



# The Blue Notebook: A Novel

By James A. Levine

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## The Blue Notebook: A Novel By James A. Levine

An unforgettable, deeply affecting debut novel, **The Blue Notebook** tells the story of Batuk, a precocious fifteen-year-old girl from rural India who is sold into sexual slavery by her father. As she navigates the grim realities of Mumbai's Common Street, Batuk manages to put pen to paper, recording her private thoughts and writing fantastic tales that help her transcend her daily existence. Beautifully crafted, surprisingly hopeful, and filled with both tragedy and humor, **The Blue Notebook** shows how even in the most difficult situations, people use storytelling to make sense of and give meaning to their lives.

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## The Blue Notebook: A Novel By James A. Levine Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1088722 in Books
- Published on: 2010-07-06
- Released on: 2010-07-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.90" h x .60" w x 5.20" l, .45 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Levine, a doctor at the Mayo clinic, was inspired to write this heartbreaking and terrifying novel when he was interviewing homeless children in Mumbai as part of his medical research. In the "Street of Cages" where child prostitutes ply their trade, literally encaged by their neglectful and abusive overseers (who pocket all the profits), Levine was struck by the sight of a young girl sitting outside her cage writing in a notebook. Batuk is a 15 year old girl who was sold to Mamaki Briila by her father when she was 9. Forced to service up to ten men a day from her "nest," and subject to deplorable treatment by the men who pay for her services, she's even abused by the doctor who examines her; her friend Puneet, meanwhile, nearly dies after being sexually assaulted by two policemen and is castrated at the first signs of puberty. Batuk tells her story matter-of-factly, in a voice reminiscent of *The Color Purple*'s. While painful to read, Batuk's story puts a face on the mistreatment and disregard for children worldwide, as well as a testament to the hopefulness and power of literacy. All U.S. proceeds from the book will be donated to helping exploited children. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

### Praise for *The Blue Notebook*

"*The Blue Notebook* is a deeply moving story and a searing reminder of the resilience of the human spirit. It is a tribute to how writing can give meaning and help one transcend even the most harrowing circumstances. The voice of Batuk, the unforgettable child prostitute heroine, will stay with the reader a long, long time."—**Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns***

"James A. Levine's *The Blue Notebook* tugged at my heart and opened my eyes. Levine's fictional protagonist, Batuk, stands shoulder to shoulder with the iconic Anne Frank, another brave young girl whose innocence was annihilated but whose spirit prevailed and whose gift to the world was the written testimony she left behind. To read *The Blue Notebook* is to bear witness, something we must do if we are to create a world that rejects the exploitation of children and creates a world where they can be safe." —**Wally Lamb, author of *The Hour I First Believed***

*From the Hardcover edition.*

About the Author

James A. Levine, a professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic, is a world-renowned scientist, doctor, and researcher. He lives in Oronoco, Minnesota.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Matthew Coleman:**

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or read a book allowed The Blue Notebook: A Novel? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have different opinion?

**Carol Witt:**

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**Alma Rasmussen:**

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**Everett Barton:**

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