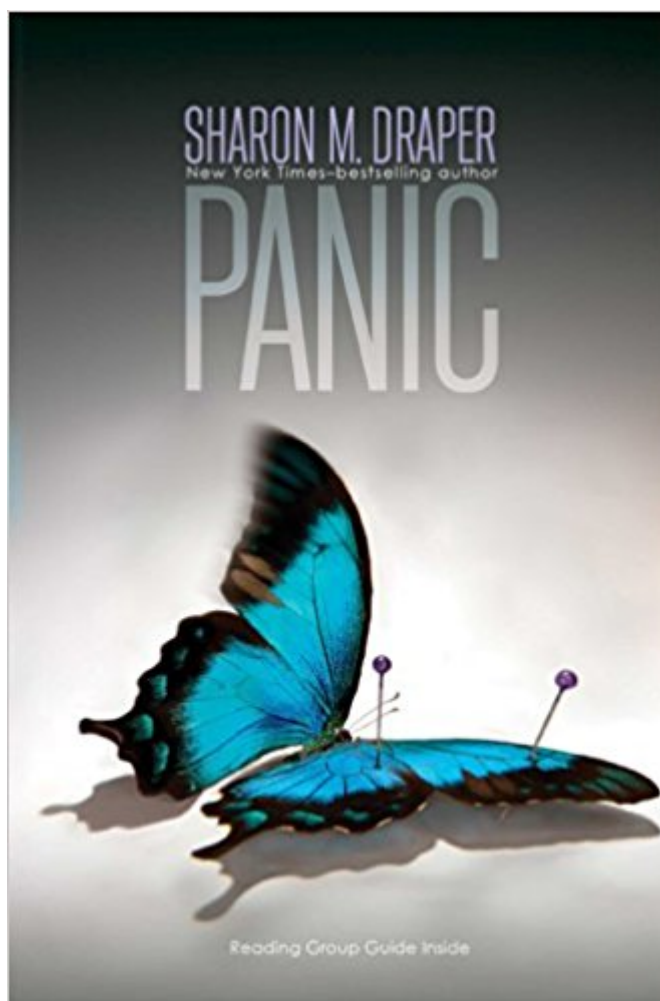


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Panic



Synopsis

This gripping, chillingly realistic novel from New York Times bestselling author Sharon Draper, *It's Not Easy Bein' the Black Kid*, shows that all it takes is one bad decision for a dream to become a nightmare. Diamond knows not to get into a car with a stranger. But what if the stranger is well-dressed and handsome? On his way to meet his wife and daughter? And casting a movie that very night—a movie in need of a star dancer? What then? Then Diamond might make the wrong decision. It's not easy being a nightmare come true: Diamond Landers has been kidnapped. She was at the mall with a friend, alone for only a few brief minutes—and now she's being held captive, forced to endure horrors beyond what she ever could have dreamed, while her family and friends experience their own torments and wait desperately for any bit of news. From New York Times bestselling author Sharon Draper, this is a riveting exploration of power: how quickly we can lose it—and how we can take it back.

Book Information

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[Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts](#) #87 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Violence](#)

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up—Draper has created a nurturing setting for her characters in the Crystal Pointe Dance Academy where students have been dancing and working together for years. Miss Ginger, their instructor, provides support and challenge in endeavors like the spring showcase or the upcoming production of *Peter Pan*. Diamond, 15, is swept off her feet by a stranger's promise of an audition for a movie when he finds her alone at the mall. Her BFF, Mercedes, gets a cryptic text before they are to meet at the food court to go to the academy for a performance. Through drugs and restraints,

villainous Thane and his henchmen cameramen, as well as other paying participants, abuse Diamond as the unwilling star in Internet pornography for days. Meanwhile, with only intermittent plot coverage of Diamond's ordeal, the dance academy and school hold vigils and worry about their classmate. Most chapters actually deal with Layla: she doesn't acknowledge fellow dancer Justin's crush because she is more concerned about boyfriend, Donny, who gets dangerous and abuses her when he feels jealous or insecure. Layla suffers from some bad judgment, a mostly absentee mother, and the challenge of her father being released after six years in prison. This realistic novel takes on too many characters and plotlines, and the scattershot approach may leave readers less engaged and invested. Dance enthusiasts should enjoy the depictions of costumes, jitters, daunting roles, and therapeutic workouts. However, multiple issues-bullying, kidnapping, sexual enslavement by a predator-pedophile, abusive teen relationships, and sexting-result in hot-button overload.-Suzanne Gordon, Lanier High School, Sugar Hill, GA Â (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

After teenage Diamond makes a disastrously foolish mistake, she is abducted and finds herself in terrible danger. Will she survive? Will her life ever be the same? Told from multiple points of view, *Panic* is not only Diamond's story but also that of three of her friends, all of them students at the Crystal Pointe Dance Academy. Mercedes is Diamond's best friend, who, wracked by guilt, blames herself for her friend's abduction. Layla, given to bouts of self-loathing, is trapped in a physically abusive relationship with a boy whom she thinks she loves. And Justin, the only boy in the dance class, is secretly in love with Layla. Although much of her material will be familiar to YA readers, Draper does a good job of balancing and integrating her multiple plotlines. Especially good are the subtle parallels she draws between Diamond and Layla, both of whom are, in their respective ways, trapped and victims of the worst aspects of the Internet. Draper's many fans will welcome this latest addition to her growing body of work. Grades 10-12. --Michael Cart --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Panic is a book I think every teenage girl should read. It so terrifyingly real because what young girl wouldn't want an opportunity to star in a movie? I loved how the author told the story of four different characters (each chapter was in one of their perspectives) while all centering around the one main character. Although it was told from four different perspectives, I never once got confused. It was also insightful and gave realistic views of what it's like to be in an abusive relationship and how you

should handle it. It also dealt with difficult topics such as rape, kidnapping and exploitation of a minor. Panic was nicely written and teaches all girls a lesson.

This is a great five star read like so many other books by this author. Even though the characters and story lines aren't true it seemed so real from all three characters stories from the narration it never seemed like Diamond really didn't get kidnapped or abducted, Justin feeling out of place because he's the only male dancer on top of missing his mom and liking Layla even though she's talking or Layla having problems with her abusive boyfriend, dad in jail and having a mother who is always absent. All in all it was a good read.

Panic is a tastefully written story about an ugly situation. A teen who is abducted suffers a horrible experience while her friends are desperate to find her. Draper has multiple plots intertwining, touching on sexting, date abuse, incarcerated parents, and pedophilia. However, her book remains appropriate for mature middle and high school students. My only complaint is that I felt that Draper tried too hard to include up-to-date songs and texting expressions, thereby possibly dating her novel for future generations.

this book is very different from other books. Diamond a 15 year old girl, and she gets kidnapped at the mall. Diamond's passion is dance, and it will forever will be. But, will this cruel man poison her mind and quit dance forever? I will rate this 4 stars because Sharon M. Draper really gave good detail in the story. Not only to Diamond but, to all of them. I feel that you could really feel the impact of what Diamond was saying.

Reading this book has open my eye to the danger our kids can go through. This story was very powerful. My 15 years old son introduce me to all your books. I'm looking forward to read more of your books. I truly enjoyed it

I loved it, it kept me very interested. I look forward to buying more of Sharon Draper books. She is my favorite author although I've read all of her books so far like the bully and the rest of the series. They're all awesome.

I loved this book because it was well written and it was written by one of my favorite authors. I thought the book was powerful and really good

This book is awesome it shows a great demonstration of what adolescents should not do.

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