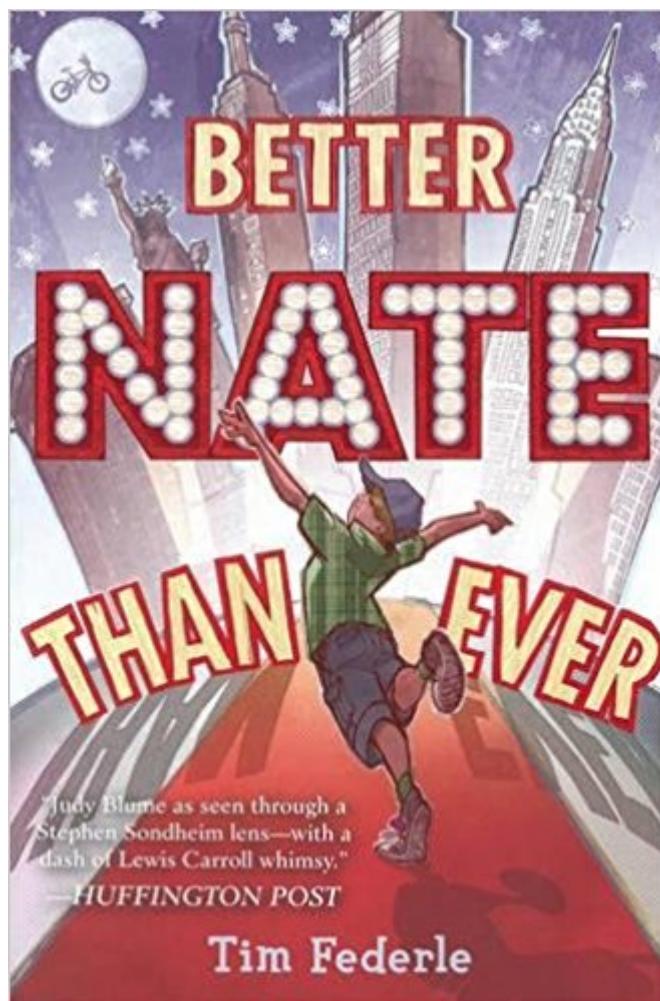


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## Better Nate Than Ever



## Synopsis

The Nate series by Tim Federle is a wonderful evocation of what it's like to be a theater kid. Highly recommended. Lin-Manuel Miranda, star and creator of the musical, Hamilton A New York Times Notable Book of the Year, a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year, and a Slate Favorite Book of the Year. A small-town boy hops a bus to New York City to crash an audition for E.T.: The Musical. Nate Foster has big dreams. His whole life, he's wanted to star in a Broadway show. (Heck, he'd settle for seeing a Broadway show.) But how is Nate supposed to make his dreams come true when he's stuck in Jankburg, Pennsylvania, where no one (except his best pal Libby) appreciates a good show tune? With Libby's help, Nate plans a daring overnight escape to New York. There's an open casting call for E.T.: The Musical, and Nate knows this could be the difference between small-town blues and big-time stardom. Tim Federle's hilarious and heartwarming debut novel is full of broken curfews, second chances, and the adventure of growing up "because sometimes you have to get four hundred miles from your backyard to finally feel at home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8-Irrepressible 13-year-old Nate Foster is certain that stardom awaits, as soon as he can leave his stifling life in small-town Jankburg, Pennsylvania, behind. Using his ever-loyal best friend, Libby, as an alibi, he sneaks away to New York City to audition for E.T.: The Musical. Nate and Libby have an endearing habit of using the names of Broadway flops as stand-ins for foul language. A madcap adventure featuring bossy receptionists, cutthroat fellow performers, and wacky casting directors

follows. With the help of an understanding aunt, Nate remains goofy and upbeat in the face of constant criticism and rejection. A fun and suspenseful ending will leave readers guessing whether Nate scores the part or not. Federle's semiautobiographical debut explores weighty issues such as sibling rivalry, bullying, religious parents, and gay or questioning teens with a remarkably lighthearted and humorous touch totally appropriate for young audiences.-Madigan McGillicuddy, Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, Atlanta, GA (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

In this funny and insightful story, the dreams of many a small-town, theater-loving boy are reflected in the starry eyes of eighth-grader Nate. When Nate hops a Greyhound bus to travel across Pennsylvania to try out for the Broadway-bound musical based on the movie E.T., no one but his best friend, Libby, knows about it; not his athletic brother, religious father, or unhappy mother. Self-reliant, almost to an inauthentic fault, he arrives in Manhattan for the first time and finds his way into the audition with dramatic results, and when his estranged actress/waitress aunt suddenly appears, a troubled family history and a useful subplot surface. Nate's emerging sexuality is tactfully addressed in an age-appropriate manner throughout, particularly in his wonderment at the differences between his hometown and N.Y.C., a world where guys . . . can dance next to other guys who probably liked Phantom of the Opera and not get threatened or assaulted. • This talented first-time author has made the classic Chorus Line theme modern and bright for the Glee generation. Grades 5-8, --Andrew Medlar --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

What a fabulous book. As an educator, I am always looking for good books, filled with adventure, depth, humor, "morals" (stealthily embedded), and thoughtfulness. Bravo on all accounts! Can't wait for Part Two. There must be a Part Two. My students in grades 6 and up will enjoy this book and Nate's adventures, trials, and triumphs. This book deserves all the stars it has earned so far.

This book is hilarious fun! I pre-ordered it for my 6th grade son, who developed a love of musical theater in the last year. When it came this week, I flipped to the author bio, and burst out laughing: "Tim Federle is the author of over 700 emails..." I started reading the book, and realized last night that I had to stop since it was 1 am. Nate is 13, and tormented in school in his home town near Pittsburgh. His one best friend is Libby and she shares his love of musical theater. He embarks on a trip to New York City by himself to audition for E.T. the Musical. I think Federle gets the tone of

middle school aged kids exactly right: Whip-smart funny, but also naive and unsure of themselves. I absolutely loved all of Nate's wide-eyed observations about being in New York City for the first time. He's amazed to find Appleby's right next to the bus station! And a cupcake shop on every street. The author has appeared in several Broadway shows and was the associate choreographer on Billy Elliot on Broadway working with all the children in the show. So he knows the subject matter, and he knows theater kids. This book is just excellent, and I cannot recommend it highly enough. I'm hoping we get a sequel for further adventures of Nate!

A sublime joy! Tim Federle has created a character you want to stay with for book after book. The sequel, "5,6,7, Nate" is terrific as well. Wonderful writing, joyful, engaging. The story is moving is a delight and one to cherish whether you're gay or straight! Thank you Tim!!!

Junior high students and actors of all ages will find this exciting to read. Written in very real language for the junior high student, it also reflects for actors the reality of what we call "cattle calls

My son had to read this for summer reading so we got the Kindle version! Excellent book! He enjoyed it and so did I. Fun book for grade school and middle school readers!

What a wonderful story. I heard such good things about this book, I had to read it, even though I am very well past my tween (no comment). The dialog, both among the characters and in Nate's mind, is very very witty. It is the triumph of Nate's will over adversity that really warmed my heart. Don't be afraid to read a book about a remarkable 13 year old boy.

Nate Foster, the title character, is a true original and so is this touching, heartfelt and often hilarious new middle grade novel. Bravo to author Tim Federle for giving voice to characters that so many of us know, but thought we'd never see in literature. My inner 13 year-old boy, still wounded after so many years, felt a little less lonely after discovering Nate. For all of us who grew up, thrived, and discovered "it does get better," now we have a new book to share with all the young people (and their parents!) in our lives. Great job, Tim! - John L. Lipp, author, "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Recruiting and Managing Volunteers"

I heard about this book on a theatrical podcast I believe so thought I'd give it a shot. I am so glad I did. This book is beyond charming. It's funny and sings to my soul as an actor. It's like no adventure

I ever had myself, but damn, I wish I could be Nate, The characters are well written, the story itself is twisty and satisfying. I highly recommend this book!

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