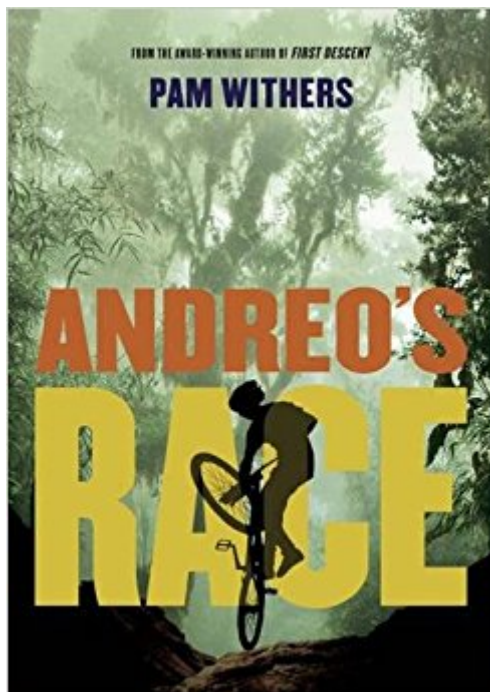


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Andreo's Race



Synopsis

Just as sixteen-year-old Andreo, skilled in death-defying ironman events in wilderness regions, is about to compete in rugged Bolivia, he and his friend Raul (another Bolivian adoptee) begin to suspect that their adoptive parents have unwittingly acquired them illegally. Plotting to use the upcoming race to pursue the truth, they veer on an epic journey to locate Andreo's birth parents, only to find themselves hazardously entangled with a gang of baby traffickers. Never suspecting that attempting to bring down the ring would endanger their very lives, the boys plunge ahead. Compelling, poignant, and heart-stopping, Andreo's Race takes readers on a perilous quest to discover the true meaning of family.

Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Tundra Books (April 14, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1770497668

ISBN-13: 978-1770497665

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,909,266 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Literature & Fiction > Sports > Extreme Sports](#) #756 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing](#)

[Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption](#) #7894 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction >](#)

[Social & Family Issues > Family](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up—•This action-packed book revolves around the topics of adventure races and illegal adoptions, managing to make both interesting and highly readable. Sixteen-year-old Andreo was adopted as a baby, and his family's upcoming team adventure race in Bolivia is a chance for him to learn more about his origins. When his friend and fellow adoptee Raul discovers that they may have been stolen as babies from their rightful parents, the pair resolve to investigate during the race. Andreo navigates through nighttime cycling, awkward family dynamics, and wanted criminals in his search for his birth mother. The experience of adventure racing is brought to life in the story, with

readers experiencing the intensity of training and competition through Andreo. The excitement of the sport is mirrored by his emotional hunt for clues leading to his birth family, and his discoveries and achievements are well paced. Andreo's imperfect relationship with his adoptive family is the most strained part of the story but works as a plot device, and is resolved in the all's-well ending.

VERDICT The simple, straightforward language, surprise twist, and nonstop action will appeal to reluctant readers looking for a thrilling novel. —Marian McLeod, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich, CT

—“The race makes absorbing reading but serves largely as a backdrop to Andreo's stubborn pursuit of his Quechua birth mother's identity. [Withers] closes her tale with a round of fulsome apologies that neatly cements Andreo's troubled relationship with his adoptive family.” —Kirkus Reviews —“This action-packed book revolves around the topics of adventure races and illegal adoptions, managing to make both interesting and highly readable The experience of adventure racing is brought to life in the story, with readers experiencing the intensity of training and competition through Andreo The simple, straightforward language, surprise twist, and nonstop action will appeal to reluctant readers looking for a thrilling novel.” —School Library Journal

A fast-paced action-packed read that had me turning the pages as fast as I could. I enjoyed Withers book "Descent" but this one is even better. Full of adventure, serious topics such as adoption and baby trafficking are mixed with extreme sports in an adventure race across Bolivia including canoeing, mountain biking, and caving. A former whitewater rafter and outdoor enthusiast, along with being the mother of boys, it's quite apparent the author writes what she knows best and that comes through in her writing which is full of detail and obvious research. The book begins with the two 16yo main characters biking in the Rockies at night and the action, tension and drama never stops for a moment until the exciting climax. Mixed in there is also the story of a family who learns a lesson in how to be closer as a family by showing love and trust with each other plus we see the dark side of baby trafficking from all sides. A riveting read and one of those books that could grab the attention of a reluctant reader who is into extreme sports.

Andreo's Race was an intriguing story that kept the reader interested from beginning to end. Pam Withers crafted a unique novel that combined the excitement of adventure racing with the emotional story line of an adopted child in search of his parents. The plot was solid and there was just enough

conflict to keep the reader interested in what was going to happen next. While overall the characters were fairly well developed, Some of the main characters seemed a little forced and I didn't really understand their behavior of emotions. It should be noted that many of the characters use language that would be considered unacceptable in any school across the country. While I understand that many children use this kind of language, I don't really like the idea of my middle schooler reading it constantly. Especially when it really isn't vital in any way to the story. Overall I would recommend this book to most readers in spite of the language. I think most middle and high school boys would enjoy this quick read.*I received a review copy of this book through the Library Thing Early Reviewers Program.

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