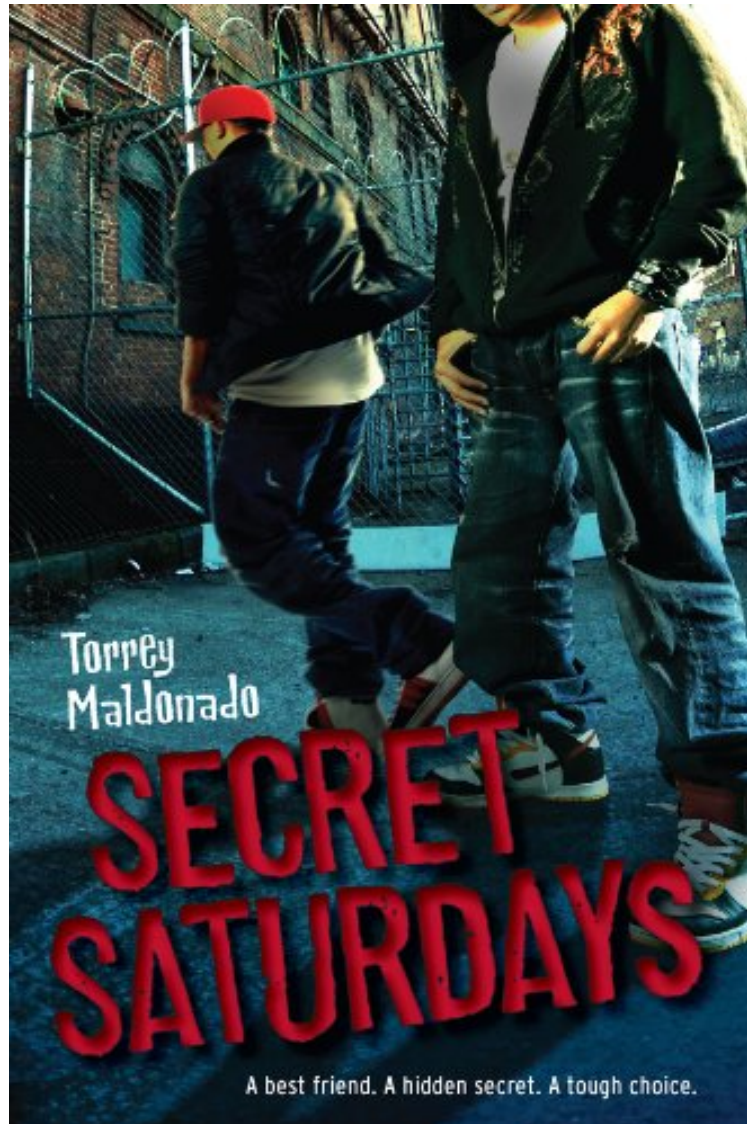


Secret Saturdays

Von Torrey Maldonado

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Von Torrey Maldonado : Secret Saturdays before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Secret Saturdays:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Courtesy of Teens Read TooVon TeensReadTooFriendship can be tricky. BFF has certain conditions that it sometimes takes a lifetime to understand. Being there for a friend seems simple - until it's not.Justin and Sean have a lot in common. Both are half Black and half Puerto Rican. Both are being raised by single mothers intent on raising good, upstanding sons. Both are good students and behave in school. However, all that is beginning to change.Justin knows that Sean is an

expert at dissing. Sean's mother has always said disputes should be handled with words, not fists. Recently, Sean's words have become vicious and are handing out hurts that sting as much as punches. Sean's taunts are aimed at kids without fathers or at those with deadbeat dads. This gives him plenty of targets, but Justin wonders about the fact that Sean's own dad is absent from his life. When Justin and another buddy, Kyle, witness Sean and his mother leaving the housing project in the wee hours of the morning, they feel a bit betrayed, since Sean was supposed to have been with them for the evening. When the two friends confront Sean, he boldly lies. That lie is just the beginning. What follows is even more shocking for those who care about Sean. His behavior is changing dramatically. His taunts have turned to fist-fights resulting in detentions and even a suspension from school. His grades tank as the mysterious trips with his mother continue. Justin doesn't understand how best friends who previously trusted each other with everything can have secrets like the ones Sean is keeping. Debut author Torrey Maldonado takes on teens and teen relationships in the inner city. He has firsthand knowledge of just how tough it is to grow up surrounded by negative influences and how hard it is to resist temptation when there is no male role model to look up to. Justin and Sean and their other friends realistically depict the difficult times friends can face when it comes to family and secrets meant to save face or protect. Maldonado presents his story so readers can feel both sides of the situation as they listen to Justin's narration and as they try to puzzle out Sean's secret life. Reviewed by: Sally Kruger, aka "Readingjunky"

Kurzbeschreibung Read Torrey Maldonado's posts on the Penguin Blog and the new Penguin Community. A poignant look into one fatherless twelve-year-old's struggles with friendship and trust. Sean is Justin's best friend, at least Justin thought he was. But lately Sean has been acting differently. Sean's been telling lies, getting into trouble at school, and hanging out with a tougher crowd, even getting into fights. This isn't like Sean at all. When Justin finally discovers that Sean's been secretly going to visit his father in prison and is dealing with the shame of that, Justin wants to do something to help before his friend spirals further out of control. But what if confronting Sean means Justin loses his very best friend? In the end, he decides it doesn't matter; he's got to man up. Set in one of New York's most dangerous neighborhoods, *Secret Saturdays* is an affecting read highlighted by strong characters and an authentic, heartening voice. Pressestimmen This urban tale explores inner-city life for a middle school audience with sympathy and humor, while underscoring the emotional effects of hardship on the characters' lives. Readers will find both insight and hope in Justin's efforts to help his friend. The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (BCCB) The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (BCCB) This is a story of friendship, survival, deception and relationships—a fast read, entertaining and high interest. Library Media Connection Library Media Connection Torrey Maldonado sticks his finger in an all too familiar hole of a brokenhearted urban community. Playground tough with a sweet center. Rita Williams-Garcia, Newbery Honor-winning and New York Times bestselling author of *One Crazy Summer* Rita Williams Garcia Kurzbeschreibung Read Torrey Maldonado's posts on the Penguin Blog and the new Penguin Community. A poignant look into one fatherless twelve-year-old's struggles with friendship and trust. Sean is Justin's best friend, at least Justin thought he was. But lately Sean has been acting differently. Sean's been telling lies, getting into trouble at school, and hanging out with a tougher crowd, even getting into fights. This isn't like Sean at all. When Justin finally discovers that Sean's been secretly going to visit his father in prison and is dealing with the shame of that, Justin wants to do something to help before his friend spirals further out of control. But what if confronting Sean means Justin loses his very best friend? In the end, he decides it doesn't matter; he's got to man up. Set in one of New York's most dangerous neighborhoods, *Secret Saturdays* is an affecting read highlighted by strong characters and an authentic, heartening voice.