

LE CIRCUIT DE KENJIRO

SYLVIANE THIBAUT

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Kenjiro Ayashi is an eleven-year-old Japanese boy whose life is about to change dramatically. Indeed, he must leave his native Japan to go live in a small Upper Laurentians village with his mother and father. In order to get through all the upheavals brought about by this move, Kenjiro relies on the sport he has always loved: baseball. Will he be able to make an unassisted triple play, a stunt both rare and extraordinary? Ken dreams he does. The young man sees himself being carried off the field as a hero, just like his idol was, back in Tokyo. The shortstop for the Yomyuri Giants, a professional Japanese team Kenjiro adored, had just made the amazing play. Of course, it is not always necessary to achieve such an exploit to become a true hero...

Marc Griffin, who used to play for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Montreal Expos farm clubs, before becoming an analyst for television, wrote the foreword.

Themes: Baseball, moving, family, team spirit, bullying.

Author:

Sylviane Thibault lives in the Laurentians. She has published more than twenty novels and short stories. She has always loved baseball and now she hopes that her readers will love it too. Sylviane had big dreams and now, she is making them all come true, thanks to her imagination and the stories she creates. She can be a baseball player, a detective, and anything else she pleases. When readers tell Sylviane she has made them dream, she is over the moon. As a dreamer herself, she knows she has fulfilled her mission as a writer when she hears such wonderful praise.

Excerpt:

Le releveur fait tourner la balle dans sa paume, tandis que le frappeur balance son bâton au-dessus du marbre à quelques reprises. Les deux rivaux s'affrontent du regard, comme des fauves dans la jungle. Après de nouveaux signaux de la part du receveur, la balle quitte la main du releveur. Le frappeur s'élançe. Son bâton entre en contact avec le projectile. C'est une flèche qui se dirige vers l'arrêt-court à une vitesse vertigineuse. Kenjiro est persuadé que ça y est ! Que le frappeur vient de réussir un coup sûr : un double, voire un triple. Terminés les championnats, anéantis les espoirs des partisans. La foule pousse un cri de frustration. Les coéquipiers du frappeur ne font ni une ni deux et s'élançent sur le losange, convaincus qu'ils se rendront jusqu'au marbre.

Critic :

Dans ce roman où le baseball est au coeur de l'action, plusieurs thématiques sont abordées en périphérie comme l'immigration, le racisme, l'intimidation, l'estime de soi, la démençe et la guerre. Bref, plein d'idées de discussions en classe ou à la maison. C'est aussi une bonne suggestion de lecture pour cet été qui donnera peut-être envie aux jeunes de découvrir ce sport.

