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The Crossings (Mom's Choice Award Recipient)



Synopsis

Grand Prize Winner Great Southeast Book Festival Mom's Choice Award--Young Adult Books--Fiction Hollywood Book Festival Runner UP Best YA Fiction Runner Up New England Book Festival Best YA Novel Runner Up Best YA Fiction New York Book Festival San Francisco Book Festival Honorable Mention Readers' Favorite Bronze International Book Award--Best YA Coming of Age Literary Classics International Book Awards Seal of Approval Captivating story of a boy and a dream set in the 1930s. His family struggles to survive and Georgie helps out with a job after school and he is an acolyte in his church. He plans to hop a freight train to New Orleans to see Mardi Gras and is determined nothing will stop him. His adventure is fraught with danger, new friends, and gives him an experience of a lifetime. Based on a true story, all ages will enjoy this story of riding the rails and the rich culture of New Orleans. THE GREAT SOUTHEAST BOOK FESTIVAL NAMES THE CROSSINGS FOR TOP HONORS LOS ANGELES_ The story of a young boy's daring adventure riding the rails to New Orleans and Mardi Gras is the grand prize winner of the 2015 Great Southeast Book Festival. The Crossings by Barry Kienzle is a fiction novel based on a journey taken by the author's father in 1932. Georgie is an altar boy, but he hops a freight train and is determined that nothing will stop him from seeing Mardi Gras in the Big Easy. The colorful characters and the vivid setting make a perfect young adult novel.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This exciting tale has broad crossover appeal. Youngsters will be taken with the fledgling hero's bold adventures. Older generations will be touched by the bravado engendered by childhood

heartbreak and will likely recall old sidekicks whose flights of fancy led to some pretty improbable escapades. The impeccable historical research results in the authentic storytelling of an era that some have never known and others will never forget. --Kentucky Enquirer

Barry Kienzle's, *The Crossings*, is a spirited fictional account of a 1930s trip to New Orleans as seen through the youthful eyes of George Martin. Kienzle's inaugural effort is written with the style of a seasoned pro as Mardi Gras and the steel rails leading there come to life on the book's pages. In a time when young boys came of age too quickly and often for the wrong reasons, *The Crossings* leaves you feeling blessed about the life George Martin was destined to lead. --Rick Robinson, award-winning author - *Alligator Alley*

This riveting story allows one to relive childhood dreams from an innocent time. Living vicariously through "Georgie" leaves us anxiously awaiting the rest of the story. This book is entertaining and an easy read, a must for the avid reader. --Robert Zapp, President, The Bank of Kentucky

Barry Kienzle was born, raised and educated in northern Kentucky and is in every sense, a Kentucky boy, proud of his heritage and the state he calls home. As such, he is very familiar with its history and culture and feels honored that his first novel, *The Crossings*, is a story with northern Kentucky origins. Barry studied Accounting at Northern Kentucky University, became a CPA and worked primarily in the accounting and finance areas in construction and real estate development companies, currently as a CFO. As he nears retirement, he is venturing toward a second career in writing and felt compelled to begin it with a novel about an amazing venture of his father's who, in 1932 hopped a freight train and rode it to New Orleans to see the Mardi Gras. Barry's devotion to the community has led him to serve on many boards over time including Habitat for Humanity, senior citizens groups, school and other capital raising campaigns and other not-for-profit organizations. He currently serves on the Boards of Directors of both the Northern Kentucky University Foundation and the Bank of Kentucky.

"*The Crossings*" is a fast-paced and enjoyable story about a young boy's adventure traveling to New Orleans for Mardi Gras during the depression. It also contains a wonderful message about helping others, or appreciating the help that we receive, as we go through life. I particularly recommend this book for someone looking for a "quick read" for an activity like going to the beach or while traveling.

I thoroughly enjoyed *The Crossings*. I found it to be a very easy read that grabbed my attention on

page one and kept it throughout the book. Based on a true story, we read about a young boy's problems and the lessons he learned on his amazing adventure. Lessons that enabled him to live a rich and rewarding life.

Great little book about a place I grew up at. Latonia, Kentucky.

George Martin, or Georgie, as his friends call him, is an inquisitive and energetic twelve year old boy growing up in the 1930s. Wherever Georgie is you will likely find his best friend Schmitty, who seems to possess a bit more common sense than his counterpart. Yet more often than not, Georgie seems to wrangle Schmitty into joining him in stirring up trouble of any kind. So when Georgie decides to hitch the rails from their home-town in northern Kentucky to Louisiana for Mardi Gras, Schmitty's instincts tell him it's a bad idea. But he soon realizes Georgie is determined to go with or without him, so Schmitty decides to tag along. But things don't go quite as planned, and soon Georgie finds himself alone and without food, supplies or money. *The Crossings* is based on the true story of the author's father's personal experience as a young boy. Author Barry Kienzle brings to life Georgie's thrilling, but terrifying travels as experienced through the eyes of this daring young man. Young boys especially will relate to Georgie's thrill-seeking whims. Along the way he has many close calls including run-ins with the notorious railroad "bulls" (hired to keep hobos off the trains), being chased by a gang of ruffians, and finding himself penniless during an era when few had anything to spare. Despite his dire situation, he encounters people who are willing to help in whatever small ways they can while offering advice to help him along his journey. While Georgie doesn't always heed the warnings of others, he does manage to listen and learn from the many people he encounters on his amazing adventure.

Barry Kienzle writes a well-researched historical coming-of-age novel set during the Great Depression in the Greater Cincinnati Area and New Orleans, Louisiana. The protagonist, George Martin, encounters unexpected growth as a result of challenging familial circumstances and chance encounters as he embarks on a classical hero's journey. The Crossings or intersections that litter George's path are life-changing as he struggles to accept the adult responsibility that has interrupted his carefree childhood. Although George suffers significant loss, he also gains in ways in which he could not have possibly anticipated. Kienzle's novel reminds us that, amid life's

disappointments, there are many blessings. Young readers as well as mature ones would enjoy the adventure and could benefit from the important thematic lessons presented in *The Crossings*.

What a fun coming-of-age story that is set in the 1930's, but still applies to its readers today! Georgie, the protagonist, is determined to go against his mother and teachers, and hops a freight train to New Orleans. Little does he know that this journey will turn him into a young man...from naive to wise, from immature to mature. He learns that we all have 'crossings' or obstacles in our lives that we must overcome. He definitely loses his childhood innocence but what he gains is far more significant. He sees how important his family and friends are to him, and he cannot wait to get back home. I think we can all relate to that! This book is great for all ages. I think it would be especially appealing to young adults and most recently won a Mom's Choice Award.

A wonderful and inspiring "feel good" story, that accentuates throughout the text the positive side of human nature. A "Stand By Me" meets "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer." The author, and maybe even more so, the protagonist, must have been inspired by Mark Twain. Not only is this novel a tribute to his Father, but this author's original offering is one that would have made his Dad proud. A "piece of Americana", this novel is a must for all pre-teens and a great escape for most adults. A novel that the "Man in White" would have been proud of. Dr. Stanley E. Toompas, Optometrist & Author of, "I'm the One the Other Isn't"

I thoroughly enjoyed "The Crossings." I felt I was right there in the boxcar with Georgie on his adventure to New Orleans and the Mardi Gras! The author's detailed description of the countryside was amazing. I highly recommend this book and look forward to the possibility of a follow-up story in the near future. John C.

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