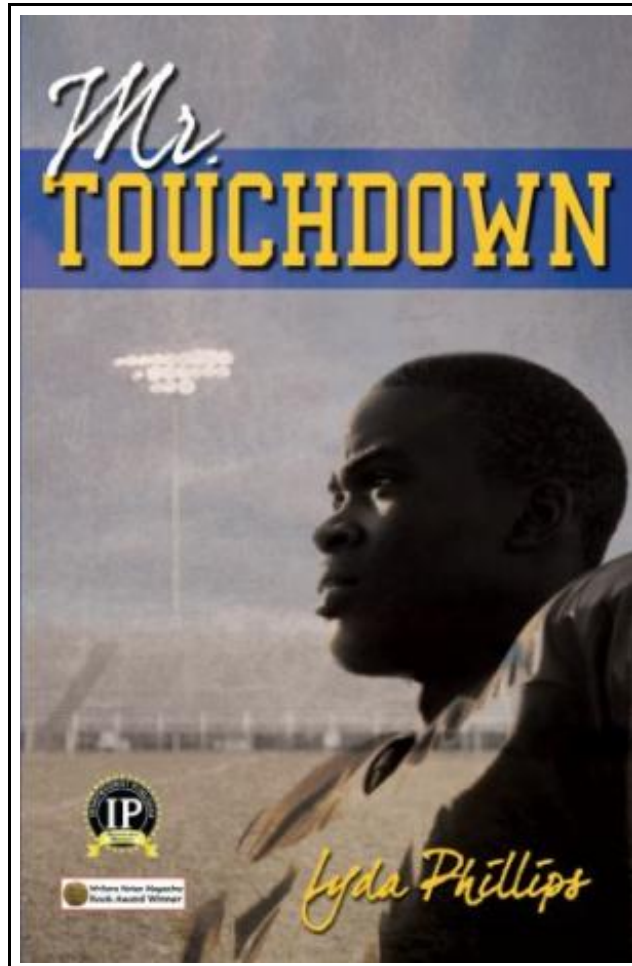


## Mr. Touchdown



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iUniverse. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 184 pages. Dimensions: 8.4in. x 5.5in. x 0.7in. Eddie Russell, a black football star, anticipates enjoying his junior season at Douglass High School south of Memphis, Tennessee, in 1965, but complies with his father Reverend Henry Russells wishes when local civil rights leaders select Eddie to integrate all-white Forrest High School. Epitomizing resiliency, Eddie; his studious sister, Lakeesha; and two other African-American girls, Lethe and Rochelle; stoically attend classes, experiencing passive racism at first and confronting academic inequities of segregated education when they discover better books and facilities in the white school. Most students either ignore or taunt the black pupils; a teacher washes her hands after touching them, and Eddies football coach benches him for most of the season. Eddie strives to perceive good in his tormentors. Although the black childrens perspectives predominate, reactions of popular white cheerleader, Nancy Martin, depict her tolerance for her new classmates. She befriends the black students, invites them to her home, and attends their church despite her friends disapproval and rejection. The racism escalates when classmates assault Lakeesha . . . testing Eddies commitment to nonviolence and forgiveness. Based on the authors experiences as a teenager, this complex story explores young adults experiences on school desegregations front lines. Childrens LiteratureMr. Touchdown is a terrific read. Using vibrantly descriptive language, Lyda Phillips creates a living world of shop class and gym teachers, pep rallies and pompoms, and pulls us right into it. Middle-school students and even their older brothers and sisters will enjoy the breezy dialogue, fast-moving plot, and genuinely shocking twists and turns. Rooting her story of radical social change in the familiar routines of high school, the author gives us a book that never abandons its characters, and it succeeds as both social commentary and adolescent rite-of-passage....

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