

IN THE SMALL TOWN of Great Mountain, Mississippi, all eyes are on Henson Blayze, a thirteen-year-old football phenom whose talents seem almost superhuman. The predominantly white townsfolk have been waiting for Henson to play high school ball, and now they're overjoyed to finally possess an elite Black athlete of their own.

Until a horrifying incident forces Henson to speak out about injustice.

Until he says that he might not play football anymore.

Until he quickly learns he isn't as loved by the people as he thought.

In that moment, Henson's town is divided into two chaotic sides when all he wants is justice. Even his best friends and father can't see eye to eye. When he is told to play ball again or *else*, Henson must decide whether he was born to entertain people who may not even see him as human, or if he's destined for a different kind of greatness.

DERRICK BARNES is a National Book Award finalist for his graphic novel *Victory. Stand!: Raising My Fist for Justice*, which also won the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults and a Coretta Scott King Author Honor. He is also the author of the critically acclaimed multi-award-winning picture book *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*, which received a Newbery Honor, a Coretta Scott King Author Honor, the Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Award, and the Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature. In 2020, he became the only author to win the Kirkus Prize twice for the *New York Times* bestseller *I Am Every Good Thing*, which also won a Charlotte Huck Award and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor. Derrick is also the creator of the *New York Times* bestselling companion picture books *The King of Kindergarten* and *The Queen of Kindergarten*. He is a native of Kansas City, Missouri, but currently lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his enchanting wife, Dr. Tinka Barnes, and their four sons, the Mighty Barnes Brothers.

READ BY MILES J. HARVEY



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