

★ *"A hard-hitting and ultimately insightful tale"*
— Kirkus Reviews

ABOUT THE BOOK

Charlie is thirteen, isolated, and desperate for a friend. For a full school year, Mark humiliated him publicly, ran a weekly "Charlie Day" with his friends, and left Charlie believing the cruelty was somehow his own fault. Then, the first day of summer, Mark shows up at Charlie's door — to apologize, and to be friends.

What follows is a trauma-informed, emotionally precise account of coercive control in an adolescent male friendship: manufactured dependency, identity erosion, unpredictable punishment balanced with reward, and the slow dismantling of a boy's sense of self. Charlie doesn't defeat Mark with a fight — he chooses who he wants to be when he finally holds the power.

WHY THIS BOOK FOR YOUR COLLECTION

- **Addresses a genuine gap:** realistic YA fiction about peer manipulation aimed specifically at boys is underrepresented in most collections
- **Serves a hard-to-reach reader:** boys aged 11–15 who resist reading respond strongly to first-person male narrators in high-stakes social situations
- **Trauma-informed approach:** suicidal ideation is handled responsibly, with mental health resources in the back matter — no guesswork for collection decisions
- **Educator-ready:** free downloadable study guide at RichSamuelsAuthor.com supports classroom and book club use
- **Independently verified:** 4.4-star average across 66 Amazon reader reviews

COMPARABLE & COMPLEMENTARY TITLES

Libraries holding the following titles will find *Getting What I Deserve* a natural complement — it fills a tonal and demographic gap none address directly:

- **Wonder** — R.J. Palacio: empathy-centered school social dynamics; a darker, more realistic next step for readers who loved it
- **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** — Kinney: shares the first-person male middle school voice; this book offers the same accessibility with far greater emotional weight
- **Thirteen Reasons Why** — Asher: similar territory handled more constructively; appropriate for younger readers
- **The Chocolate War** — Cormier: institutional cruelty and peer manipulation; a classic comp for older readers

ACQUISITION DETAILS

Author:	Rich Samuels
Genre:	Realistic Fiction / YA
Age Range:	11–15 Grades 6–10
Lexile:	690L
Themes:	Peer coercion, identity, SEL, resilience
Content:	Trauma-informed; suicidal ideation (responsibly handled)
Format:	Paperback & Kindle
Dist.:	IngramSpark & Amazon
Rating:	4.4 stars · 66 verified reader reviews

"An honest and unabashed look at the dynamics of bullying."

— Suzanne Rogers
Founder, Hill View Montessori Charter Public School

CONTENT ADVISORY SUMMARY

No graphic violence, no sexual content, no profanity. Sensitive content is handled through a trauma-informed lens. Specific content includes:

- Sustained peer bullying and psychological manipulation
- A character disclosing suicidal ideation — presented as disclosure to a trusted adult, not depicted graphically
- Themes of isolation, low self-worth, and identity erosion — resolved without harmful behavior

Mental health resources (including crisis lines) are in the book's back matter. Recommended placement: **YA Fiction, Social Issues / Bullying.**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rich Samuels is an author based in Santa Clarita, California. He is available for school and library author visits and can be reached at rich.samuels@richsamuelsauthor.com.

HOW TO ORDER

- Available via **IngramSpark** for institutional ordering
- Also available on **Amazon** — search "Getting What I Deserve Rich Samuels"
- **Complimentary review copy** available on request for acquisition consideration
- Study guide and resources at **RichSamuelsAuthor.com**