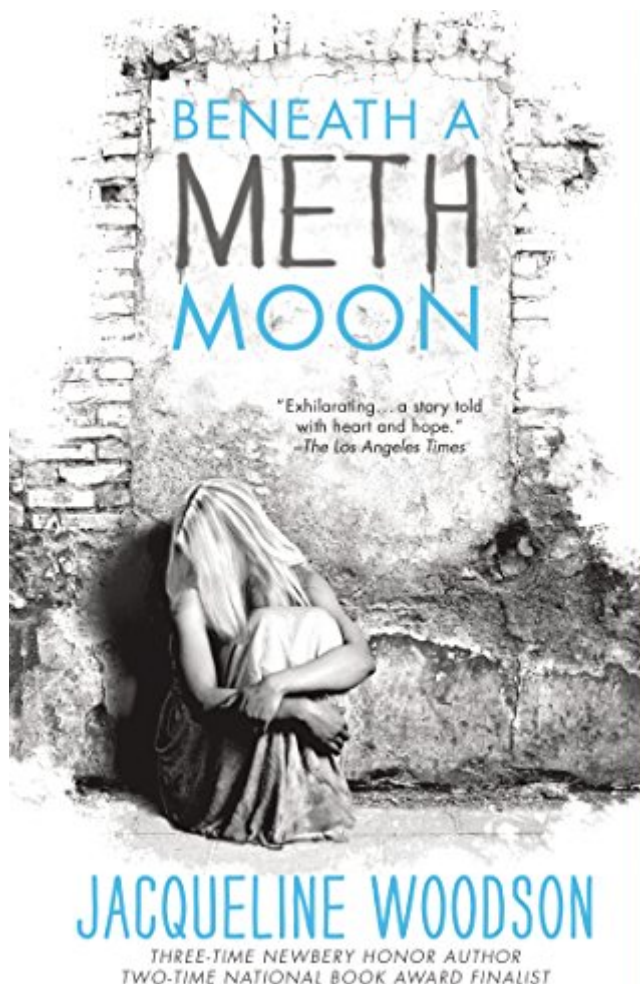


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Beneath A Meth Moon



Synopsis

Laurel Daneau has moved on to a new life, in a new town, but inside she's still reeling from the loss of her beloved mother and grandmother after Hurricane Katrina washed away their home. Laurel's new life is going well, with a new best friend, a place on the cheerleading squad and T-Boom, co-captain of the basketball team, for a boyfriend. Yet Laurel is haunted by voices and memories from her past. When T-Boom introduces Laurel to meth, she immediately falls under its spell, loving the way it erases, even if only briefly, her past. But as she becomes alienated from her friends and family, she becomes a shell of her former self, and longs to be whole again. With help from an artist named Moses and her friend Kaylee, she's able to begin to rewrite her story and start to move on from her addiction. Incorporating Laurel's bittersweet memories of life before and during the hurricane, this is a stunning novel by one of our finest writers. Jacqueline Woodson's haunting - but ultimately hopeful - story is beautifully told and one readers will not want to miss.

Book Information

File Size: 1903 KB

Print Length: 197 pages

Publisher: Speak (February 2, 2012)

Publication Date: February 2, 2012

Sold by: Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

Language: English

ASIN: B005GSZYW0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #517,297 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #78

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Customer Reviews

In the 90's some friends and I delved into the mad world of god's breath for a season or two and it brought this old sailor to his knees. I first suspected there might be a little problem after staying awake for a fortnight watching Pink Floyd the Wall and then shaving my entire body. This book was almost too vivid, real and intense and I often had to put it down and take a deep breath. She is an amazing author and brings me to tears every time. What a lovely homage to recovery, relapse, tragedy and hope.

Crystal meth has become a scourge upon our young people. But do you really understand why? I can't say I do, but in Jacqueline Woodson's heartbreaking tale, *Beneath a Meth Moon*, I feel like I witnessed the devastation first-hand. Laurel's mama packed her and her baby brother up to go with their father north, away from the hurricane, away from the water. She said it would only be a few days and that she couldn't leave Laurel's grandmother M'Lady behind, but she lied. It was forever. As they turned and drove away, they never thought that would be the last time she would see or speak to her mother. But the water came. And the water couldn't be stopped. And the water took everything away. At first they lived with Laurel's aunt, but in search of more work, they headed to a new town with new people and new opportunities. Laurel meets Kaylee and starts cheering. Everything finally seems like it might be a life worth living again. Until Laurel meets T-Boom, the co-captain of the team. It is T-Boom who introduces Laurel to the moon. And once she starts the moon, it isn't so easy to stop. Especially when it takes away all the memories, all the pain, and all the emotions. This is a short, quick story, but it is devastating, both in the poetic beauty with which it is written, and the haunting devastation of the content. You see this innocent 15 year old girl who lost her mother and her grandmother, and even having a loving father and a little brother who needs her can't make her stop using. She knows it is killing her, she sees herself in the store windows, but when the itch starts, all she can think about is the moon (meth). I have read a number of addiction YA stories in the past, but there is something so melodic and poetic about the way this story was written that it makes you almost feel guilty in finding beauty in a story of such devastation. That conflict of emotions may be what made me like this story so much. It is written in simple language with large type and is a fast story, so this would be a very good story for an older student who struggles with reading. They won't be bogged down by the heavy content because the writing style is so smooth and easy to read. This story makes me want to explore more from Woodson. I am very impressed by my first story from her!

I saw the review for "Beneath a Meth Moon" in the Sunday LA Times, bought the book on a Monday

and finished the book on a Tuesday the same week. What a rush from the words of the gifted author, Jacqueline Woodson. The book is presented in short chapters, giving the feeling of the jumpiness meth induces in its users. The main character, Laurel, calls meth "the moon," because it takes her over the moon beyond her troubles. After losing loved ones in a flood, she thinks she can go on, for she has a baby brother and a good father. But the moving around, the new high school, the influence of first love, these things lead her to experiment with meth. The experiment becomes the only thing that matters in her life, how to get meth, how to find meth, where to get enough money to buy meth. Meth, meth, meth, meth (always called "moon" by Laurel.) Woodson, I felt, did an extraordinary job of making Laurel both believable and sympathetic. While most people have no patience with addicts or their problems, Woodson reveals the body's reaction to the first experience and the mental relief Laurel feels to have something new to drown her unhappiness. Laurel at that point does not know or care that the other side of addiction is ugly and destructive. A book I would recommend to all parents and all teens, including early teens. It's a warning without being a sermon.

I as a reader venture on many books, I've always been a fan of mythology and tragedy, I came across this book and I'll admit the first 20 or so pages were boring, but then you start feeling her (Laurel Daneau) she turns out to be just a girl under the influence of meth after the memories of her lost grandma and mother in hurricane Katrina, it was a very touching story in whom I finished in 3 days unable to put the book down!

Interesting gentle read. As we face the epidemic of heroin, this was great for Those who don't understand the slippery slope and how young it begins.

This was an excellent book for teens. So real. Was concerned at first about the subject so I read prior to my child reading. However, no concerns and the book was an excellent honest book about the extreme dangers of meth....

I'm sorry, I didn't like this book because of all the jump-cuts. It became confusing at times during the reading.

I bought this for my junior high classroom library. And I have to say it is a hit. This definitely appeals to this age group. I believe it speaks volumes about drug use and will reach young adults much better than a lecture from an adult. This should be in every junior high classroom.

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