



Into The River (Devon Santos)

By Ted Dawe



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Winner of the Margaret Mahy Award

"Some rivers should not be swum in. Some rivers hold secrets that can never be told."

Te Arepa is an adventurous Maori boy, bound to the history, customs and rituals of his people. Yet when he comes upon a giant eel while fishing, he is convinced the creature is a taniwha, or water demon, and follows it. Yet what Te Arepa finds in the river is far different, far more sinister. And it will change his life forever.

Te Arepa has always been curious about experiencing life beyond his tribe. His wishes seem granted when he is awarded a scholarship at a prestigious boarding school, far away from the Maori. Leaving behind his family and their traditions, Te Arepa sets out to discover a strange new world with customs of its own...as well as new enemies.

When he arrives at school, Te Arepa finds the freedom and everything it offers intoxicating. But to fit in, he realizes that he must shed his identity, culture, and even his name. And he comes to realize that what the water demon showed him in the darkness of the river that day changed him, and that freedom comes with a heavy price.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—Te Arepa Santos is a 13-year-old Maori boy living in a remote rural town in New Zealand. Life is slow but rich with family and friends. He can easily spend a day catching eels with his friends, or nights with his grandfather telling stories of the ancestors he is named after. When the teen wins a scholarship to a prestigious Auckland boarding school, he goes with expectations from his family. The school resembles an English private school—Te Arepa is expected to study Latin and to put up with bullying by senior pupils, which is traditional within the setting. His Maori language and culture are not valued. As all the boys are given nicknames, Te Arepa becomes Devon, changing not only in name but in nature as he struggles to fit in. Devon's best friend is Steph, who has his own identity issues. Familiar with boarding schools, Steph manipulates teachers and other students to get what he wants. This work has won multiple awards in New Zealand and has been at the center of much controversy there. Aimed at older teens, the novel contains very strong language, underage sex, sexual relations between a student and a teacher, drug use, and violence. However, these elements are not gratuitous but are integral to the narrative, which the author based on his experiences as an educator in this kind of setting. While the story is firmly rooted in New Zealand, the themes are universal to all teens. **VERDICT** This is not a book for sensitive readers, because of its content and challenging scenes. The Maori words and setting will be unfamiliar to many, but determined and curious teens will find this work thought provoking, eye-opening, and maybe even familiar.—Michelle Anderson, Tauranga City Libraries, New Zealand

Review

"Both daring and compulsively readable, in *Into the River* Ted Dawe combines mythology, history and gritty realism into a powerful novel. An outstanding piece of world literature."

—**John Boyne, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas***

"I was entirely gripped by INTO THE RIVER, and struck by how relevant its content is to a contemporary teenage audience. This is an important, skillfully-told novel, and it deserves to be talked about. In short, I love this book. I'm not sure I can praise it enough."

—**Lucy Christopher, author of *Stolen*, a Printz Award honor book, and *Flyaway*, shortlisted for the Costa Award**

"Te Arepa/Devon is a deeply compelling character...Readers will either see themselves in Devon and his story or will reconsider their own roles in their schools' social structures...an object lesson in how systems of power perpetuate themselves."

—***Kirkus Reviews***

"Determined and curious teens will find this work thought provoking, eye-opening, and maybe even familiar."

—***School Library Journal***

"Te Arepa, who cycles through a believable variety of identities and struggles, is beautifully vivid. The compassionate depiction of the teen's choices, both good and bad, as well as the candid portrayal of life at an all-boys school, packed as it is with drugs, drinking, sex, and violent bullying, will give this significant appeal for fans of character-driven novels where the conclusions aren't very rosy, let alone clearly definitive."

—*Booklist*

"Riveting...Into the River is a raw story that rings true. Older teens will devour this fresh, engaging coming-of-age novel about personal identity and poisonous social inequality, the excitement and terror of adolescence, the nuances of friendship and freedom and much more."

—**Shelf Awareness**

"Emphasizes the complications of culture, loyalty, and consequences when "there is freedom and then there is everything else."

—*Publishers Weekly*

About the Author

Ted Dawe, who has had a long career as a teacher, stunned readers with his impressive first novel *Thunder Road* - winner in 2004 of the Best First Book Award and Senior Fiction category of the coveted New Zealand Post Childrens and Young Adults Book Awards.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Floyd:

The reserve untitled *Into The River (Devon Santos)* is the guide that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to you. The language that article author use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The article writer was did a lot of investigation when write the book, hence the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of *Into The River (Devon Santos)* from the publisher to make you more enjoy free time.

Linda Hupp:

The book *Into The River (Devon Santos)* has a lot associated with on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was compiled by the very famous author. Tom makes some research before write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can find the point easily after scanning this book.

Gregorio Leslie:

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