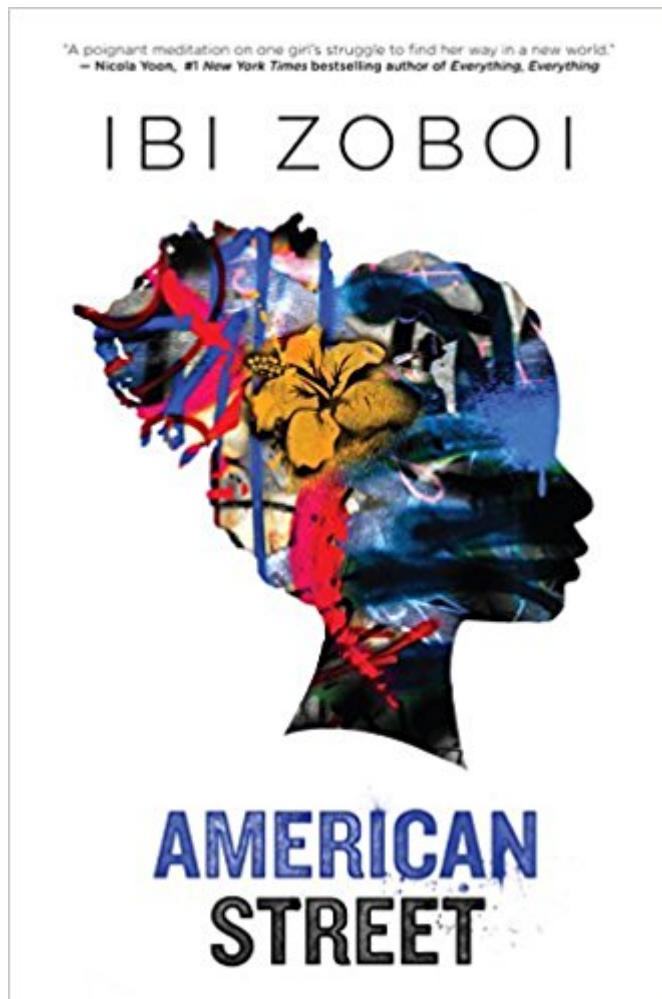


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# American Street



## Synopsis

Five Starred Reviews! American Street is an evocative and powerful coming-of-age story perfect for fans of Everything, Everything; Bone Gap; and All American Boys. In this stunning debut novel, Pushcart-nominated author Ibi Zoboi draws on her own experience as a young Haitian immigrant, infusing this lyrical exploration of America with magical realism and vodou culture. On the corner of American Street and Joy Road, Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find une belle vie—“a good life. But after they leave Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola’s mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins, Chantal, Donna, and Princess; the grittiness of Detroit’s west side; a new school; and a surprising romance, all on her own. Just as she finds her footing in this strange new world, a dangerous proposition presents itself, and Fabiola soon realizes that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream?

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 52 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #13,631 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emigration & Immigration #8 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Parents #22 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences

## Customer Reviews

[View larger](#) [Meet the Author](#) Ibi Zoboi Ibi Zoboi was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti and immigrated to the U.S. when she was four years old. She holds an MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts, where she was a recipient of the Norma Fox Mazer Award. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and three children. American Street is her first novel. [American Street](#) 5 Starred Reviews  | [Ebony Magazine "Must Reads"](#) for February 2017 [Teen Vogue 10 Diverse Books by YA Authors of Color to Read in 2017](#)

ÀfÀcÀ à ¬Ã Å“To this spellbinding voice of the next generation, I bow.ÀfÀcÀ à ¬Ã Å•  
ÀfÀcÀ à ¬Ã Å• Rita Williams-Garcia, New York Times bestselling author and three-time winner of  
the Coretta Scott King Award. [View larger](#)

“Self-assured, elegant and utterly captivating.” (New York Times) “Mixing gritty street life with the tenderness of first love, Haitian Vodou, and family bonds, the book is at once chilling, evocative, and reaffirming.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) “Filling her pages with magic, humanity, tragedy, and hope, Zoboi builds up, takes apart, and then rebuilds an unforgettable story. This book will take root in readers’ hearts.” (Kirkus Reviews (starred review)) “Zoboi urges us to examine the American dream to see if there is room within it to hold the ones we love (Ebony Magazine) “Zoboi’s stunning debut intertwines mysticism and love with grit and violence. Fierce and beautiful.” (Booklist (starred review)) “Will reach young readers regardless of their background.” (Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books (starred review)) “A breathtaking story about contemporary America that will serve as a mirror to some and a window for others, and it will stay with anyone who reads it.” (School Library Journal (starred review)) “A poignant meditation on one girl’s struggle to find her way in a new world.” (Nicola Yoon, bestselling author of *EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING*) “Brimming with culture, magic, warmth, and unabashed rawness, “American Street” is ultimately a blistering tale of humanity. This is “Manchild in the Promised Land,” for a new generation, and a remarkable debut from Zoboi, who without question is an inevitable force in storytelling.” (Jason Reynolds, award-winning co-author of *ALL AMERICAN BOYS*) “Zoboi’s nascent storytelling gifts ensnare from page one. To this spellbinding voice of the next generation, I bow.” (Rita Williams-Garcia, New York Times bestselling author and three-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Award)

Coretta Scott King Award) "Following in the footsteps of Edwidge Danticat, Zoboi's young adult debut is equal parts gritty and transcendent." (The Horn Book)

On the corner of American Street and Joy Road, Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find une belle vie—a good life. But after they leave Port-au-Prince, -Haiti, Fabiola's mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins, -Chantal, -Donna, and Princess; the grittiness of -Detroit's west side; a new school; and a -surprising -romance, all on her own. Just as she finds her footing in this strange new world, a dangerous proposition presents itself, and Fabiola soon realizes that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an -impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream? In her stunning debut, Pushcart--nominated author Ibi Zoboi draws on her own experience as a young Haitian immigrant, infusing this lyrical exploration of -America with magical realism and Vodou culture. Unflinching yet filled with joy, American Street is an evocative and -powerful coming-of-age story.

Whoa....I resumed this book today and literally finished it today. So fast paced, so much action!! truly enjoyed this novel considering I did not expect this book to do well. American Street is about Fabiola Toussaint who immigrates to America with her mother from Haiti, but upon arrival, her mother is detained at customs, leaving Fabiola to navigate a new country and culture on her own with some help from her cousins and aunt. The theme of this story is based on Fabiola trying to make sense of what happened to her mom and then trying to find a way for her mother to join her. As she begins to settle into her new environment, she meets and falls in love with a young guy named Kasim Anderson. Anderson will teach her about her new world and also serve to temporarily fill the void that Fabiola only desires for her mother. So many events occur that keep the storyline interesting and moving, but I must say, it is also sad. Honestly, I experienced many emotions while reading this book, and when I finished it, I still had all the characters I met in my mind. I finished this book in two sittings, though I did take a break because of work. I gave this book 4 stars on GoodReads, but it is technically 4.5 out of 5.0. Zoboi did a great job writing this book. Our main character, Fabiola Toussaint, is well developed and the theme is real and will resonate with many readers who have foreign blood in them. I enjoyed this book and definitely recommend it.

This is a must read!! As America confronts the issue of immigration allowed and allowed nots here is a story that bears witness to the story of a young woman's journey into her birth land that is also

her migrated to land. It is a sweet mixture of joy love and pain and triumphs. This book celebrates the life of Global AFRIKAN/HaitianCaribbean/American life, you feel like you not only follow the characters but embody their lives, which in truth is part of the respect of honoring life of all humanity. EACH LIFE HAS ITS OWN STORY TO SHARE and I personally enjoyed this life story with the hope that we will hear from many of the characters again in future books. I HOPE "I am your back" meet again, in Heru-tic style.

Fabiola, a Haitian born in the USA, emigrates to America with her mother. A snafu at the border detains her mother so Fabiola greets her cousins in Detroit alone. She is thrust into the energy and poverty of an inner-city high school. The casual violence and verbal abuse is balanced by strong family ties and deep love. Still, Fabiola misses her mother. To try to speed her release, Fabiola agrees to narc on a local drug dealer suspected of giving deadly drugs to rich Grosse Pointe kids. Her spiritual guide is Papa Legba ("Bad Leg") a homeless man whose street corner song hints at the turmoil to come. The school scenes are frighteningly dramatic (fights, threats, little real teaching). Her three cousins lead tough lives: hiding in books, bad boyfriends, and unrequited love, respectively. This reader was saddened to see Fabiola American-ized in this cold world. The plot is gripping if, at times, histrionic. This tale will resonate with inner city youth and immigrants.

I am not Haitian. I am not black. I am a female human and this writing put me there with these characters. I felt their joy. I felt their pain. I was there with them on the streets of Detroit. A hard story to read. I kept wanting to reach out and hug these girls, these women. We are all strong. We have our faith, friends and most of all family to get us through. Thank you, Ibi Zoboi .

A masterful, magical story of grief, displacement, and doing the best one can, even if that means screwing things up. Recommended for those who see gods peeking around corners, young women coming into their own power, and those needing a kick in the empathy gland.

One of 's recommendations (I had just finished Carey's The Girl with all the Gifts, another amazing book) and was pleasantly surprised . I'm pretty sure I'm not the target audience for this story, but nevertheless I read Ms. Zoboi's book with great interest. I don't believe I've read anything this emotionally moving in a very, very long time.

What a heartbreakingly beautiful book! Zoboi's meld of Haitian lore and Detroit life is perfectly

rendered and Fabiola is a character any could relate to.

American Street is one of the best books I have read in a long time. This is a very well written book that reads fast. It addresses some very important issues about American culture, youth culture, and immigration in the US. I thought it was a genius work of art.

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