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Backlash



Synopsis

Lara just got told off on Facebook. She thought that Christian liked her, that he was finally going to ask her to his school's homecoming dance. It's been a long time since Lara's felt this bad, this depressed. She's worked really hard since starting high school to be happy and make new friends. Bree used to be BBFs with overweight, depressed Lara in middle school, but constantly listening to Lara's problems got to be too much. Bree's secretly glad that Christian's pointed out Lara's flaws to the world. Lara's not nearly as great as everyone thinks. After weeks of talking online, Lara thought she knew Christian, so what's with this sudden change? And where does he get off saying horrible things on her wall? Even worse - are they true? But no one realized just how far Christian's harsh comments would push Lara. Not even Bree. As online life collides with real life, the truth starts to come together and the backlash is even more devastating than anyone could have imagined.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up — For sophomore Lara Kelly, things are finally looking up — she's feeling more confident after losing weight and she made the varsity cheerleading team, which she never would have imagined two years earlier when she was overweight and severely depressed. Best of all, Lara has caught the attention of a cute guy on Facebook, and he has been hinting at asking her to the

homecoming dance. But when she sees horrible comments from her crush on social media, she spirals into a dangerous mental state and suicide seems like the only escape. Bree is Lara's former best friend from middle school, but they drifted apart when Bree couldn't take Lara's depression and self-involvement. The new Lara is suddenly getting everything that Bree is supposed to have—the popularity, and even the spot on the cheer team. Sydney and Liam are the younger siblings, who are caught up in the horror of a tragic event, and trying to figure out how to cope with their siblings' issues while living their own lives. This novel thoughtfully balances the four alternating perspectives, giving an element of humanity even to the perpetrators of severe bullying while maintaining a strong moral judgment. The writing and pace may not be compelling enough for reluctant readers, and there are disturbing scenes portraying bullying and severe depression. However, it's an accessible complement to an anti-bullying curricula that would serve as a good starting point for discussion of ethics with teens. Share with fans of Lane Davis's *I Swear* (S. & S. 2012). —Tara Kron, School Library Journal --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Praise for *Backlash* "This is a powerful and credible story that illustrates the perils of immature decisions and explores the wide-reaching ripple effect of destructive actions thought by the perpetrators as 'fun.'" --Booklist "Littman pens a raw, frighteningly realistic, and absorbing look at cyberbullying and the damaging effects of airing private trauma in a public forum." --Publishers Weekly "This novel thoughtfully balances the four alternating perspectives, giving an element of humanity even to the perpetrators of severe bullying while maintaining a strong moral judgment." --School Library Journal Praise for *Want to Go Private?* "A bold investigation of a potentially lethal, if common, mixture for teen girls: emotional immaturity, technology, and emerging sexuality." --Los Angeles Times "Littman pens a harrowing cautionary tale about the dangers that lurk online." --Publishers Weekly "This book is a compelling, if not disturbing, read." --School Library Journal

Grade: A-When Lara tries to kill herself after a nasty online breakup, her next door neighbor and former best friend Bree videos her being wheeled on a stretcher into the ambulance and posts the clip on Facebook. Told through Lara's, her sister Sydney's, Bree and her brother Liam's points of view *BACKLASH* is a cautionary tale about online bullying and its unintended consequences. Sarah Darer Littman brilliantly crafted a timely story that will appeal to both teens and tweens drawing upon some recent stories that have made the news. Each of the narrators had positive and negative traits and multiple layers. Liam was my favorite character, wise beyond his years. The parents had fewer dimensions. The mothers were integral to their daughters' issues, while the fathers were more

supportive and nurturing. Despite Bree's meanness, I could see how she came to be that way. THEMES: bullying, depression, suicide, mental illness, parent, siblings, families BACKLASH should be required reading for parents and kids before they're allowed to touch social media.

My daughter loves it

Great!!! Ideal for young girls with use of social media.

Read it. You'll love it. A page turner and an eye opener. Great way to start discussions with your kids about "finstagram" and why social media can be dangerous if not done with care.

My 12-year old read this in a matter of days. I think it is a very appropriate book for middle schoolers.

GreaT1

Well I preordered this book and it shipped extremely fast. I read this book in 1 day, the same day I got it. I really liked this book and its characters. But this is NOT an original book. If you want to see this book you should watch "Cyberbully" movie, it's insanely the SAME drama and story. The insecure girl that's bullied and her "best friend" creates this fake account about a cute boy to make her fall in love and then hurts her by making her attempt a suicide. It's practically the same except that the book involves more characters into the drama like their families. If you've seen this movie before reading the book you'll find it very PREDICTABLE cause it is really the same if you don't want to spend the money on this book just watch the movie and you'll have an idea. Overall, personally liked the book cause I really liked the movie too, and I enjoy to watch/read this type of movies and/or books, but it lacks from originality since there is already a movie based on this book. I don't know if the author just copied the idea or is the book and the movie are related? or if it just coincidence but that's why I give it 4 stars, I expected something new and different since this book came out in May and the movie is older.

Best book ever

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