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Boarder Patrol (Orca Sports)



Synopsis

Ryan is determined to be a professional snowboarder but he's learned from what happened to his whistle-blower father that doing the right thing doesn't always pay off. When his parents leave Kamloops, Ryan decides to stay with relatives so he can be near the Salmon Valley Ski Resort. He spends all his time at the ski hill, volunteering with the Junior Safety Patrol to cover the cost of his lift pass. When his board is stolen, he discovers that his cousin, Kevin, knows more than he should about recent thefts at the resort. Kevin's in way over his head, and soon Ryan's involved, whether he wants to be or not. As Ryan prepares for the video shoot that could be his big break, he learns that Kevin's in danger. Ryan has to choose between career and family, and hope that, for him, doing the right thing will pay off.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 6 Up—This hi/lo novel takes readers on a fast-paced ride filled with action and danger. Ryan, 16, works as a Junior Ski Patrol volunteer in order to earn a free lift pass. His dream is to pursue snowboarding professionally. His cousin, Kevin, who works at the lifts, starts acting strangely, especially when Ryan begins investigating the disappearance of some ski equipment, including his own, on the mountain. He gets his big break when videographer Ted Travis sees Ryan and his friend Jamie boarding one day, and later when Ryan wins a local competition. Unfortunately, family problems become serious when Kevin does not come home for a couple of days and Ryan

finds a large bag of marijuana in the bottom of his ski locker. Someone also sabotages Ryan's bindings and he gets trapped in the snow. The story includes vivid descriptions of snowboarding and mountain rescue, and the mystery is involving. Corinda J. Humphrey, Los Angeles Public Library
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"The snowboarding sequences are exciting, and Ryan's conversational voice as narrator is accessible and likable." "The exciting climax cleverly draws all the storylines together in a way that showcases Ryan at his best [and] features dramatic racing down the runs. Recommended." (CM Magazine 2010-04-16) "A fast-paced read filled with not only snowboarding action, but also skiing accidents and rescues, competitions, and even duffel bags filled with pot. Erin Thomas's book should appeal to adventure fans, thrill seekers, and mystery readers." (TeensReadToo.com 2010-07-01) "This hi/lo novel takes readers on a fast-paced ride filled with action and danger." "The story includes vivid descriptions of snowboarding and mountain rescue, and the mystery is involving." (School Library Journal 2010-08-01) "Thomas has written a fast-paced story that never feels like it is being rushed. Boarder Patrol's plot unfolds quickly, but Ryan remains an engaging character whose struggle to do the right thing for himself and his cousin feels genuine. Even readers who are not interested in sports will enjoy the unravelling of the mystery surrounding the crime spree at the ski hill... Highly recommended." (Resource Links 2010-06-01)

Living with your cousin while you finish high school is not easy. Usually, Ryan and Kevin get along just fine, but things have been kind of rocky lately. Ryan isn't sure why Kevin is suddenly looking the other way when he approaches, and when there is conversation required, Kevin barely utters a word. The months until school is over are going to be very uncomfortable. What Ryan doesn't realize is that it's going to be more uncomfortable than he can imagine. Weird things start happening the day his snowboard disappears. Ryan works at the same ski resort as his cousin. Ryan works ski patrol while Kevin operates a chair lift. The two rarely have contact. One afternoon, Ryan leaves his board outside the patrol hut for just a minute, and when he comes out it's gone. Normally this would be a slight inconvenience, but today it could spell disaster. Ryan's one goal in life is to become a professional snowboarder. Today he is scheduled to try out for a possible snowboarding video. A well-known producer has invited Ryan and his friend, Jamie, to show him their stuff, but how's he going to do that without his board? After a quick search doesn't reveal his missing board, Ryan is shocked when his cousin offers the use of his new one. The tryout doesn't go as planned, probably

because he is using an unfamiliar board. Shortly after it's over, Kevin shows up with Ryan's missing board, claiming he simply knew the right people to ask. This is the beginning of a series of strange and even dangerous events that have Ryan wondering just what the heck is going on. BOARDER PATROL is a fast-paced read filled with not only snowboarding action, but also skiing accidents and rescues, competitions, and even duffle bags filled with pot. Erin Thomas's book should appeal to adventure fans, thrill seekers, and mystery fans. Reviewed by: Sally Kruger, aka "Readingjunky"

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