



2007

Beige

Eliza Nevin

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Castellucci, Cecil. *Beige*. Candlewick Press, 2007. ISBN 9780763630669. \$16.99. 307 p.

Reviewer: Eliza Nevin

Reading Level: Young adult

2007. Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction;

Subject: Fathers and Daughters--Juvenile fiction; Punk rock music--Juvenile fiction; Self-perception--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Katy lives in Montreal with her mom, a PhD student. She is sent to Los Angeles for two weeks when her mom goes to Peru for a field study. Katy will be catching up with her dad, The Rat, a recovering addict and drummer of the legendary punk band, Suck. Katy, however, finds little in common with her dad; she doesn't even like music. Her visit to California becomes an opportunity for Katy to find herself and step out of her quiet, good girl shell.

Katy is an interesting character, trapped inside her obedient, smiling body while raging with rebellion inside. She refuses to be associated with anything dangerous, especially her dad's music. Readers accompany Katy on her exploration of what's beyond her carefully drawn lines—including the infamously reckless punk rock world. The chapter titles are the titles of songs on a mix CD that a new friend makes for Katy as a punk rock tutorial, including "Should I Stay or Should I Go" by the Clash, "We Got the Beat" by the Go-Go's, and "Anarchy in the U.K." by the Sex Pistols. Readers who love the So-Cal punk scene or who just have anger issues will enjoy this book and its immersion in the joy of angry music. Profanity comes with the territory, so readers may want to be cautious.