



## Buddha Boy

By Kathe Koja

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The kids at school call Jinsen “Buddha Boy”—he wears oversize tie-dyed dragon T- shirts, shaves his head, and always seems to be smiling. He’s clearly a freak. Then Justin is paired with him for a class project. As he gets to know Jinsen and his incredible artistic talent, Justin questions his own beliefs. But being friends with Buddha Boy isn’t simple, especially when Justin realizes that he’s going to have to take sides. What matters more: the high school social order or getting to know someone extraordinary?

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## **Buddha Boy** By Kathe Koja Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 7-10—Kathe Koja's novel (Farrar, 2003) looks at bullying through the eyes of Justin, a high school sophomore who is intrigued by Jinsen, a new boy who shaves his head and begs for his lunch like a monk. But Justin has always been "in the middle," not too cool or too different, so he knows it's best to avoid contact with this new kid who is already a target for pranks and jeers. When a class project throws the two boys together, their mutual interest in art leads to a quiet friendship. Despite increased harassment from a bullying crowd, Jinsen refuses to fight, seek revenge, or get school officials involved. The test comes when the peaceful boy's artwork is maliciously destroyed, and Justin confronts faculty and students who have looked the other way far too long. The cast of 18 well-cast actors is led by Spencer Murphy, who aptly conveys Justin's fears, ambivalence, and outrage. Sound quality is good with musical interludes to mark text breaks. Koja provides an accurate look at the internal and external conflicts of high school students, and her brief commentary adds valuable insights into what influenced her writing. Middle and high school libraries will find *Buddha Boy* a surefire springboard for discussions about bullying, peer pressure, and tolerance. It's thoughtful storyline and realistic characters will also appeal to public library patrons.—Barbara Wysocki, *Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 6-10. No one in the rich, suburban high school likes the weird new kid who looks like a Buddhist monk and begs at lunch. But Justin is drawn to the stranger and defends him against vicious school bullies. Koja's short novel is openly preachy, and the packed plot is absurdly contrived: the saintly outsider turns out to be an amazingly gifted artist who was once a delinquent as violent as the school bullies--until his parents died and he went catatonic and a Buddhist art teacher showed him how to find truth and beauty in art and religion . . . It's the simple writing, along with Justin's informal first-person narrative, that will draw readers to the crucial ethical issues, especially "the social-status in-out thing" among the kids, and the way school authorities accept it. Then there's the elemental question of how hard it is to do the right thing, and to keep on doing it. "We're all gods inside, right? Karma, right?" Teens will find much to talk about here. Hazel Rochman

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Review

A compelling introduction to Buddhism and a credible portrait of how true friendship brings out the best in people. (*Publishers Weekly*, starred review)

A compelling tale of friendship and of finding one's own inner strength. (VOYA)

### Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Evelyn Spencer:**

Book is definitely written, printed, or created for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important point to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading ability was fluently. A book Buddha Boy will make you to be smarter.

You can feel more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think in which open or reading any book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you searching for best book or ideal book with you?

**Angela Caves:**

The particular book Buddha Boy has a lot details on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was published by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research prior to write this book. That book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after looking over this book.

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