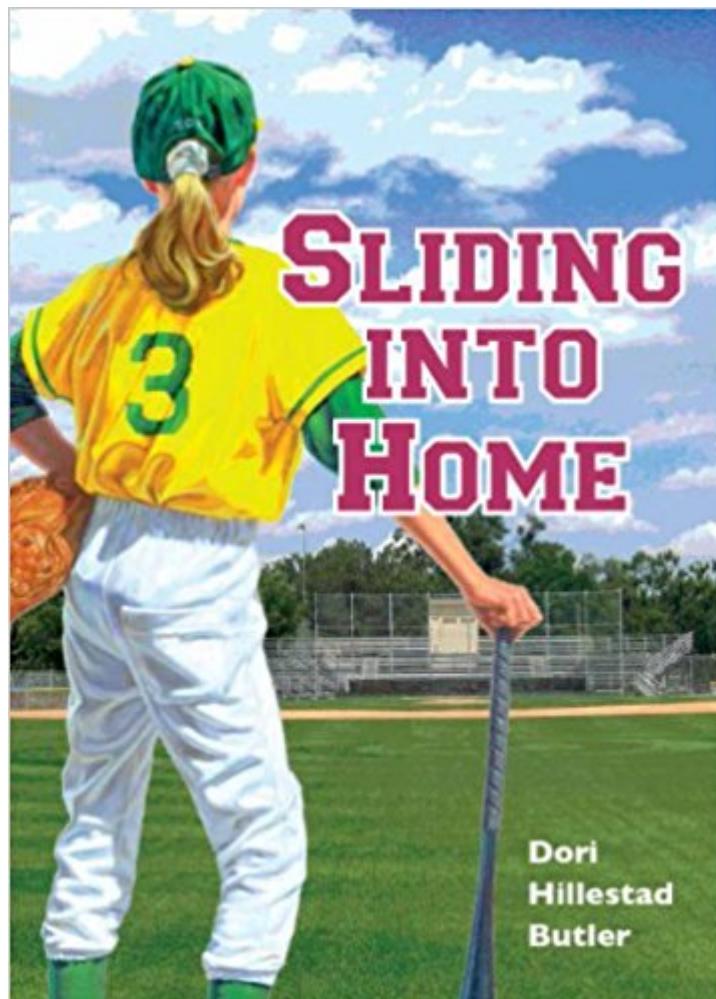


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## Sliding Into Home



## **Synopsis**

An adolescent girl learns that realizing a dream requires a good deal more than stubborn, steely resolve as she risks everything to follow her heart. IT'S NOT FAIR! Thirteen-year-old Joelle Cunningham is passionate about baseball. She loves to watch it, read about it, and, most of all, play it. But when her family moves from Minneapolis to the small town of Greendale, Iowa, she quickly discovers that there are strict rules preventing her from playing on the school baseball team. At Hoover Middle School, only boys play baseball. Girls play softball. It's not the same sport! Joelle tries to tell everyone. But no one is listening. Not Coach Carlyle--even though his baseball team is at the bottom of the league, he doesn't want her on his team. Not Ms. Fenner, the softball coach--she wants Joelle to use her big league swing to benefit the girls' team. Not her new friend, Elizabeth, who is growing tired of her complaints. Not even Jason, her older brother, who is too busy at college to be of much help. But Joelle is determined to play baseball. And through some creative problem-solving and surprising alliances she finds a solution to her dilemma that brings the disputing sides together&#x85;and baseball to the girls of Greendale. Author Dori Butler has created a high-spirited, indomitable character that young girls will admire and root for in this story of frustrated ambition and ultimate triumph.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 218 pages

Publisher: Peachtree Publishers (April 7, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1561453412

ISBN-13: 978-1561453412

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,103,757 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Baseball & Softball #430 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Values & Virtues #897 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Esteem & Reliance

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 4-8-Joelle, 13, has just moved from Minneapolis, where she was a star baseball player on her school's boys' team, to a small, rural Iowa town. At Hoover Middle School, there is only a girls'

softball team and Joelle is not allowed to play with the boys. Upset by this and the fact that no one seems to understand that baseball and softball are not the same game, she is determined to play her sport of choice. Appealing first to the coach, then the principal, and next to the superintendent, Joelle is foiled at every step. Eventually she becomes involved in starting a girls' league with neighboring towns. When the school board finally changes its rules, Joelle turns down the offer to play with the boys. Filled with realistic emotions and dialogue, this involving tale has just the right amount of baseball action. It also provides an honest look at what it's like to be the "new kid" at school. The main character's thoughts are expressed in italics, which can be a bit distracting. Still, this is a winning story that will appeal to many readers. Kate Kohlbeck, Randall School, Waukesha, WI  
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Gr. 5-8. After she moves with her parents from Minneapolis to a small town in Iowa, 13-year-old baseball fanatic Joelle Cunningham cannot believe that she's not permitted to play on her new middle-school's baseball team. Convinced that girl's softball is not an adequate alternative to baseball, she starts a one-girl campaign to change the small town's rules, and her protest eventually expands into a community conflict that is televised on the local news. Determined Joelle is a fine protagonist. Readers will be caught not only by her drive to play ball and her willingness to take risks but also by her passionate commitment and the broadening vision that doesn't allow her to settle for just being the one female on an all-male team. Although there is only occasional play-by-play coverage of baseball games, the well-paced plot will engage readers, who will be moved by the story of a young teen who stands up for what she believes and goes after what she wants. Roger Leslie  
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Good story for girls and boys. Shows how determination, teamwork, and logic can get you what you want. Good for children to see that girls and boys should be respected as equals.

the book was good.

My son read this book for his 7th grade summer reading assignment. He absolutely loved it.

This is a great book about a girl named Joelle Cunningham. At the beginning of the book Joelle

Cunningham moved to a new town and state. She moved from Minneapolis to a town called Glendale, Iowa. Her brother Jason and her are very close and he is in college back in Minnesota. He plays college baseball and she is expected to be just like him. It isn't easy to be like him because he is the starting 1st basemen on the team. When she moves to Glendale she finds out that she is not allowed to play baseball. Girls in Glendale had never been allowed to play it in the past. Joelle was highly disgusted with the school board's rule. The school says that girls and boys do not play on the same baseball team and that girls have to play softball so that girls and boys have an equal opportunity of sports to play. Joelle wants to play on the Hawks baseball team and she is going to try everything that she possibly can to become a member of it. She goes to the superintendent's office, the school board, and she writes a letter to the local newspaper. She finally gets some feedback some of it is positive and the other is negative. Some of the negative is coming from girls on the softball team because they want her to play on their team. They think that since she won't play on the team that she thinks that she is too good to play on there. That is not the case with Joelle, all she wants to do is play some baseball. A lot of older people really agree with her and try to help her out. The coach of the Hawks and the school board still wouldn't change their minds about the rule. Joelle then meets a new best friend named Elizabeth. Joelle goes to the park one day and meets a couple of other girls that like baseball but aren't allowed to. They decide to start a GIRLS ONLY baseball league together. They first have to hold a meeting to get the town aware about the baseball league for the girls. A few surrounding towns eventually find out about it and decide to join the league. They at first get ready and go to a field to have their first game but the police came and said that they couldn't use the park. They decide to reschedule and an elderly woman allows them to use a lot beside her house. The Hawks ask her to play and she denies their proposal. Everybody comes to the game and it is all over the news girls everywhere in Iowa see Joelle and the other girls that helped start the league as big role-models now. No one would ever forget what Joelle Cunningham did to change girl's baseball in Glendale, Iowa.

Of the several books I read by Ms. Butler this is certainly the best! Even though the book centers on a girl trying to cut through red tape and prejudice to get the chance to play baseball, it really addresses many of life's most important and deepest values. It's about honesty, friendship, loyalty, courage and self awareness. I found the plot quite interesting with enough twists and turns to keep me constantly guessing. Excellent character development is an integral part of the story's success. I'm sure a girl (and surprise, also a boy), would find this book an enjoyable, fun read that's filled with lessons about some of life's most important values. As I understand it, this book has it's

basis in a real life story.

This book would have to go into my top 5 list for my life. She did a great job of leaving you into suspense and I hardly put the book down. I would stay up until 10 or 11 reading and then my eyes would just close. I really wanted to finish. Dori made this book have a great ending. I think that she should write a second novel telling how the baseball team did and if the girls did well or if any other girls joined the team. I loved the book. It is hard for me to find a good book that I have to finish but this one didn't take me long to finish if you look at the time I have to read because I do play all sports. Thank you Dori for writing such an awesome book. Loved IT.

This was an interesting book about a girl trying to play baseball. Joelle Cunningham has just moved to a new town, Greendale, Iowa. At her new school, Hoover Middle School, she can only play softball and not baseball. At Hoover girls only play softball. Joelle only wants to play baseball. She tries to make the school change their policy, but they won't. She starts writing letters to the paper all about how they are not the same sport. She was so happy when she met another bunch of girls who also want to play baseball. Then Joelle had a great idea she wanted to start her own girls baseball league. Once they finally get enough people to play the police tell her she can't play on the field she wanted to. So she talks to an old woman who will let them use her property. They finally get to play their first game and they win.

This book is Great! You will never read another book like this! If you decide to buy it you will never regret it. It is very inspiration to all girls. This book is for all girls who are willing to fight for something. I highly recommend this book who has ever had to fight for something, and to all girls that love baseball. It will be surprising and exiting and at sometimes sad.

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