



# Black and White

By Paul Volponi

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## Black and White By Paul Volponi

Marcus and Eddie are best friends. They're also stars on the basketball court, where they're known as Black and White. Race has never been an issue: Marcus is black, Eddie is white, but it doesn't matter. Until they start to pull stickups for extra pocket cash and the gun they're using goes off. Now Marcus is going to jail and Eddie is going to college, even though Eddie is the one who fired the gun.

Told in their two voices, *Black and White* is the gripping story of two good boys who make a bad mistake. It's also a heart-breaking look at the realities of the urban criminal justice system. Written with passion and uncanny authenticity, this is Paul Volponi's debut young adult novel.

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## **Black and White By Paul Volponi Bibliography**

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- 192 pages

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## Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* Gr. 9-12. "Kids who are different colors don't get to be all that tight in my neighborhood. But we get past all that racial crap," says Marcus, an African American senior whose best friend, Eddie, is white. Together, the boys are known at school as Black and White. Both are basketball stars entertaining scholarship offers from local New York City colleges, but they risk everything for more spending money. Considering fast-food jobs too demeaning, they turn to armed stickups, and during their third robbery, they shoot and wound their victim. In alternating chapters, Marcus and Eddie recount the terrifying days after the event as they wait for the police to find and arrest them. The disparate treatment each receives highlights their racial divide, which is occasionally echoed on the streets in harsh language full of hate: a man on the subway tells a white girl that "niggers are going to fuck you, too." Using authentic voices that will draw in both strong and reluctant readers, Volponi writes a taut novel that avoids didacticism and deftly balances drama and passion on the basketball court with each boy's private terror and anguish. Teens will want to discuss the story's layered moral ambiguities, heartbreaking choices, and, as Marcus says, "the line that separates black and white." *Gillian Engberg*

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### Review

"The plotting is tight, the action is swift, and the troubling outcome that finds Marcus headed to Prison and Eddie off to college is, sadly all too believable." **-Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, starred review**

"Using authentic voices that will draw in both strong and reluctant readers, Volponi writes a taut novel, avoiding didacticism and deftly balancing the drama and passion on the basketball court with each boy's private terror and anguish. Teens will want to discuss the story's layered moral ambiguities, heartbreaking choices, and as Marcus says, "the line that separates black and white." **-Booklist, starred review**

### About the Author

Paul Volponi is the author of the critically acclaimed young adult novel *Black & White*. From 1992 to 1998, he taught adolescents on Rikers Island in New York City to read and write. Mr. Volponi worked at a day treatment center like Daytop teaching students and helping them prepare for the GED. Mr. Volponi lives in New York City.

## Users Review

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The book Black and White make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make reading through a book Black and White for being your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like open up and read a book Black and White. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this e-book?

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