

Crank

Ellen Hopkins

Reviewed by: Elisabeth Suarez, 14

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

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Kristina was the straight-A, responsible daughter, who never got into any trouble. This all changes when she visits her distant father and meets a cute boy who introduces her to meth. At first, she feels ecstatic and like she is finally, truly living. Adam preys on her insecurities. Soon, her personality transforms into a sly, wild, and reckless alter-ego by the name of "Bree." Bree allows Kristina to lie to her parents, manipulate others, and get with dangerous boys who can supply her some ice. Her life falls to pieces and she spirals.

Kristina snorts it, injects it, and smokes it, putting meth into her body and way she can. Eventually, Bree even stoops to selling crank. That gets her into some trouble with a drug gang. She also begins smoking cigarettes and tries other drugs like ecstasy. This poetry book also describes other mature scenes such a rape, an unplanned pregnancy, and self-harm.

Crank is loosely based on Ellen Hopkins' own daughter. It is a good "this would never happen to me" story, as Kristina is the perfect daughter. Many teens can relate to Kristina, in that she wanted to be loved and popular. This book can give families of addicts a better understanding of things they experienced.

This book is a good cautionary tale for high schoolers. I recommend it for ages fourteen and up, this way only mature readers would grasp how one bad decision can destroy your life. If you enjoyed the story, the book is a series. Some dislike the book because Kristina suffers barely any consequences for her actions, but her family eventually tightens their grip on her life in the later books. Others think the different fonts used in the free verse is hard to understand. I find the use of the different writing interesting and adds to the emphasis of the writing.

Recommended Books:

Go Ask Alice by Beatrice Sparks

Burned by Ellen Hopkins

Glass by Ellen Hopkins

Fallout by Ellen Hopkins