

Over the End Line

Alfred C. Martino

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Over the End Line, written by Alfred C. Martino, lets the reader into a world of high school soccer and the drama that arises as they struggle to be accepted. Johnny Fehey has been friends with Kyle Saint-Claire since they started school, but as they enter their senior year, the distance between their obvious social differences could not be clearer. Kyle receives excellent grades and he is the school's star soccer player, while Johnny has no interesting quality to own up to. One day, by fate, Johnny is given the opportunity to shoot the winning goal of the county championships, and finally is admitted into the popular crowd.

At the victory party, however, Johnny witnesses the rape of his newest friend, Annalisa. Kyle and Johnny's friendship hangs in balance as they ponder what to do and whether their choice will be the right decision. Little does Johnny know that the life of the closest person he understands is also at stake: his own.

In *Over the End Line*, Martino created such a clear image of everything that goes on that the reader need not be a soccer player to fully understand the sport. It was as if the games were happening on a television screen! However, the story itself took too long of a time to reach the climax and the exciting scenes were short-lived. The complicated relationship between Kyle and Johnny is very realistic: Kyle cannot be seen with such a socially inferior Johnny, yet enjoys spending some time with his close neighbor. It is a perfect example of a story in which the characters are not divided into just the popular kids and the poor mistreated rejects. The ending was one of the best as it was original and unexpected. The language and the some of the contents are not suitable for young children, so this book would be best for those over the age of thirteen. I recommend that the potential reader buy the book if he or she is a fan of soccer and drama.