

## **Columbine**

**By Author, Dave Cullen**

**Reviewed by: Valentina 20**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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Located in a small town in Colorado, seniors, Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris commit the most atrocious act inside of their high school. Writer and investigative journalist, Dave Cullen, researches for ten years on the Columbine mass shooting that happened on April 20th, 1999. Dave Cullen goes more in-depth on the lives of these two shooters through their writings, interviews of their classmates and family members, and lastly from the police. Throughout the book, Cullen goes through how the minds of Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris were on the day of the shooting and how other classmates saw them act during the incident. Dave also shows a bit of background information about these two and how easy it is to not recognize other people's intentions. Originally, these two high school shooters planned to bomb their school, however, the shooters conducted an execution-style massacre in the school's library instead. Dave Cullen also mentions the aftermath of the shooting and how others felt and grieved for all 13 people who died and more than 20 others were wounded.

Cullen's nonfiction is one of the few books that are worth the time to read. This true story caused so many emotions to come out throughout those ten years of investigating the reason behind the mass shooting. Listening to what the victims had to experience and how they feel now years later is extremely heartbreaking. Dave Cullen shows how these victims came together and helped each other going through the grieving. Faith, love, and patience were shown that it is possible to heal slowly but surely. This makes for a teen/young adult novel for discussions about what can we do as students if an incident were to ever occur in school.

Columbine would be considered a novel only for teens and young adults. There is some language and is based on a real-life incident. Both boys in the novel are mass shooters and there are a few deaths involved. I would recommend this book to students who are in high school and older. This seems like a very important time to recognize what happened in the past and what is happening now with incidents that occurred in Sandy Hook Elementary School, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, and many others. Would highly recommend this novel to anyone interested in this case.

### **Recommended Titles:**

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

No Easy Answers: The Truth Behind Death at Columbine by Brooks Brown

Why Kids Kill: Inside the Minds of School Shooters by Peter Langman