



Marcelo in the Real World

By Francisco Stork, Francisco X. Stork

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Imagine CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG . . . with a romance, and you have the beginnings of this story of a young man struggling with the world outside his head--and the woman who gets inside it. Marcelo Sandoval hears music no one else can hear--part of the autism-like impairment no doctor has been able to identify--and he's always attended a special school where his differences have been protected. But the summer after his junior year, his father demands that Marcelo work in his law firm's mailroom in order to experience "the real world." There Marcelo meets Jasmine, his beautiful and surprising coworker, and Wendell, the son of another partner in the firm. (cont'd)

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Marcelo in the Real World By Francisco Stork, Francisco X. Stork Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Artfully crafted characters form the heart of Stork's (*The Way of the Jaguar*) judicious novel. Marcelo Sandoval, a 17-year-old with an Asperger's-like condition, has arranged a job caring for ponies at his special school's therapeutic-riding stables. But he is forced to exit his comfort zone when his high-powered father steers Marcelo to work in his law firm's mailroom (in return, Marcelo can decide whether to stay in special ed, as he prefers, or be mainstreamed for his senior year). Narrating with characteristically flat inflections and frequently forgetting to use the first person, Marcelo manifests his anomalies: he harbors an obsession with religion (he regularly meets with a plainspoken female rabbi, though he's not Jewish); hears internal music; and sleeps in a tree house. Readers enter his private world as he navigates the unfamiliar realm of menial tasks and office politics with the ingenuity of a child, his voice never straying from authenticity even as the summer strips away some of his differences. Stork introduces ethical dilemmas, the possibility of love, and other real world conflicts, all the while preserving the integrity of his characterizations and intensifying the novel's psychological and emotional stakes. Not to be missed.

Ages 14–up. (*Mar.*)

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From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 8 Up—Like Christopher Boone, the protagonist in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Doubleday, 2003), Marcelo Sandoval is a high-functioning, extremely self-aware teenager with Asperger's syndrome. He has an empathetic mother and a father, Arturo, who appears to be less empathetic as he pushes Marcelo to live in the "real world." The form the real world takes is a summer job in the mailroom at Arturo's law office. The teen is forced to think on his feet, multitask, and deal with duplicitous people who try to take advantage of him. Over the course of a summer, Marcelo learns that he can function in society; he is especially surprised to find that he can learn to read people's expressions, even to the point of knowing whom he can and cannot trust. Writing in a first-person narrative, Stork does an amazing job of entering Marcelo's consciousness and presenting him as a dynamic, sympathetic, and wholly believable character. At a little over 300 pages, the story drags at some points, bogging down in the middle. However, the dilemmas that Marcelo faces are told in a compelling fashion, which helps to keep readers engaged.—Wendy Smith-D'Arezzo, Loyola College, Baltimore, MD

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Seventeen-year-old Marcelo is on the very high-functioning end of the autism spectrum. He prefers an ordered existence, which includes taking care of the ponies at Paterson, his special school; reading religious books; and listening to the music in his head. Then his father, a high-powered attorney, insists that Marcelo spend the summer working in his law firm. If he does his best, Marcelo will be given the choice of returning to Paterson or being mainstreamed. After finding a photo of a disfigured girl injured by the negligence of his father's biggest client, Marcelo must decide whether to follow his conscience and try to right the wrong, even as he realizes that decision will bring irrevocable changes to his life and to his relationship with his father. That story alone would be thought-provoking, but Stork offers much, much more. Readers are invited inside Marcelo's head, where thoughts are so differently processed, one can almost feel them stretch and twist as the summer progresses and Marcelo changes. Much of the impetus for change comes from his relationship with his mailroom boss, Jasmine. In a chapter near the end, Jasmine takes Marcelo to the family farm in Vermont, where he meets her raunchy father. It's a scene many writers wouldn't have bothered with, but the layers it adds mark Stork as a true storyteller. Shot with spiritualism,

laced with love, and fraught with conundrums, this book, like Marcelo himself, surprises. Grades 9-12. --
Ilene Cooper

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ruth McGrath:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive today, people have to do something to make them survive, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a book your ability to survive increases then having a chance to endure than others is high. For you personally who want to start reading any book, we give you this particular Marcelo in the Real World book as a starter and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Mary Thomas:

This book, titled Marcelo in the Real World, to be one of several books this best seller in this year, here is because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily buy this specific book in the book retail store or you can order it through online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason for you to pass this publication from your list.

Leslie Padilla:

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James Buscher:

That reserve can make you to feel relax. This book Marcelo in the Real World was vibrant and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book Marcelo in the Real World has many kinds or style. Start from kids until young adults. For example Naruto or Investigation company Conan you can read and believe you are the character on there. Therefore, not at all of book are generally make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and relax. Try to choose the best book in your case and try to like reading in which.

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