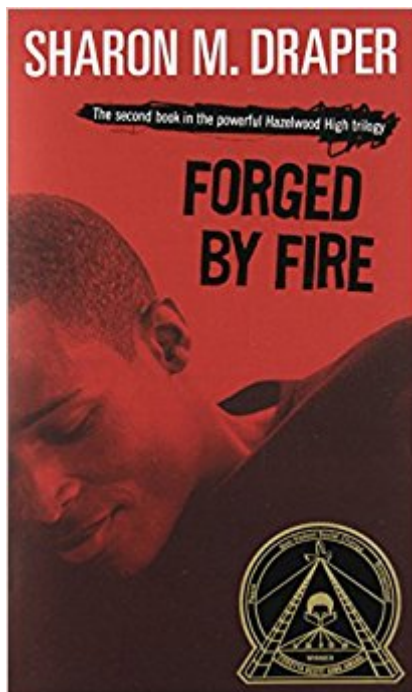


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Forged By Fire



Synopsis

When Gerald was a child he was fascinated by fire. But fire is dangerous and powerful, and tragedy strikes. His substance-addicted mother is taken from him. Then he loses the loving generosity of a favorite aunt. A brutal stepfather with a flaming temper and an evil secret makes his life miserable. The one bright light in Gerald's life is his little half sister, Angel, whom he struggles to protect from her father, Jordan Sparks, who abuses her, and from their mother, whose irresponsible behavior forces Gerald to work hard to keep the family together. As a teenager, Gerald finds success as a member of the Hazelwood Tigers basketball team, while Angel develops her talents as a dancer. Trouble still haunts them, however, and Gerald learns, painfully, that young friends can die and old enemies must be faced. In the end he must stand up to his stepfather alone in a blazing confrontation. Sharon M. Draper has interwoven characters and events from her previous novel, *Tears of a Tiger*, in this unflinchingly realistic portrayal of poverty and child abuse. It is an inspiring story of a young man who rises above the tragic circumstances of his life by drawing on the love and strength of family and friends.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 780L (What's this?)

Series: Hazelwood High Trilogy (Book 2)

Mass Market Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Simon Pulse (January 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689818513

ISBN-13: 978-0689818516

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.6 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 250 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #28,042 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs](#) #4 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Basketball](#) #5 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Sexual Abuse](#)

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Sharon Draper has indeed forged a fiery name for herself in the field of young adult literature--that of a courageous writer, willing to tackle tough, real-life problems while developing honorable, streetwise role models for troubled teens. Her previous novel, *Tears of the Tiger*, garnered much acclaim and became the first recipient of the Coretta Scott King Genesis Award. In this second novel, Draper weaves in characters from *Tears*--most significantly Gerald Nickleby, a young basketball player who discovers his innate strength and determination while protecting his stepsister's safety and his mother's honor. Unfortunately, Draper's strengths (her desire to delve into tough social issues, such as child abuse, drug addiction, incest, bulimia, and domestic violence) become this book's weakness as the story line teeters on implausible. For example, in less than 20 pages Gerald faces the following: the death of a close friend (a passenger in a car that was driven by a drunk teammate); the discovery of his drunk, evil stepfather trying to sexually assault his younger stepsister; a brutal attack by his stepfather; and a raging apartment fire that threatens to kill them all. Nonetheless, Draper creates believable and important heroes for teenage boys--those who are forged from adversity, only to burn more brightly and courageous. (Ages 12 and older) --Gail Hudson

This prequel to Draper's *Tears of a Tiger* is a stark portrayal of a young man struggling to protect his little sister from a drug-addicted mother and an abusive father. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I would put a 5 star but I bought this book new and I realize the award badge for the book has been tampered looks slightly peeled off.

So well written it makes you feel as you are there! Especially love the phone numbers for the Child Abuse Hotlines. Open doors for those in need!

Realistic fiction, you'll be annoyed, angry and happy with your quick read. It's a great discussion waiting to happen; just open up the book and start reading.

Very hard to read, but a well-written and meaningful book for adolescents to learn about the issue of child abuse.

This book drew me in right from the start, story line was good, but oh so sad. I could not imagine if

my child or grandkids would have to endure what these children had to go through, on the other hand I know it happens. I thought the grandmother would wind up raising both kids. Very sad.

Had to read this book for school. It was an easy read and also really interesting. I recommend giving the book a try.

I love how realistic this book is. I also LOVE how the paints a vivid picture of the scene in your mind.

Best book ever but there was a lot of dead people I think kids 12 and up would like it if you hate people dying don't read this book at all I didn't like the people dying except Jordan sparks he was the meanest person in the book

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