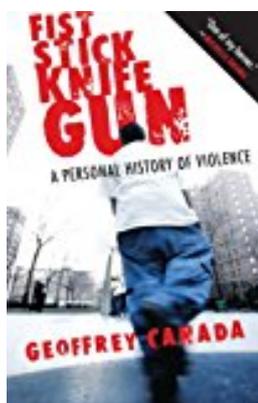


[PDF] Fist Stick Knife Gun: A Personal History Of Violence

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Books Details:

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Released: 2010-10-13
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Description:

From **Publishers Weekly** Canada, a legendary educator and crusader for inner-city-youth, first published in 1995 his revelatory account of the daunting push toward violent behavior that was a part of his Bronx childhood. This graphic adaptation by Nicholas works as a kind of youth-friendly summary of that book's conclusions. Canada's thoughtful, no-nonsense narrative begins in the Bronx in the late 1950s, after his father left him, his mother, and two brothers to fend for themselves. The spine of the story is not so much the broad array of violence on display in a neighborhood suffering

from postwar white flight and increases in crime, but Canada's surgical analysis of the stages of violence and the strictly codified strata that reigned on his street and in his school. Helped by Nicholas's dramatic but low-key illustrations, Canada describes how he graduated from one level of violence to the next in a sort of ladder of self-protection. This inexorable evolution is dismaying enough before Canada moves ahead to show how those codes of violence eventually collapsed under an influx of guns. This is exactly the sort of broadly appealing and gripping nonfiction graphic novel that librarians need to be adding to their shelves. (Oct.) (c)

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From This adaptation of Canada's 1996 book joins G. Neri's *Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty* (2010) and Robert Renteria's *Mi Barrio* (2010) in a recent graphic mini-trend of gritty urban biographies. But while the former was about how the violence of the streets can corrupt and destroy and the latter was about how to escape it, Canada's story is about recognizing the inevitability of violence and learning to live with it. The tale, told through 10 situations from Canada's childhood and teen years on the streets of the South Bronx, is a minutely detailed study of the politics of violence, the power dynamics it creates, the relationships it engenders, how to take it, how to dish it out, and how, in essence, to take control of it and not let it ruin you. The caricatured faces that populate the story show off the innocence, the hatred, and the fear in each person and highlight the simple human truth of the unfortunate message: accepting violence is not the most hopeful prospect, but to many readers, it maybe the most realistic one. Grades 7-12. --Jesse Karp

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