

Back of the Bus

By Aaron Reynolds

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Back of the Bus By Aaron Reynolds

It's December 1, 1955.

A boy and his mother are riding the bus in Montgomery, Alabama like any other day—way in the back of the bus. The boy passes time by watching his marble roll up and down the aisle with the motion of the bus…

Until a big commotion breaks out from way up front.

With simple words and powerful illustrations, Aaron Reynolds and Coretta Scott King medalist Floyd Cooper recount the pivotal arrest of Rosa Parks at the dawn of the Civil Rights Movement.

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Back of the Bus By Aaron Reynolds Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #59309 in Books
- Published on: 2013-12-26
- Released on: 2013-12-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.10" h x .14" w x 10.51" l, .35 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 32 pages

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Editorial Review

From Booklist
Rosa Parks' defiant December 1955 confrontation on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, is told from the fictionalized viewpoint of a child who is there. In free verse, he describes riding the bus with his mama ("We're sittin' right there where we're supposed to— / way in back") and rolling a marble down the aisle to the front, where smiling Mrs. Parks rolls it back to him. Then, as people pile on the bus, the driver tells Parks to move to the back. She refuses, and the driver calls the police. The boy "knows . . . she don't belong up front like that, but then he realizes "maybe she does too." The child's innocent viewpoint personalizes the well-known historical event, while Cooper's oil paintings, expertly rendered in his signature "subtractive" style, show the crowded bus as well as stunning portraits of Parks, the driver, the boy, and his mother as they decide that they are "not gonna hide no more." Grades 1-3. --Hazel Rochman

Review
"Coupled with Cooper's rich paintings, this is a noteworthy reflection on the actions of a single individual in turning the tide of segregation."
—School Library Journal

"Cooper's filmy oil paintings are characterized by a fine mistlike texture, which results in warm, lifelike portraits that convincingly evoke the era, the intense emotional pitch of this incident, and the everyday heroism it embodied."
—Publishers Weekly

About the Author

Aaron Reynolds is the author of the Caldecott Honor Medal-winning *Creepy Carrots*, illustrated by Peter Brown, which was also a *New York Times* bestseller. Among his other books for young readers are *Chicks and Salsa*; *Nerdy Birdy*; and the graphic novel *Caveboy Dave.* He lives in Illinois.

Floyd Cooper (www.floydcooper.com) always dreamed of becoming an artist and has developed into a highly-acclaimed creator of books for young readers. Among the books he has either written & illustrated on his own or illustrated for others are *Jump! (From the Life of Michael Jordan*); *Max and the Tag-Along Moon; The Blacker the Berry*, for which he was awarded the Coretta Scott King Award for Illustration; and *I Have Heard of a Land*, for which he received a Coretta Scott King Honor Award. Floyd lives in New Jersey with his family. Follow him on Twitter @floydcooper4 .

Users Review

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Diane Gonzales:

The book Back of the Bus gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable far more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make examining a book Back of the Bus being your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You could know everything if you like start and read a publication Back of the Bus. Kinds of book

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