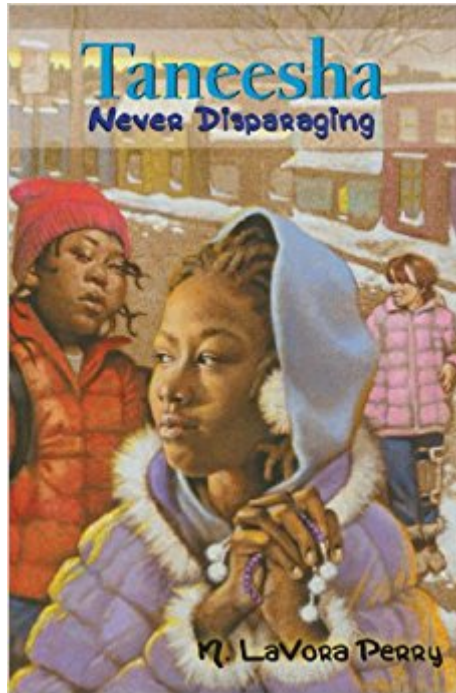




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Taneesha Never Disparaging



Synopsis

M. LaVora Perry is an actor and commercial model from Cleveland, Ohio. Her novel, *Taneesha Never Disparaging*, was inspired by her three children who attended a school very similar to Taneesha's.

Book Information

Paperback: 202 pages

Publisher: Wisdom Publications (September 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0861715500

ISBN-13: 978-0861715503

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.7 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #403,195 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Buddhist #211 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Other Religious Fiction #388 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 2 - 7

Customer Reviews

"...beautifully and skillfully written..." -- David Richardson, Reviewer for Reading Today "...invaluable as a discussion starter...Ms. Perry captures the true essence of an eleven-year-old...I will definitely use this novel as a "Book of the Month" in my classroom." --Magnolia Walker, Reading Teacher "A sweet, insightful story about friendship and self-discovery" --Jeannine Garsee, Author "Like Taneesha herself this book is fun, sassy and profound." --Mandala Magazine "Simply superb. Perry has given us a snappy, funny text and a story that includes diverse characters, friendship between children across ethnicities, diverse body types and children with disabilities...a true to life depiction of growing up. A must-read." --Teaching for Change "...a joy to read. M. LaVora Perry addresses the issues many kids face today--overworked parents, bullying, and social awkwardness--with a fresh and positive perspective. Don't miss this beautifully and skillfully written novel." --David Richardson, Reviewer for Reading Today "...a tale of commonality and differences, a relevant addition to today's novels for young readers. In a world where life experiences are more diverse and demanding than

ever before, author M. LaVora Perry expertly paints a picture of controversy and differences, a world where growing up means not just learning to accept what we don't like about others but recognizing what we might not like about ourselves." --Jennifer MacKay, BookPleasures.com"...a warm and welcome read amidst a sea of cynicism ..." --Kelly Easton, Author"...breaks new ground in introducing the colorful, textured and complex landscape of diversity that is truly America." --Charlise Lyles, Author"...much to recommend it for elementary library collections... The characters are well-developed and engaging." --Karen Yingling, School Librarian"...pointed, relevant treatment of complicated social issues and universal human struggles..." -- Jennifer MacKay, Reviewer for BookPleasures.com"...strong protagonist whose honesty and stubbornness can invoke trouble as well as a satisfying resolution." --Yana V. Rodgers, Rutgers University Department of Women's and Gender Studies"Taneesha's voice [is] brave and scared, funny, defiant, and bold..." --Kathe Koja, Author"The characters are well-developed and engaging." -- Karen Yingling, Librarian"The characters interact well, and readers will feel Taneesha's very real frustration when her parents won't listen to what she's trying to say or when her friend doesn't seem to know what's wrong...this is a book that will resonate with its target audience..." --Julie M. Prince, Reviewer for YABooksCentral.com"will resonate with its target audience..." -- Julie M. Prince, Reviewer for YABooksCentral.com...fun, sassy, and profound. --Mandala Magazine

M. LaVora Perry's Taneesha Never Disparaging introduces a character who's smart, funny, and immediately relatable. The story is clever and affirming, and through its 11-year-old heroine, readers will learn what it really means to make peace with the people around them and themselves.

Congratulations on a winning approach to sharing Buddhism. A wonderful example of how Buddhism and life are inseparable. Thank you for sharing Tannesha with us!

Taneesha Never Disparaging is a wonderful journey through the life of a teenager. Finding her way in regards to school, friendships, bullies and religion would be tough for anyone. Taneesha faces her fears and the reader will cheer her on all the way. Taneesha Bay Ross is back to school after a long summer break. She is back to dealing with class bullies, homework assignments and worst of all school elections. And on top of all that everyone in the schools knows she is a Buddhist. Her friend Carli has nominated her for class president. Taneesha, desperate in her attempt to stop Carli, chants but it doesn't seem to work. As a result, Taneesha is trying to figure out a way to withdraw her name from the nomination. She wants to tell her friend Carli to take her out of the running, but

she is finding that is easier said than done. Along the way Taneesha shares with Carli her Buddhist religion and teaches her chanting. Taneesha walks us through her role as a Buddhist by showing the meaning of "Nam Myoho Renge Kyo" which translates to "I devote my life to the wonderful Law of the Lotus Flower Teaching of the Buddha." Taneesha turns to buddhism and chanting when she is feeling stressed. She and Carli are feeling the pressure of the school bully and everything seems to be escalating. As Taneesha faces her fears she finds that things are not always as bad as they seem.

Instantly, she's hilarious! She's imaginative! She's stubborn! She's Taneesha Bey-Ross with a determination to do fifth-grade life her way. Never mind the local, enormous, army boot-sized bully and never mind Taneesha plans to thwart an election nomination by her physically challenged, best friend, Carli. M. Lavora Perry has "Buddha-fully" written TANEESHA: Never Disparaging. Perry lively brings religion and politics together in one classroom. Can religion conquer any of Taneesha's little trials? Can it transform her youthful rebellious tactics into juvenile triumph? Witness how Perry makes sure Taneesha will keep every young reader engaged and laughing hysterically to learn the answers! But hold on to your little political spectator seats with this exciting and thrilling page-turner, kiddies. There are very strong real-life values intertwined in this story as well. From interrupting a juvenile beat-down, to revisiting history of the devastating Atomic Bomb, Taneesha will remind you to be compassionate and caring. She will remind you to stay on top of your game of respect, love, and obedience as a child. Throughout, Perry cleverly prepares young readers for superior language arts skills using powerful descriptive words, text fonts, and good ole' grammar! TANEESHA: Never Disparaging gets my vote! Go Taneesha! Reviewed by Swaggie Coleman for The RAWSISTAZ Reviewers

my name is kya and i'm nine years old my mother bought me this book and at first i did not want to read it, then i was in a handstand and i spotted it so i thought why not read it, anyways i thought the book was fantastic. all recess all lunch my nose was buried in the book i don't know what to talk about first so i will just say my favorite part i loved at the end where She made friends with that girl who just had a rough time and she helped kids with diabetes SO PLEASE PLEASE WRITE ANOTHER ONE I WILL BE WAITING!!!

Taneesha Bey-Ross' life at the present moment is going miserably wrong. She feels neglected by her parents. No matter what, it seems as if they aren't able to understand what's going on in her life.

To make things worse, her best friend, Carli, is a bully's dream. Finally fed up, Taneesha stands up and is now the bullied. Evella, the voice who lives inside of her head, is always, always putting her down. Friend Rayshaun learns of her religion and constantly has something negative to say. And thanks to Carli, again, she's involved in a no win election. Carli's quick solution is to let their parents know. However, Taneesha doesn't want her mom to interfere and believes she can handle things on her own. "Taneesha: Never Disparaging" is about Taneesha's life, the ups and downs and happy and sad times. Overall I really enjoyed getting to know Taneesha Bey-Ross. While the read was very funny it was also sad. Taneesha is a girl that most girls can relate to.

M. LaVora Perry's book is a delightful read that teaches children to accept self, to embrace difference, and to develop compassion for others. Taneesha, the young protagonist, possesses a strong voice that resonates with readers and struggles with issues such as self-confidence and bullying that many young readers experience as well. Perry has written a skillful, well-paced children's book that should be on all home, school, and library bookshelves. Reviewed by Wendy Rountree, North Carolina Central University, and author of *Lost Soul* and *Just Us Girls: The Contemporary African American Young Adult Novel*

I was delighted to read this book by M. Lavora Perry. Taneesha is a lively, real-world character full of charms and flaws. The book is well-written, and the story moves along well. I had never read a book with a Buddhist character, and the skillful way Perry writes really shows a slice of life through the eyes of a kid. The cover is a gorgeous painting by Floyd Cooper - don't miss this book!

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