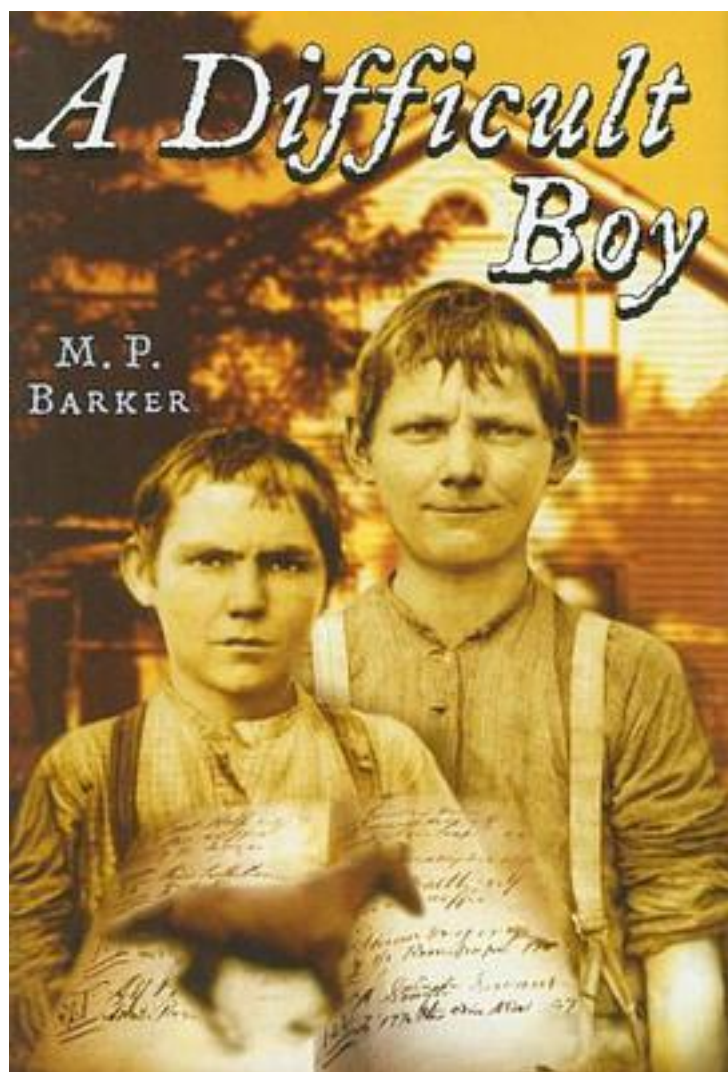


A Difficult Boy



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The truth of it is, son, I need you to go, Ethans dad confesses when the boy protests becoming indentured to a local businessman. It is 1839 and families can indenture children to help pay debts. Nine-year-old Ethans plight might have been somewhat bearable if it werent for the cruelty of his master, George Lyman. The Lyman family treats another indentured boy with appalling meanness, calling Daniel Paddy and denouncing his Irish heritage at every opportunity. Ethan and Daniel live in fear of brutal treatment for the slightest infractions. Daniels only respite comes from caring for the Lymans horse, Ivy. The boy teaches Ethan horsemanship, and the two enjoy brief, exhilarating flights of freedom on horseback. They also slowly uncover Lymans financial dishonesty and eventually prove that Daniels indenture is completely fraudulent.

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