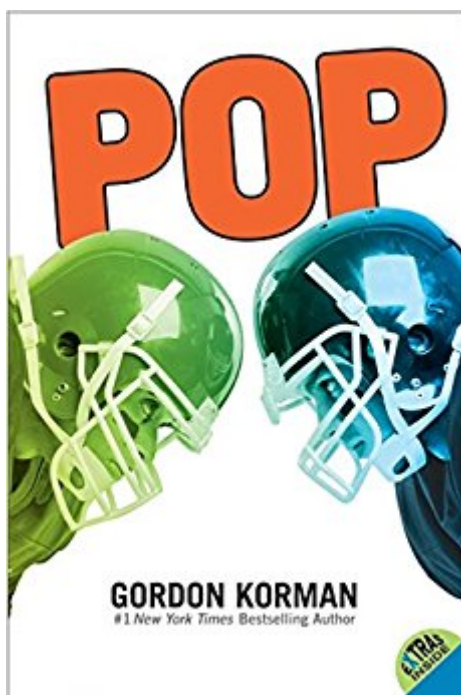


The book was found

Pop



Synopsis

When Marcus moves to a new town in the dead of summer, he doesn't know a soul. While practicing football for impending tryouts, he strikes up an unlikely friendship with an older man. Charlie is a charismatic prankster and the best football player Marcus has ever seen. He can't believe his good luck when he finds out that Charlie is actually Charlie Popovich, or "the King of Pop," as he had been nicknamed during his career as an NFL linebacker. But that's not all. There is a secret about Charlie that his own family is desperate to hide. When Marcus begins school, he meets the starting quarterback on the team: Troy Popovich. Right from the beginning, Marcus and Troy disagree about football, about Troy's ex-girlfriend, Alyssa, but most of all, about what's good for Charlie. Marcus is betting that he knows what's best for the King of Pop. And he is willing to risk everything to help his friend.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #48,885 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Football #99 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Being a Teen #197 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship

Customer Reviews

Grade 7 "New to town, Marcus spends the summer before his junior year practicing football alone at a local park hoping to meet someone from the high school team. Instead, he meets an eccentric middle-aged man named Charlie who teaches Marcus more about football, tackling, and the art of the "pop" than he could have imagined, and the two strike up an unusual friendship. Charlie lives by no set schedule and can't seem to remember that Marcus's name is not Mac. Marcus tries out and makes the team, but learns that they are not a welcoming group, fearful that the newcomer will upset their perfect record. To make matters worse, the star quarterback, Troy, is

Charlie's son, and his ex-girlfriend, Alyssa, has the hots for Marcus. Gradually, Marcus figures out that Charlie is an ex-NFL star who is suffering from early on-set Alzheimer's, a secret his family tries to keep well hidden. Despite these obstacles on and off the field, Marcus is determined to help his friend. Nick Podehl's skillful narration of his novel (HarperTeen, 2009) seamlessly flows between Marcus's teenage obliviousness and Charlie's middle-aged gruffness, adding another affective level to this heartbreaking story. Yet with plenty of football action, this atypical sports story will hook even the most reluctant readers/listeners.â "Karen T. Bilton, Mary Jacobs Library, Rocky Hill, NJ
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â œA brisk, heartfelt and timely novel.â • (New York Times Book Review)â œKorman goes straight to the heart.â • (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))â œThought-provoking.â • (Publishers Weekly)â œFantasticâ |Perfectly captures the football experience.â • (Newsday)â œFunny, poignant and full of football action, POP hits you hard and doesnâ™t let up.â • (Tim Green, author of the New York Times bestselling Football Genius and Football Champ)

As a nurse I thought it was written so creatively it is my sons summer reading and I couldn't put the book down!!!! Loved it!!!!

Fun story. Korman never disappoints!

Although this book was written around football, this is one that everyone can enjoy. I loved it and it kept me interested the entire time. This is a must read!

Son had to read for school. Didn't hold his interest.

I hated football when I was a kid. If this book had been around when I was in junior high, it would've inspired me to give the sport another shot. I read anything by Gordon Korman--he's an amazing writer--but this is by far my favorite of his many sports books.

My reluctant readers have enjoyed reading this book.

My 13 year old son got this book and loved it! I picked it up and couldn't put it down.

My grandson likes it.

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