneliness and the inability to fit in. With fits of anger often displayed inappropriately, Caverly loses his temper after a school assembly where a classroom of performers is in black face. After his angry outburst, he is sent to Hawthorne Cedar Knolls School, a sleep away school for young boys in crisis. The author, Lee Stringer, entertains us with stories of how he learns to live away from home in a foreign environment with structure and where he realizes how very different he is from everyone. While in this new environment, he learns much about himself and how cruel the world can be when you are black. He spends much of his time trying to belong, but the other young boys constantly pick on him. One particular incident has Caverly placed in a mental ward for observation after he threw a brick at another student. He proclaims, "I just want to be left alone." From that one statement, the reader understands precisely what he means. He wants to be able to live his life without others treating him differently. After an incident involving the use of a racial epithet, the reader realizes Caverly is slowly starting to grow and mature because he does not react in his usual violent manner. Although at times the story was sad, there were bursts of happiness that the reader reveled in because it becomes obvious that Caverly deserved to be able to smile and enjoy a moment of happiness. This memoir is a testament into how much young black men must overcome. The story being told by Caverly moved at a very comfortable pace and the writing style was different but very poignant. With memorable characters, this novel will make you smile at times, as well feel saddened by this young boy's plight. I enjoyed this novel for its lyrical writing style and message of hope. This is one novel that should be read by all young boys. Reviewed by Cashana Seal of The RAWSISTAZ Reviewers 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Heartwarming, poignant read By ScarletMI have just finished reading this precious book. I didn't want it to end. Mixed with sadness and unending joy, this book is beautifully written by Mr Stringer and tells the story of his transformation from angry kid to talented, and self confident man. Caverly's character is a delight, by the end of the book you cannot but love this inventive child. I highly recommend this book - it should be a set work for tenth graders across America. What really hurt me was to hear that Stringer's other book is about his life on the streets as a homeless, crack addict. The feeling at the end of Sleepaway School was that Caverly was bound for greatness - what happened to send him on his downward spiral. I will definitely be looking out for this book in the hope that it answers my question.

Like his brother before him, Stringer was surrendered to foster care, shortly after birth, by his unwed and underemployed mother a common practice for unmarried women in mid-century America. Less common was that she returned six years later to reclaim her children. Rather than leading to a happy ending, though, this is where Stringer's story begins. The clash of being poor and black in an affluent, largely white New York suburb begins to foment pain and rage which erupts, more often than not, when he is at school. One violent episode results in his expulsion from the sixth grade and his subsequent three-year stint at Hawthorne, the "sleepaway school" of the title. What follows is an intensely personal, American journey: a universal story of childhood where childhood universals are absent. We experience how a child fashions his life out of the materials given to him, however threadbare. This is a "boy-meets-world" story, the chronicle of one child's struggle simply to be. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers Weekly In his second memoir, Stringer (Grand Central Winter) retraces a troubled 1960s New York City childhood, one full of hope and promise that deteriorated into years of emotional pain. Born out of wedlock, Stringer and his brother lived with their financially struggling mother until bills overcame her, compelling her to turn them over to foster care. Stringer describes how, as a youngster, he fought other kids, kicked over desks and bad-mouthed instructors, never questioning his school counselors when they said he was full of anger. He questioned the difference between his black world and that of the white, "normal" one, where hate and intolerance seemed usual. Stringer was committed for two years to a school for at-risk children, where his Stringer's reputation for having a wicked temper followed him. Springer's lean prose renders his mother as a resourceful, determined woman who buys her rageful son a punching bag to vent his anger. Only through poetry and art did Springer find outlets for self-expression and a fresh start for the remainder of his youth (until his adult crash with drug addiction). Springer deftly tells a believable, candid and vivid tale of a person scarred by his past. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal Adult/High School In this gritty, wrenching memoir that is all about differences, both seen and unseen, Stringer tells the stories of his childhood in fits and starts. His episodic yet eloquent writing style suits his subject perfectly. Stringer's mother, a single black woman who did her best to raise her offspring on food stamps and illegal day work in a wealthy white town, placed her two young children in foster care. Six years later, she retrieved them. The atmosphere of small-town New York, which the author separates into "chocolate" and "vanilla," is captured in vignettes. Memories from the first time he lied to his mother to his relationship with God to the time he and his friends found a dead baby in a paper bag are distilled through

the filter of an angry boy. Honest and unashamed, he describes, but never tries to justify, the rage that landed him at Hawthorne Cedar Knolls, a school for kids at risk. Submersion into this nearly all-Jewish community of young men quite a shock to Catholic Caverly was only the beginning of his experiences at "sleepaway school." Unfocused and unsure of himself, he gradually began to overcome his frustration and anger. Teens who like realistic reads such as Dave Pelzer's *A Child Called "It"* (Health Communications, 1995) or Terry Trueman's *Stuck in Neutral* (HarperCollins, 2000) will want to read this one. Charli Osborne, Oxford Public Library, MI Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist *Starred *

In a riveting memoir, the author of the acclaimed *Grand Central Winter: Stories from the Street* (1998) goes back to his 1960s troubled childhood as a foster kid growing up poor and black in a wealthy white neighborhood in upstate New York. When his blind fury at a racist insult leads to violence, Lee gets sent to a school for troubled boys, where most kids are white and middle class and he stands out as the welfare kid who never had it so good. Told in more than 30 connected stories, the eloquent, present-tense narrative has the immediacy of Tobias Wolff's *This Boy's Life* (1989), drawing you into the kid's world, sometimes joyful, more often weary, then suddenly wild with anger. There's not a word of rhetoric. But always the prejudice is there. Occasionally it's the n-word; more often it's condescension that drives him crazy (one teacher suggests Negroes are on earth to teach man tolerance). In the climactic story, the boy confronts his self-hatred and overcomes his fear that he might be like "them"; he hears a black laborer sing a slave song and recognizes the "pain and longing and heartbreak. Right down to the hollows of my soul." It's an unforgettable coming-of-age. Hazel Rochman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved