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The Edge (Young Adult Fiction)



Synopsis

No one understands Declan. Not his mother or his father or his teachers. No one but maybe his new group of friends. After moving, Declan will do anything to fit in at his new school, even if it is illegal. When he and his new friends get caught, the consequences are tragic. Given a second chance that he is not sure that he wants, Declan is sent to work at a ski lodge in the Canadian Rockies. Though he is not locked up, he feels trapped and lonely, and learns that second chances aren't easy. While there, Declan learns to snowboard and meets new friends, but the ghosts of his past keep rising up to haunt him. Standing on the edge, Declan realizes that the only way to break free is to face his past, and to look forward to the future.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 740L (What's this?)

Series: Young Adult Fiction

Hardcover: 138 pages

Publisher: Lerner Pub Group (December 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0822533073

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Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 5.8 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #4,072,952 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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[Issues > Violence](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8-Declan, a new kid in town, craves acceptance from the UXT (Urban Xtreme Team). Their graffiti is inescapable and he is willing to scale dangerous heights to pass the group's initiation challenge. His membership is short-lived, however, as he is the sole survivor of a warehouse fire accidentally started by the charismatic leader, Jaz. Declan is sentenced to an experimental rehabilitation program, sending him from Vancouver to a ski lodge at Canada's Glacier National

Park with the hope that the wise Big Foot, elderly great-grandson of a great Indian chief, will teach him to channel his restless spirit. The teen's talent at skateboarding makes him a natural to learn snowboarding. Battling his inner voices, he is attracted to his tutor Manu, the daughter of the lodge owner, but finds himself drawn into a duel with Mad Dog, the local snowboarding champion. While character development is minimal, the action is nonstop and compelling. Add this to a growing body of young adult literature that pits confused male adolescents against the majestic, but unforgiving forces of nature in battles for survival. Strong, but conflicted male characters and nail-biting precipices can also be found in Will Hobbs's *The Maze* (Morrow, 1998), Jackie Koller's *The Falcon* (Atheneum, 1998), and Louis Sachar's *Holes* (Farrar, 1998). Marilyn Payne Phillips, University City Public Library, MO Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A melodramatic tale of a young snowboarder with terrifically bad judgement. First, Declan worms his way into the "Urban Xtreme Team," a gang of Vancouver graffitiists; then, when they perish in a self-started fire and he opts for a six-week rehabilitation stint in the mountains, he responds to the jeers of a rival by nearly killing himself three times, snowboarding down slopes that are beyond his ability. The third time is actually a suicide attempt, but in surviving it, he ends up straightening himself out. Declan picks up the rudiments of snowboarding with convenient ease, the cast is composed of types, and readers unfamiliar with the sport may stumble over the jargon; still, for solid vicarious entertainment, the plot is comprised of nonstop wild rides, avalanches, and wipe-outs. (Fiction. 10-12) -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

This is a book about a troubled teen, Declan, who loves to snowboard. He unfortunately gets into a gang that likes to graffiti on things. One day, the gang starts a fire and ends up killing themselves. Declan does not get killed. Instead he has to go into rehabilitation for about 6 weeks. This rehabilitation center was in the mountains. There was snow on the mountains so Declan couldn't resist snowboarding. The only problem is that he almost killed himself about three times. Only two of those times were accidents. The third time he tried to kill himself because he was fed up with his life. That turned him around. Now because this book isn't very long, I don't want to give out any more information because it might give away the ending. I hope that you'll read this book because it's very good and I enjoyed it. I hope that the review I gave will persuade you to go and read the book. Thanks.

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