



# Punching The Air

Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam

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Reviewed by: Megan & Lily

## Blurb

From award-winning, bestselling author Ibi Zoboi and prison reform activist Yusef Salaam of the Exonerated Five comes a powerful YA novel in verse about a boy who is wrongfully incarcerated. Perfect for fans of the Noughts & Crosses series and The Hate U Give.

One fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighbourhood escalates into tragedy. 'Boys just being boys' turns out to be true only when those boys are white.

Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal Shahid's bright future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison. Despair and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art. This never should have been his story. But can he change it?

With spellbinding lyricism, award-winning author Ibi Zoboi and prison reform activist Yusef Salaam tell a moving and deeply profound story about how one boy is able to maintain his humanity and fight for the truth, in a system designed to strip him of both.

## Megan's Review

Amal Shahid is a sixteen year old boy, and is falsely accused of a crime he didn't commit. He was found guilty and had to go to a prison and couldn't continue with the things he loved, art and poetry. This book tells the story of how he has to find a way out of all the racism and pain. The whole book is a poem itself which adds to the effect. Although there was a lot of swearing I think that it was a good book and beautifully made. 4/5 stars



## Lily's Review

Punching The Air is about Sixteen-Year-Old Amal Shahid who is sent to prison for a crime he didn't commit. At prison, he's bullied and the guards are racists. The worst thing is, he can't continue with poetry or art, the things he loves. Amal feels let down, especially as one of the reasons he was sent to prison was because he is black...