

Title: *Michigan VS. The Boys*
Author: Carrie S. Allen
Genre: Realistic Fiction/Sports Fiction

Reviewer Name and Grade: Danil P. 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: July 23, 2020

The main character in *Michigan Vs. The Boys* is named Michigan. Michigan is a high school hockey player in the upper peninsula of Michigan State. Michigan has been playing hockey for most of her life, and all of the other players on the girl's hockey team have been her best friends for a very long time since there are not that many girls who are interested in hockey in her school. One day, she and her team are called for a meeting with the principal, who explains that the school had to go through budget cuts, so they cut the girl's hockey team and the boy's swimming team. The girls are very upset since they have been playing hockey together for most of their lives, and that has suddenly changed. Michigan's friends all really want to somehow continue playing hockey, and start suggesting ways that they can stay together and play. Some of them decide to join a team in another school far away, but Michigan's parents do not let her go with them. One of her friends moves away, and the others join the girl's swimming team. With nowhere to go, and a wish to continue playing hockey, Michigan decides to join the boy's hockey team. She tries out, and gets the spot. The boys on the team are not too happy that a girl got in, so they are mean to her. Michigan becomes the most important player on the team, and that angers her team even more. The team makes it to the state championship, and they win. Michigan gets most of the spotlight, and that infuriates many of the boys. Some of the boys on Michigan's team then pretend to be over the issues they had, and invite her to one of their parties. Michigan decides to accept the invitation. When Michigan comes over to the house where the party is going on, the boys give her a drink, which turns out to be drugged. She falls for it, and drinks it. One of her teammates gets a hold of Michigan's cell phone and calls all of Michigan's friends, who turn up and save her before anything bad happens to her. Michigan's coach then finds out about what happened, and thinks that Michigan was drinking, which is strictly against the rules, so he kicks her from the team. Michigan then has to prove that she was not drinking, but was drugged by the boys. She shows her evidence, and proves the truth, so the boys who drugged her get expelled from the school, and the other boys on her team become much nicer to her. The book ends with Michigan and her old friends, who are back together and are all trying out for the team.

Questions

Did the plot keep you interested?

I felt like the plot did not manage to keep me interested.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace was too slow.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

I think that this book is appropriate for grade level 7-9.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this to readers who enjoy realistic fiction, or sports fiction.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

I think that if you like reading about sports (specifically hockey,) you might find this book interesting.

Rating:

I rate this book a 2/5

I did not find this book very entertaining, but someone who likes hockey might. I do not find anything in this book very good, and I dislike how slow it is. It did not manage to keep me interested.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Anton P. 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: July 30, 2020

Michigan Vs. the boys is a book about a 16 year old girl named Michigan. She is aspiring to become a great hockey player but her team is cancelled because of school budget cuts and many of her friends move out to other schools that still have girls hockey teams. After asking her parents to go with them to a boarding school and getting denied, Michigan joins the boys hockey team without asking. The coach admits that she is allowed because his daughter would be mad at him if he didn't allow her. Since the boys hockey team did not think about a girl attending, Michigan has to change in the closet, the only other room. She is ignored by the team and they pretend she is not their teammate but when they don't ignore her it is to make fun of her and pull pranks. At their first game, she plays amazingly and they win but nobody congratulates her. They don't give her pizza and call her insulting words. She decides to take the center spot instead of playing the wing and proves that she can manage it by winning the game. She took the spot of her teammate named Vaugh and he is very angry about it. The team captain, Daniel, his friends, and Vaugh go to another room, and they hold her by the arms while Vaugh punches her. She is then kicked and thrown on the floor. After this, Michigan is very sore but decides not to tell anybody about it. Daniel admits that why they hate her is because it is his final year and he does not want to be outshined by her. The team goes on the showcase which they win too and Daniel, the team captain makes everybody attend the team bonding party. AT the party, the rookies have to drink from a mysterious drink and Michigan complies. Daniel claims that it is only liquor but she starts to get dizzy and tired and he brings her to his room where she kisses him thinking that he is her boyfriend, Jack. His friend films this and puts it on facebook. She is suspended from her team for drinking and having relations with another teammate. She decides to take her evidence to the police station where they say that the evidence is in her favor and the police later arrest Daniel for drugging her. The book ends when a new coach is hired and they are hosting tryouts for new members to replace the ones that were arrested or suspended and Michigan's friends arrive to try out.

Did the plot keep you interested?

I think that the plot did a decently good job of being captivating to read

Was the pace of the book too slow, medium, or too fast?

I think Michigan vs. the boys 'pacing was just right.

What grade do you think this book is appropriate for?

In my opinion, the book is suitable for the 6th-7th grade because it is very straightforward and easy to read.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to someone who likes realistic fiction and stories about sports or hockey.

What other information do you think would be important to teens who want to read this book?
I think that this book will be most enjoyable if you have an understanding of hockey.

Rating:

I will give this book 3 stars because I did not like how simple it was but I think that someone who loves hockey would find it very interesting.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Naysa T., 7th grade

Date Reviewed: December 28, 2020

This book happens in 2019, and we meet the major character, a 17-year-old girl named Michigan Manning, in her coach's office with her best friend Brie. They are excited because Brie is captain of their hockey team and Michigan 'Mich' is the assistant captain. Mich Says that it's the hardest she has ever worked for an 'A' patch. The coach wishes the girls congratulations. Brie asks if practices are going to start soon but the coach doesn't respond. They realized that their hockey coach is leaving. Then The girls' hockey and boys swim teams get called to the cafeteria. Both teams are cut because of the school's budget. Mich and her team are devastated, but they decide that they would try for the boys team. Then Mich gets news that Brie is moving to private school. Mich goes to the school's destroyed swimming pool and sees a boy named Jack who is the best swimmer in the school and they talk. He suggests Mich should try for the boys team. Michs parents do not want her to try out for the boys' team for safety, but she tries out anyway. Jack walks with her on tryout day. Mich is the only girl on the ice, and the fastest. She makes the team, but the coach and boys seem to hate her. At the first practice they practice hitting and they all hit Mich for no reason. Later, Mich scored 3 goals in the first 2 games alone and asked to play center forward. The coach says no, so Mich tries really hard to prove her worth. Mich goes to her coach to talk about what has been happening and he asks what she expected, and tells her he is not interested in hearing what she has to say. At the next practice Daniels, the captain of the team, walks in on Mich changing and threatens her to quit the team or else. Later the homecoming game is about to be played and Mich has her first real date with jack after, to watch his swim meet at a college. For this game they move Mich to center and they win the game. After the boys tell Mich that there is a team meeting. Instead they punch Mich for taking the center spot. The boys leave laughing. Mich is late for Jack's swim meet, and has a bruise. The team qualified for a showcase the next week at the university and many college scouts will be watching them. At practice Daniels, the captain, hits Mich and she gets knocked out. He tells the coach that it hit her head and wants to make sure she is alright. Mich needed a doctor's note to play. She is cleared in time for the showcase. The coach decides to move Mich to the side, because he says there are only male hockey scouts. Mich plays her best and scores 2 goals. Many reports want to talk to her. Mich wins MVP of the showcase and gets a trophy. She sees her best friend Brie in the stands. The boys of the team are very nice and invite Mich to a bonding event for the team. When she got there the boys gave her a drink. The drink happened to be drugged and Mich became very confused. When Mich opened her eyes she was with Daniels, but she thought that he was Jack and kissed him. At the start of the story the Coach of the boys hockey team gave Mich rules so she could join the team, including no drinking, keeping her grades up, and no relationships with any of the team members. Mich feels sick and her girl

hockey team comes and gets her. Later she gets removed from the team. Mich finally gets out her bottled feelings and goes to the police. Two of the boys on the team end up going to jail, and Brie moves back to her old school. Mich becomes the assistant coach for the team and says that *this* is the hardest she has ever worked for an 'A' patch.

Did the plot keep you interested?

The plot kept me interested because it was exciting to see if Mich would keep playing after getting punched, and if the coach would take her on the team.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace of the book was just right and was long enough to describe and explain all the parts.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

This book is appropriate for grades 7 and up because it is a strong book with no sugar coating of some of the struggles a girl goes through to play in a male-dominated sport.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to girls who play sports, and people who like realistic fiction.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book.

This book is very sad at times and you can feel Mich's pain throughout it.

I give this book 5 stars. I am really glad I read this book; it was awesome!

This book was great to read because I felt connected with Michigan, and when she won, I felt good, and when something bad happened, I cried. I learned a lot about the sport of hockey and understood the pressure from schoolwork. Michigan taught a good lesson, because she was determined, and tough, but she sought out help from family and friends in the end which is so important. Reading this book made sense because of its wording and I felt like Michigan was talking to me. Now I feel like I can push harder in my sports because of this book.