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PAUL JEONG



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The Story



1991. Kevin Choi is in hell, y'all.

After his parents' cataclysmic divorce, fifteen year-old Kevin is dragged from urban New Jersey to a tourist-trap town in backwoods Tennessee. But here in Pigeon Forge, home of Dollywood, Kevin discovers the game that will change his life forever: *Street Fighter II*. Driven by this new obsession, he finds salvation in the arcade, country cooking, and letters from the girl at the pommes frites stand.

The idyllic summer doesn't last as bullies try to destroy Kevin's one shot at love and happiness. And when his friggin' family trauma resurfaces, Kevin's depression spirals out of control. All these forces converge for one final showdown at a *Street Fighter II* tournament. Guided by the immortal Bruce Lee, Kevin must level-up his virtual and actual martial arts skills to win. Lose and it's game over...forever.

Paul Jeong's debut **STREET FIGHTER TOO** is *The Karate Kid* meets *Crying in H Mart*. It will appeal to fans of the star-crossed romance and domestic drama in Sabaa Tahir's *All My Rage* and the exploration of identity and culture in David Yoon's *Frankly in Love*.

This retro yet contemporary-feeling YA is complete at 75,000 words.



Kevin Choi (15)



Aly Palmer (15)



Jason Choi (9)



Scott Redmond (16)

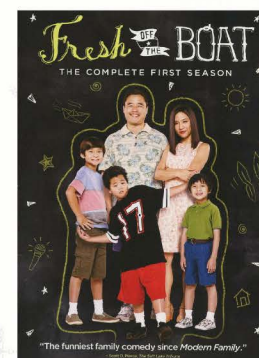
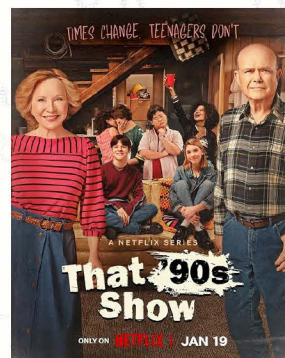
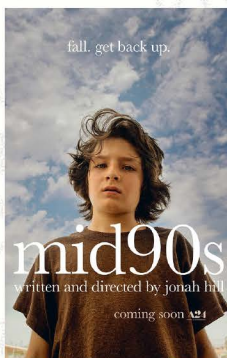
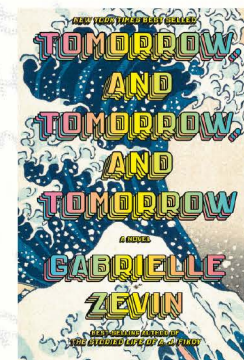
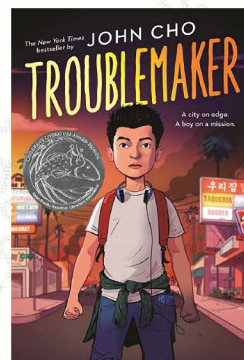
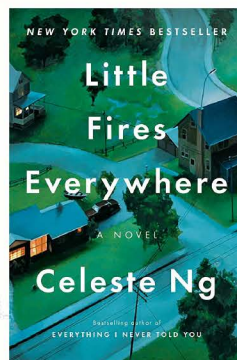
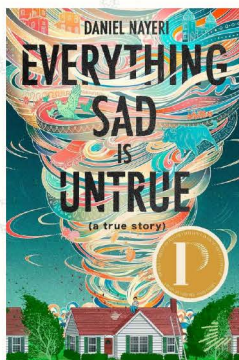


The Radical 90s



Demand for stories set in the 90s is on the rise, much like the wave of 80s-based media before it. Novels, movies, TV shows, and even conventions celebrating 90s pop-culture, are surging in popularity as people who grew up during the era seek out stories from their youth. Many contemporary teen and crossover readers are also enjoying 90s stories, rocking the baggy jeans that dominated MTV and VH1 videos.

STREET FIGHTER TOO intersects with many facets of 90s nostalgia and is positioned to capitalize on this emerging trend.





Crossover Potential



STREET FIGHTER TOO appeals to underserved demographics hungry for stories they can identify with. The novel features timeless and relevant themes for Upper MG/Lower YA boy readers from a marginalized perspective. STREET FIGHTER TOO is also for readers young-at-heart who didn't have stories with characters like them growing up.





The Author



Author Bio

Paul Jeong is an author, industrial designer, and illustrator. He writes about the Asian American experience as filtered through pop-culture. His stories are influenced by slice-of-life anime and manga, video games, and classic movies. He lives in the greater Atlanta area with his family.

He also designed this submission document.



Author Note

STREET FIGHTER TOO is inspired by my formative experiences as a Korean American child of immigrant parents. I wrote the book I wanted to read as a kid--to see myself represented in the stories I loved.

I grew up when the "model-minority" stereotype was accepted as truth, but my life was anything but model. As a teenager, I struggled with racism, domestic violence, depression, and suicidal/homicidal ideation. These issues are as relevant today as they were in the 90s.

Without divine intervention via ordinary people, my story would have ended in tragedy. But I was saved by mentors and friends who saw my pain and interceded. Today, violence and racism still impact my life and the lives of so many others. My hope is that **STREET FIGHTER TOO** shows the triumph of love and community over hatred and division.

STREET FIGHTER TOO is also a love letter to my mom and a way to keep her voice alive. Umma's dialogue in the story is rendered the way my own umma spoke. The story is an apology for all the love I withheld from her when I was an angry, lost teen; it's a picture of the reconciliation I had hoped to achieve in this life.

I labored to be as truthful as possible in depicting my story of the Asian American experience in all its messiness and joy.