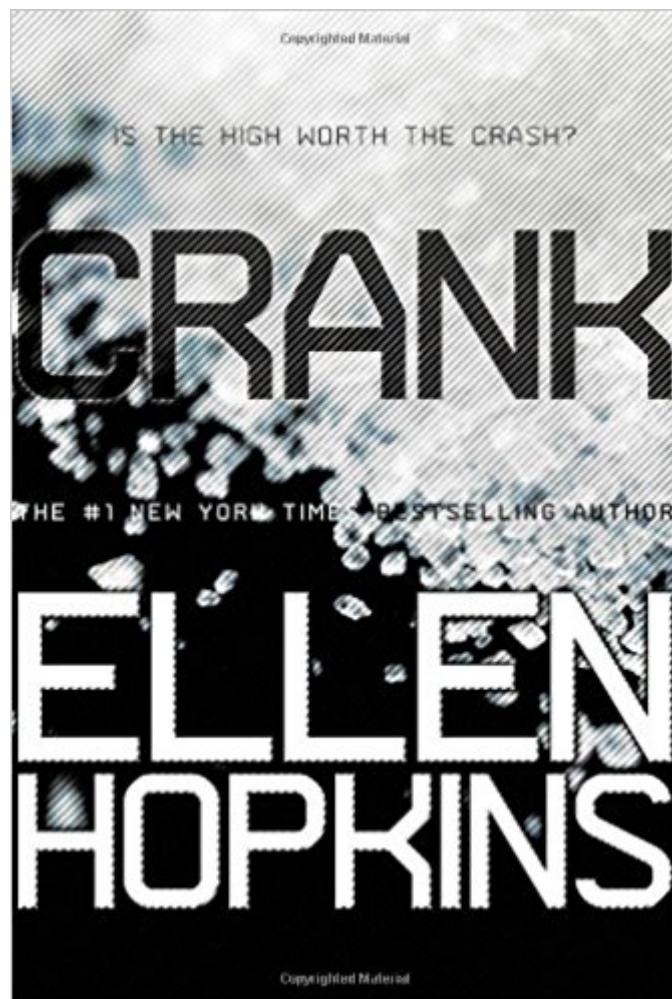


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Crank



Synopsis

The #1 New York Times bestselling tale of addiction—â•the first in the Crank trilogy—â•from master poet Ellen Hopkins. Life was good before I met the monster. After, life was great. At least for a little while. Kristina Snow is the perfect daughter: gifted high school junior, quiet, never any trouble. Then, Kristina meets the monster: crank. And what begins as a wild, ecstatic ride turns into a struggle through hell for her mind, her soul—â•her life.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #15,311 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Drugs & Alcohol Abuse #10 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Parents #33 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Dating & Sex

Customer Reviews

Ellen Hopkins's semi-autobiographical verse novel, Crank, reads like a Go Ask Alice for the 21st century. In it, she chronicles the turbulent and often disturbing relationship between Kristina, a character based on her own daughter, and the "monster," the highly addictive drug crystal meth, or "crank." Kristina is introduced to the drug while visiting her largely absent and ne'er-do-well father. While under the influence of the monster, Kristina discovers her sexy alter-ego, Bree: "there is no perfect daughter, / no gifted high school junior, / no Kristina Georgia Snow. / There is only Bree." Bree will do all the things good girl Kristina won't, including attracting the attention of dangerous boys who can provide her with a steady flow of crank. Soon, her grades plummet, her relationships with family and friends deteriorate, and she needs more and more of the monster just to get through the day. Kristina hits her lowest point when she is raped by one of her drug dealers and becomes pregnant as a result. Her decision to keep the baby slows her drug use, but doesn't stop it, and the author leaves the reader with the distinct impression that Kristina/Bree may never be free from her

addiction. In the author's note, Hopkins warns "nothing in this story is impossible," but when Kristina's controlled, high-powered mother allows her teenage daughter to visit her biological father (a nearly homeless known drug user), the story feels unbelievable. Still, the descriptions of crystal meth use and its consequences are powerful, and will horrify and transfix older teenage readers, just as Alice did over 20 years ago. --Jennifer Hubert --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Grade 8 Up
Seventeen-year-old Kristina Snow is introduced to crank on a trip to visit her wayward father. Caught up in a fast-paced, frightening, and unfamiliar world, she morphs into "Bree" after she "shakes hands with the monster." Her fearless, risk-taking alter ego grows stronger, "convincing me to be someone I never dreamed I'd want to be." When Kristina goes home, things don't return to normal. Although she tries to reconnect with her mother and her former life as a good student, her drug use soon takes over, leaving her "starving for speed" and for boys who will soon leave her scarred and pregnant. Hopkins writes in free-verse poems that paint painfully sharp images of Kristina/Bree and those around her, detailing how powerful the "monster" can be. The poems are masterpieces of word, shape, and pacing, compelling readers on to the next chapter in Kristina's spiraling world. This is a topical page-turner and a stunning portrayal of a teen's loss of direction and realistically uncertain future.
Sharon Korbeck, Waupaca Area Public Library, WI
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--This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

If you are looking for a amazing series to get into i deffinetly recommend starting with this book. I am a longtime read of Ellen Hopkins books since i was maybe 14 year old. I have read this book a longtime ago but figured i would read it again along with all of her other books. I finished it in a day, start to finish. It is just so memorizing, it takes you right into the book. If you are looking for a world to get into that is full of lust, love, sex, drugs, choices, and emotion- then this is the book for you. It so nice to get out of your everyday life and become apart of this new life. The perfect distraction for relaxation. I love this book and am so happy to get to own it to read it as many times as i would like vs getting it from the library like i did as a kid.

Semi-true story of a teenager who gets addicted to meth, written in poetry by her mother. Beautifully written, but it loses steam near the end and sort of fizzles out. There are two more books in the series, so I suppose this wasn't meant to be the true ending. Still, the momentum just bottomed out at the end, almost as if the writer gave up or was short on time and had to just toss something

together, or was just too darn tired to keep up the fiction any longer. As she says in the afterword, her daughter was incarcerated in prison by the time this first book was written, so I think the mother/author just wanted to be done with it and move on by then. I can't really say more without discussing the specific plot line and ruining it for you.

I remember all my friends reading these books in high school, but I didn't want to. I didn't care for the content or style....and I'm glad I didn't read it then. I don't think I would have appreciated the story as much at 14 or 15 as I do now. I had to force myself to put it down to do other things.

Using a poetry like format is an interesting way to present the chaos caused by Kristina's foray into drugs. While I really enjoyed that format I did, on occasion find it slightly harder to read. A difficult topic but important for teens to see in an unglamorized light!

Crank is the story of a girl's downward crank (crystal meth) induced spiral. Written in free verse poetry, Crank is a quick read, even though it is near 600 hundred pages long, and it follows Kristina through her addiction. The only thing that I did not like about this book, was that it made it appear as though every teenager was addicted to speed, and that every one always had a bit of "toot" on them at all times, which simply isn't true. Crank serves as a cautionary tale, shining light on a subject not often raised. Very well written

This is by far one of my favorite authors, and this book doesn't disappoint! I read this book in one sitting, that's how good it is... I love how she chose to write this series in free verse. I was a little skeptical at first thinking that it wouldn't flow very well as a story because of this choice but boy was I ever wrong! This story will catch your attention from the very first page and reel you in.

Probably one of my favorite books ever. I just love the style that she writes in. It's a huge book and people are always like I can't believe you can read all that and then I show them and they understand. But it's so thoughtfully written, so much emotion, doesn't need to have a lot of words. It's beautiful poetic. She's my favorite. The book also came in great condition considering it was a thrift book. Only a couple bent ends for page marking. Love it!

I have read just about all of Ellen Hopkins books and this one does not disappoint and I would read this one more than once! Highly recommended

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