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Nikki And Deja: Election Madness (Nikki & Deja)



Synopsis

When the students in Nikki and Deja[™]s class find out that their school is going to hold its first-ever election for student body president, some kids are more excited than others. But none is as excited as Deja, who figures she[™]s a shoo-in for the third grade nomination. Deja decides that Nikki will be her campaign manager, of course, and puts her to work right away. But will Deja[™]s tendency to rush into things and boss people around alienate her best friend when she needs her most, and spoil her chances of becoming president of Carver Elementary? This is a charming new entry in a chapter book series praised for its humor and authentic characters.

Book Information

Series: Nikki & Deja

Paperback: 112 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.3 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #585,618 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #296 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce](#) #530 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life](#) #902 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#)

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed the story between Nikki and Deja and I expect that my 7 year old will as well. The story features 2 African-American characters and I appreciate that since I believe that my daughters need to see and read about people who look like them (us). I also liked that, although Nikki and Deja Election Madness depicts African-American characters, it doesn't rely on old stereotypes to tell a story. They're just 2 girls, one of whom is a bit more outgoing, aggressive, and bossy than the other, but who are friends and in the same class. One girl lives with her aunt since her mother's death and the other girls parents are facing divorce. And in today's society, both families are

representative of what could be happening in your family or with a person you know. The book shows how their family life affects the girls in their everyday life. Again, the story was good, and it depicted realistic events in the life of 3rd grade girls. I recommend it.

Five stars for Nikki and Deja! Kudos to the author and illustrator for producing a quality children's book that contains African American characters. Of course this book's subject matter pertains to all children regardless of race and should be read by all. If any teacher or parent is looking for an ethnic children's book with quality subject matter...this is your book. It does not stop here because the author is producing a series of books with Nikki and Deja (for example: Nikki and Deja, Nikki and Deja: The Newsy News Newsletter). This book takes you on a journey with Nikki and Deja as they prepare for a school election. They learn about ballots and the voting process. In the midst of learning about the voting process, they also learn what it takes to be a winning candidate at school. The characters are well spoken, likable, believable, and well developed. The illustrations inside the book are in black and white, but are well done and fit the story well. Your child and maybe even yourself will want to revisit Nikki and Deja: Election Madness over and over again. This was my first, now I am looking forward to reading the rest of the series.

When Deja's teacher announces the school is holding a student body election, Deja is sure she would make an excellent president. She is counting on her best friend, Nikki to be her campaign manager. Although they are best friends they don't always see eye to eye on everything. While Deja wants to spend all their time focusing on getting the nomination, Nikki is worrying that the tension between her parents means they will be getting a divorce. Youngsters will enjoy the relationship the girls have with each other and with Deja's aunt who is raising her. They will see that sometimes friends argue and disagree. Auntie is a loving character who guides Deja rather than telling her what to do. The illustrations by Laura Freeman are wonderfully expressive and add pizzazz to the story. This is a welcome addition to chapter books for primary grade students. Read as an ebook arc courtesy of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt via Netgalley.

I really wanted to like this book and feel comfortable sharing it with my kids during our reading time. However, it started in with some pretty heavy topics (they discuss the possibility of parents getting divorced right at the beginning) and things don't go uphill after that. They are being read "the Whipping Boy" in class and one of the main characters is disappointed because the person who "should have been whipped" for bad behavior wasn't. Okay, I don't want my kids walking around

pointing out who should be "whipped". Even the seeming moral of the story is kind of strange. SPOILER ALERT: One of the main characters doesn't win and the lesson she learns is that kids won't vote for 3rd graders but they will vote for 4th graders. Really? Not that you shouldn't promise things you can't deliver, or that you shouldn't try to buy votes, or that you should focus efforts on being a good representative? Nope, you just have to be in the "right" grade and have the "right" image. So, we go from whippings being good and necessary to vote buying as a good campaign strategy. Honestly, even the school day sounded strange. A bell for silence, a bell for changing work, a bell for stopping a writing assignment. Really? Is this common for most schools? Bells dictating every piece of the day including when to stop writing? I like the diversity and I so really wanted to like this book, but I just couldn't. When I was growing up it was hard to find books with Black main characters and so I try to find as many books with Blacks (as well as White, Asian, etc.) main characters or my children to consume. Just not comfortable sharing this one with them.

After hearing that third graders can run for school president, Deja decides to run. She enlists her friend Nikki as her campaign manager and finds out that running for president is more than just getting people to put her name in a ballot box. Deja and Nikki's friendship is strained and Deja soon finds that speeches are filled with empty promises. Even after working hard and making lots of cookies, her presidency isn't guaranteed. I was hoping for a little more than what I got from this story. Nikki and Deja never seem very close in the story even though they are supposed to be best friends. Deja is more of a taker and never really learns what she probably should have learned by the end and Nikki just goes along with whatever her friend does, whether it's running for school president or stashing contraband candy. The plotting of the book isn't bad. Deja does grow over the course of the story and some of the background events flesh out the characters a bit, but overall, the story and resolution was lacking. Deja seems to redeem herself a bit by trying hard, but even then she never really sees that there's more to running in an election than popularity and trying to buy votes. Nikki feels more like a reluctant accomplice than a friend at times and Deja never really shows much interest in her friend other than when they are mad at each other. Younger readers will probably enjoy the fact the book is easy to read and there are illustrations in every chapter. However, I've seen better stories for the elementary age group that cover similar themes, but in a better way and with more substance to the ending.

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