



***Big Guy* by Robin Stevenson**

Orca Soundings, Orca Book Publishers, 2008

9781551439105 (paperback)

*Age Range: 12+

Grade Range: (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Derek thinks he might be falling in love. The problem is, he hasn't been entirely honest with his online boyfriend. Derek sent Ethan a photo taken before he got depressed and gained eighty pounds. Derek hasn't been honest with his employer either. When he lied about his age and experience to get a job with disabled adults, the last thing he expected was to meet a woman like Aaliyah. Smart, prickly and often difficult, Aaliyah challenges Derek's ideas about honesty and trust. Derek has to choose whether to risk telling the truth or to give up the most important relationship in his life.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC) Best Books for Kids & Teens, **Commended, 2009**

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

Big Guy [Teachers' Guide](#)

Freedom to Read article: [Author Robin Stevenson Resists Organized Challenges to Books About Sexual Minorities](#)

PEN Canada article: [You can't read that: Banning kids' books in Canada and the United States](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

ACLU of Texas [Response to North East Independent School District Book Removals](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

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“It’s no longer surprising but it is always upsetting. It’s very personal—my books are challenged because they include people like me and my family and our friends. The idea that this makes my books inappropriate for kids is beyond absurd: I write them thoughtfully and carefully, with kids and families in mind, because I know how much it matters for kids to see themselves in—and to learn about others from—the books they read. People who challenge books often claim to be protecting kids, but these challenges are based in homophobia and transphobia. They demonize my community and they actively hurt young people.”

Read the [full statement](#) from author Robin Stevenson

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.