

We Love You, Charlie Freeman: A Novel

Kaitlyn Greenidge

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How do we communicate the ideas and hopes that mean the most to us—and at what risk? That question recurs throughout Kaitlyn Greenidge's debut novel, *We Love You, Charlie Freeman*.

The novel focuses on the Freeman family, tapped to teach a chimpanzee sign language at the morally questionable Toneybee Institute. But beneath their experiment run major questions of belonging, assimilation, and interpersonal communication, all of which tie into continued racial inequality.

Charlie Freeman's beautiful prose and surprising characters would distinguish it amongst its peers in any circumstances, but its focus on race renders it crucial, timely reading for all those who question, or who wish to discuss, the persistence of prejudice, or the insidiousness of its movements.

MICHELLE ANNE SCHINGLER (Spring 2016)

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