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Dime



Synopsis

The startling realities of teen prostitution are revealed in this eye-opening, heartbreaking story from the author of *America*, which Booklist called “a piercing, unforgettable novel” and Kirkus Reviews deemed “a work of sublime humanity.” As a teen girl in Newark, New Jersey, lost in the foster care system, Dime just wants someone to care about her, to love her. A family. And that is exactly what she gets—a daddy and two “wifeys.” So what if she has to go out and earn some coins to keep her place? It seems a fair enough exchange for love. Dime never meant to become a prostitute. It happened so gradually, she pretty much didn’t realize it was happening until it was too late. But when a new “wifey” joins the family and Dime finds out that Daddy doesn’t love her the way she thought he did, will Dime have the strength to leave? And will Daddy let her?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up • Thirteen-year-old Dime is a product of the foster system. She finds an escape in the books she reads, but she struggles academically because she is called on to help out with the younger foster children at home. One day she meets a girl who takes her in. Dime finds acceptance here, but is slowly groomed into becoming a prostitute. The book takes the form of a note that Dime is trying to write, whose purpose is unclear until the last chapters. The multiple nested flashbacks and the attempts to have other concepts contribute to the note (such as Money or Truth) much as Death narrated Marcus Zusak’s *The Book Thief* (Knopf, 2006) (Dime herself credits Zusak for this idea) would have failed at the hands of a lesser writer, but they are effective here. The simple,

one-line note that the protagonist ultimately writes is heartbreaking. The conditions in which Dime and the other trafficked girls live are horrendous and difficult to read about; however, this novel serves to illustrate that small acts of kindness can make a difference. This title will appeal to fans of grittier problem novels, like those written by Ellen Hopkins, and will provoke discussion. In spite of the gritty content, there is good reason to make this title accessible to middle schoolers as well. There is a helpful resource list in the back matter, including information for victims and survivors of trafficking. VERDICT An important work that should be an essential part of library collections. — Kristin Anderson, Columbus Metropolitan Library System, OH --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"a tremendously affecting novel" (Kirkus Reviews March 2015)* "An important work that should be an essential part of library collections" (School Library Journal - Starred Review March 2015)* "will linger with readers" (Publisher's Weekly - Starred Review March 2015)* "gritty, graphic, and shatteringly painful to read...a masterfully told, unforgettable tale of what hope looks like in desperate circumstances, and of the struggle to find power in one's voice." (Booklist - Starred Review April 15, 2015)"Riveting, eye-opening and poignant, Dime is an unnervingly real portrait of life on the streets. It's a world where pimps use charm, cunning and violence to exert gradual - then total - control over vulnerable girls. Until Dime, a girl nearly broken by her situation, somehow finds an exit. If not for herself, at least before it's too late for someone even more defenseless than she is. Unforgettable." (Patricia McCormick, Author of Never Fall Down)

This was a very good book and one I plan to put forward for a book club I lead on marginalized populations. Sex trafficking is something more people should be aware of, and this author does a good job of showing how Dime gets trapped through no fault of her own. She is a very believable narrator. The author also does a good job of raising awareness and getting the reader rightly upset without putting the reader through graphic depictions of the sex. It's not exactly criticism, but I wish Dime wasn't a foster kid as I hate that some readers will think this can't happen to their own children. It does happen to well-loved kids as well. Also, I wish it showed what happened when she got out. From what I have heard and read from credible sources, it sounds like the recovery for former sex trafficking victims is rough and long.

I did not think I was going to be able to finish this book because I ugly cried the whole time. It is a hard read but very compelling and relevant to our time. Frank covers a multitude of modern issues

in the world of human trafficking in a way that makes readers feel overwhelmed with awareness and empathy. Although it was uncomfortable at times to read, I think it was necessary. It is a good work of YA. If you plan to introduce this book to a teenager or young adult, be prepared for the discussions that follow and the ones that will be hard to have. *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* by Stephen Crane is a good classic to introduce along with it as well.

Dime got a lot of things right. Most girls who are trafficked by pimps are girls of color, and many have been in the foster care system or come from abusive families. Pimps/traffickers want money, they don't want to risk losing income or getting arrested. They know to select girls who no one is going to look for, or care about. They're not kidnapping little white girls in pigtails from the schoolyard. They're grooming girls who are already falling through the cracks of society. Spoilers ahead-- be warned. The whole bit with the baby, and the pimp trying to sell the baby, that was completely ludicrous. Again, pimps/traffickers do not want to get arrested. They want money. A pimp would not risk getting arrested by trying to sell a baby. That's sensationalizing an issue that's very serious and affects many girls today. People will care more about younger girls, smaller children and babies, but the reality is most of the girls who are trafficked are teenagers. The most common age of entry into sex trafficking is around 14 years old. And pimps aren't selling the trafficking victim's babies, that's something I've never even heard of outside of this work of fiction. Not that it never happens, but that's not at all a common feature of American sex trafficking. Also, the parts where he took the girls to another state, that was a little ridiculous too. Most often, pimps are trafficking girls in the communities where they live. "Trafficking" may not be the best term for what happens, because most of the time the victims are not moved from one place to another. Again, it's very risky for a pimp. To be caught with three underage girls, none of whom are related to him, would be a risk for him to get arrested, which, again, pimps will avoid. And the part with the international trafficking victims, that was over the top too. I think the author was trying to include as many forms of trafficking as possible into one book, but that doesn't work well, and weakens the story. I'm glad that there is more awareness of sex trafficking, but even in fiction I believe it is important to show a more accurate portrayal of what sex trafficking actually looks like in America. It's a difficult topic, and I do applaud E. R. Frank for writing this and trying to share more awareness of the issue.

A moving and well written and researched book about the horrors of the sex trafficking of young girls. The characters are well developed and very believable. A heartbreaking story that is sadly true

to life. The novel is labeled for young adult readers but is very appropriate for all adults.

Beautifully written. Emotionally riveting, poignant and important topic. E.R Frank does a fantastic job of inviting the reader to really feel what Dime is experiencing, moment to moment, scene to scene. I highly recommend this book.

A disturbing, but accurate portrayal of modern day prostitution. I met the author, she's a psychiatrist who specializes in helping teenage sex workers. Everything feels real. Beware though, not for young children.

Well written, great to help people gain the perspective of sex trafficking and why someone would choose to stay when it seems so obvious to leave!

Hard to read because it's so sad, but really helped me to understand more about trafficking. I couldn't put it down.

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