



Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah

By Laurie Ann Thompson

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Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah's inspiring true story—which was turned into a film, *Emmanuel's Gift*, narrated by Oprah Winfrey—is nothing short of remarkable.

Born in Ghana, West Africa, with one deformed leg, he was dismissed by most people—but not by his mother, who taught him to reach for his dreams. As a boy, Emmanuel hopped to school more than two miles each way, learned to play soccer, left home at age thirteen to provide for his family, and, eventually, became a cyclist. He rode an astonishing four hundred miles across Ghana in 2001, spreading his powerful message: disability is not inability. Today, Emmanuel continues to work on behalf of the disabled.

Thompson's lyrical prose and Qualls's bold collage illustrations offer a powerful celebration of triumphing over adversity.

Includes an author's note with more information about Emmanuel's charity.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

K-Gr 2—This powerful and winning picture book tells the story of a young man overcoming the odds. Born in Ghana with a deformed left leg, Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah experienced stigma as a result of his disability: his father abandoned the family, and many assumed that the boy would be little more than a burden. However, with the encouragement of his mother, Yeboah refused to give up, hopping to school (instead of walking) and even learning to play soccer and cycle, despite receiving no extra help or accommodations. Thompson's lucidly written text explains how Yeboah cycled 400 miles in 2001 to raise awareness, forever changing how Ghanaians perceived those with disabilities. The narrative is simply and clearly written, and the illustrations are skillfully rendered in charmingly emotive ink and watercolor collages. A brief author's note explains how Yeboah inspired legislation upholding equal rights for the disabled and how he continues to make strides, working with organizations that provide wheelchairs to those who need them and setting up a scholarship fund for children with disabilities. VERDICT This uplifting account will resonate with readers and supplement global and cultural studies. A triumph.—Kathryn Diman, Bass Harbor Memorial Library, Bernard, ME

An Amazon Editors' Best Books of the Month Pick for January

"...[S]imple line drawings and stylish, expressive figures filled with layers of rich, warm color on pale, thickly painted backgrounds—capture Emmanuel's triumphs beautifully."

—Booklist

"Thompson...presents a warm, matter-of-fact overview of the life of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah...[while] Qualls provides solid visual and emotional scaffolding for the setbacks and triumphs Yeboah faced."

—Publishers Weekly

"This powerful and winning picture book tells the story of a young man overcoming the odds."

—School Library Journal starred review About the Author

Laurie Ann Thompson is the author of *Be a Changemaker: How to Start Something That Matters*, a how-to guide for teens who want to change the world. An advocate for social justice, Laurie is dedicated to inspiring and empowering young readers. *Emmanuel's Dream* is her picture-book debut. Visit her at lauriethompson.com.

Sean Qualls has illustrated many highly acclaimed children's books, including *Giant Steps to Change the World* by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee, *Lullaby* by Langston Hughes, and *Before John Was a Jazz Giant* by Carole Boston Weatherford, which was named a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book. Sean also created the art for *Dizzy* by Jonah Winter, which received five starred reviews, and *Freedom Song* by Sally M. Walker. Learn more at seanqualls.com. **From reader reviews:**

Mariano Smith:Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a concern. What people must be consider while those information which is inside the former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah as your daily resource information.

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