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Jamie uncovers life-changing secrets from his past when he's sent to live with a father he's never met in this gritty novel from the author of *Exit Here*. and *Run the Game*.

Jamie is invincible when he is high. His anger, his isolation, his mom's manic mood swings—nothing can shatter his glass castle. But one brutal night upends everything, leaving his mom broken and Jamie betrayed.

Sent to live with a father he's never met, Jamie is determined to hate the man he blames for his mother's ruin. And he blocks out the pain with drugs, fierce music, and sweet, sweet Dominique. Except the more time Jamie spends at his dad's, the more his mother's scathing stories start to unravel. Who is he supposed to believe? And how much will he have to sacrifice to uncover the truth?

Blazed Details

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Author : Jason Myers

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From Reader Review Blazed for online ebook

Jada says

Wow. This book just destroyed me. I really don't even have words. Jason Myers really knows how to write a book that just tears your soul apart, but like in a good way.

Kristine says

Original review can be found at <http://kristineandterri.blogspot.ca/2...>

I received an advanced readers copy of this book from Simon Pulse via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review. The expected publication date is June 17, 2014.

Whenever I write a review I always try to list the positives or the things I liked before the negatives but unfortunately there are none to speak of with this book. This book was a huge let down and if I'm being completely honest a big waste of time.

The book is about a 14 year old boy who is hooked on Oxy. I've never taken the drug for even a legit reason but I truly think you would need to in able to enjoy this book. The way the teenagers talk in this book was painful to read. I haven't heard kids who think they are cool (but really aren't) talk like that since the late 80's or early 90's. I began thinking that perhaps I was too old to understand but questioned a few young people about the language and they laughed. They thought I was joking and informed me that nobody talks like that.

The book also glorifies the use of drugs. Here was a young boy who was hooked on drugs but miraculously all these great things kept happening to him. There was no downward spiral with the exception of one altercation. In fact, girls of all ages were throwing themselves at him and telling him how great and perfect he was all the time. Woman in their 20's were telling him that they wanted to have sex with him. He was meeting famous people and the list goes on.

The fact that it described his sexual adventures was just gross. The kid was 14 years old. That would put him in grade 8 or maybe 9 at the most. I am by no means naive and I do understand that some people are having sex at that age but I don't enjoy reading about kids (because that is what he was) doing it.

The book quotes and references numerous songs and bands throughout the entire book and guess what? Every one of them was one of his favourite and he loved them. Add to this the description of what every character was wearing at any given time right down to the shoelaces and my eyes were rolling so much that my family thought I was having a seizure. This book took place over one week and it felt like a year.

I feel bad for writing such an unfavourable review but I had a very strong dislike for it and I have to be honest. There is no character development, the characters are not likeable, there is no resolution, the story goes nowhere and the relationship between Jamie and Dominique is underdeveloped, boring and kind of a joke.

I would not recommend this book to anyone...it was just that bad.

Debbie Narh says

1.5 Stars

If you take away the shitty parents, all of the drugs, the romance and made the protagonist older, have siblings, less talented, and changed the setting, *Blazed* would pretty much be *The Catcher in the Rye*. Jaime is told to be this insanely smart and talented person and while he is mostly talented, I don't think he's that intelligent. If anything, he's judgemental and a complete douchebag despite his circumstances. He calls everyone who doesn't listen to indie bands and alternative rock, 'phonies' and 'fakes' (sound familiar?). He discriminates against women, saying that 'we're all just the same. stupid bitches that are out to destroy everything. Cold hearted whores, all of them' (I'm paraphrasing but he says something along the lines." I'm sorry, but I can't believe this book. It's annoying in almost every way and half the book is completely useless.

First off, the writing style is choppy and confusing with nothing properly explained. There aren't enough flashbacks to make the relationship between Jaime and his mother seem realistic and caring. Another problem are the characters and how lacking they are. Sure, they have some cool traits sometimes but for the most part, they're underdeveloped and forgettable with close to no redeeming qualities just like the book itself. Everyone listens only to rap and indie bands, do a shit ton of drugs and then complain about how phony the world is. What's even worse is how Myers sets the world up. San Francisco is a huge place, it's not possible for every character to know and love every single band and every single book that's mentioned here. It's just not.

There is very little that I liked about this book. I spent so much time reading it, I had to find something that made up for the many days that I had lost. The chapters are very short. I also liked the bands that are mentioned, I have found a few new bands that I like. That's all. Nothing else makes this novel a good read.

Blazed was such a wild card for me. I went in excited, the setting is wild and confusing. I would have been fine if it was only the writing that was that way. Unfortunately, it's the whole book and I had very little patience for it but I somehow finished it. I hated it and I don't recommend this book to anyone.

Taylor says

I just feel like sobbing. That raw emotion after watching *Requiem for a Dream*..when you love something so much but you're heartbroken, confused, but understanding and somewhere there is a glimmer of hope..

I think this is my favorite book by Jason Myers. The characters and relationships interwoven into this book really touched me. I felt something extra towards each of them. Each character has their own demon but they also have something positive to give to the world even if they don't know it.

This book is filled with quotes that will stay with me for a long time.

And I must mention there are several book and music references that made me smile. I will definitely be

making a playlist for the book. (Joy Division, Washed Out, New Order, LCD Soundsystem, Beach House, Purity Ring, Talking Heads, Deerhunter...just to name a few!)

Paris says

This is by far one of the best books I have ever read. Although the language was beyond vulgar and belligerent at best, it was so...raw and truthful. There was no censorship that just grabbed you from beginning to end. From the first sentence, Myers makes you love every character, even though you know you inherently hate them. The writing is so masterful, full of emotionally capturing anecdotes that makes the Protagonist a character that you love to hate to love. His love for his girlfriend after only five days is so pure and true that you can't not admire them.

The only reason the book isn't five stars is because of the ending where (view spoiler). Other than that, it was an excellent book. I would read it over and over again.

Amanda Reed says

Spoilers

I hate to be so negative, but this book was honestly terrible. I just kept hoping it would get better and it just didn't. 500 pages later and nothing but disappointment. I can't believe I actually finished it tbh.

The take-away message for me was: Do a bunch of drugs/oxy and everything will go perfectly! Just keep smoking Oxy and the most unrealistic, fantastic things will happen! You'll meet all of these great people, have nice things, join an awesome band, and it will be great. This is the message the author is feeding teens. Romanticizing drug use and strange sexual encounters between a 14 year old boy and adult women. The relationship between Jaime and every other character mentioned was underdeveloped. I read more about what the characters were wearing than getting to know them on a deeper level mentally and emotionally.

The narrator was just a jerk to basically everyone. It was irritating how Jaime was SOOO smart and talented and attractive. I'm sorry, the narrator was absolutely irritating. Jaime had SO much insight into life and was SO "mature." Vandalizing cars and doing drugs to deal with your problems is not maturity in my eyes. He had absolutely no self-control and was completely unable to regulate his emotions. I know he was a teen and this is a teen novel, but I thought the overall message was awful, the writing was terrible, the characters underdeveloped, and the plot went nowhere.

I don't know...

I have to say SOMETHING positive about my experience reading this. I did like the emphasis on the music. I love music, not necessarily this type of music, but I can appreciate what the author was doing. The playlist at the end was a neat idea. I wouldn't mind if more books did that!

However, I wouldn't recommend this to anyone... it was a truly painful read.

Emily Smith says

Yeah, I didn't really like this book. Maybe I would have liked it more if I was a little younger, maybe like early high school aged, like the main character. The ending of the book was better than the beginning, but there were a lot of repetition in the writing style that I didn't like which made it a bit boring. For instance, I wish I had a dollar every time someone was wearing a bandana or that Jaimie's drug use was referred to as "chasing the dragon." So by about half way through the book I was just reading it so that I could finish it and move on to the next book.

Rebecca Shirey says

This book was one of the most emotionally explosive books I have ever had the pleasure of reading. Every chapter had me biting my nails as to what was going to happen next, and how it would affect the main character. Overall, I have only ever been so emotionally attached, or affected emotionally by a few books, and this book has just joined those ranks. An amazing read, that gets you thinking about the life you have, and how grateful you should be to have your particular life, compared to the life Jaime was given.

Heather says

This was one of the worst books I've read in awhile. The main character endlessly does Oxy, then describes someone's outfit (everyone wears bandana in some way, shape, or form), then talks about a bunch of indie bands over and over, then says fuck a whole lot as a way to contribute to all of the intelligent conversations he has. All the time. Oh, and he also manages to join a band, has his own following on tumblr that everyone in SF has already heard of, falls in love, and then meet several of his hipster heroes in one week? By the way, he's only 14. And both his mother and father have significant portions of money and are obviously totally connected in the art world. *groan*

I see what the author was trying to do, but this book honestly felt like it was written by teenagers, for teenagers. The author could have done something with this as he covers drug abuse, horrible relationships, and emotional and physical abuse pretty brutally, which I liked. But, he doesn't do anything with it. Hopefully, our teens who actually think for themselves would see beyond all the fabulous bands the authors cites obsessively and see that there is no substance at all, to this book.

P.S. There is even a playlist at the end of the book. Seriously? Do yourself a favor, reader, and skip to pages 526-528 (oh, yes! It goes on for over 500 pages!) and use the playlist if that's what you like.

Kat says

DNF at 30%

I like my contemporaries gritty, but I also need some kind of light at the end of a the tunnel, or at least a narrator with some redeeming features.

Randi says

Predictable and flat story, even flatter characters, poor and sloppy writing, and just overall, a very poorly done book. The ending is terrible, and everything leading up to it doesn't have much to say either. Very disappointing.

Amanda says

I don't know how to rate this. 2 or 3 stars since I didn't like most of the things in this book. It probably would have helped if I knew of any of the bands mentioned in this book, since one is mentioned every other sentence which got annoying really fast.

I want to give the author credit for really getting into the mind of 14 year old. I really want to believe Jamie's traits were intentional by the author. Otherwise I hated it. Jamie thinks everyone is phony and a loser if they don't listen to Indie or dress a certain way. He's very judgmental and thinks he knows everything.

The things I hated about this book was how everyone, literally everyone, did drugs. What really annoyed me was when his father showed up in an expensive car and lit a joint right away. Like come on. The way his father was portrayed seemed amazing until the author had to make him a drug user on top of everyone else in this book. His dad's life seemed to good for that.

Also, everyone wore a bandana in some way. One outfit towards the end of the book really annoyed me. It was explained to be really pretty, but then BAM a bandana was tied around her neck. Like what? Why would a girl ruin a cute outfit with that?

The ending was good, but then it got bad. It should've just ended at one point but it seemed the author thought it shouldn't. Although I liked that twist but I still hated the overall ending.

I got attached to Justin, Jamie's father the most. I think that character was probably the best one in the whole book.

I've read all of Jason Myers books which if I remember correctly James Morgan is mentioned in all of them as well as Lamborghini Dreams which is pretty cool.

Heather Catlin says

This book was so GREAT! I didn't want it to end. Jason Myers is an AMAZING author. I love his characters. Jamie's mom was an addict and he struggles with addiction himself. When his mother goes off the deep end, Jamie goes to live w/his dad who he's never met and his mother taught him to hate. However, his life makes a turn for the better in San Fran w/his dad. He meets friends that make him feel like a part of the world, he joins a band, has his first girlfriend, has a family now, has a life. Then it's time for him to go back to his mom and his world changes again....I can't get enough of Jason Myers!!!!!!

Kristin Taggart says

I don't use star ratings, so please read my review!

(Description nicked from B&N.com.)

“Jamie is invincible when he is high. His anger, his isolation, his mom’s manic mood swings—nothing can shatter his glass castle. But one brutal night upends everything, leaving his mom broken and Jamie betrayed.

Sent to live with a father he’s never met, Jamie is determined to hate the man he blames for his mother’s ruin. And he blocks out the pain with drugs, fierce music, and sweet, sweet Dominique. Except the more time Jamie spends at his dad’s, the more his mother’s scathing stories start to unravel. Who is he supposed to believe? And how much will he have to sacrifice to uncover the truth?”

Okay, I have no trouble at all with books, young adult or otherwise, that want to ride the rough edge between storytelling and gratuitous controversy. I really don’t. Some of the best books that I’ve read have been the kind that make me slap a hand over my mouth to muffle the instinctive “Oh ****!” that wants to leap out. The thing about *Blazed*, though, is that it topples right off of that edge and plummets straight into the pit of gratuitousness.

Now don’t get me wrong, there were things about the book that I found intriguing: setting the story in San Francisco; a teen boy attempting to figure out the truth behind his mother’s stories about his father; and possibly the consequences of drug use. But much of what was good about this book was simply buried under a pile of repetitive scenes and conversations. Jaime does drugs constantly, and we see the details of every single instance. The author fanatically describes what everyone is wearing, sometimes going on for half a page. Characters frequently converse about the nature of art and life, but they don’t say anything that the previous several conversations didn’t cover.

I felt really ambivalent about the characters too. I can’t admire them because of their constant drug use and their destructively rebellious behavior, but then again, I can’t really hate them either, because they rarely do anything truly bad to anyone else. It’s like their redeeming qualities and their many flaws kind of cancel each other out and make it difficult to get invested in any of them.

The worst part of this book for me was the strong suspicion that the author is using this book to push an agenda, or at best, push a message. For one thing, there’s the incessant harping on making art, and how if you’re not getting your art (of any kind) out there and using the internet to build a huge following, then you’re a “phony” and not worth anyone’s time. Since I personally believe in art for art’s sake, I found that message kind of offensive. There’s also the message that if you’re not living life on the absolute edge, it’s meaningless. It feels like Myers is trying to justify his characters’ actions.

And then there’s the fact that I’m fairly sure that the author is using this book—and one of the characters—to insult his detractors. After finishing the book, there were a couple of scenes that felt weird to me, so I went and read up a bit on the author. What I found is that many of the negative reviews of his books mention how he takes hundreds of pages to cover just a few days, going into details that are not relevant to the story. I also found that one of his earlier books is mentioned by name in one of his later books, and that some reviewers caught that and criticized it. In *Blazed*, the character of James Morgan, an author himself, talks about how going into the smallest details of the day is just keeping it real, and also delivers a pointed explanation of why he mentioned one of his book titles in another of his books (just like Myers). As far as I can tell, James Morgan is a self-insert—the initials are even the same—created to be Myers’ mouthpiece, and those parts come across as very deliberately aimed. I could be wrong, but it sure seems like this is the case. Not very classy, in my opinion.

I finished *Blazed*, but by the end it was a real slog to get through. As far as I can tell, the author has been

writing the same book over and over, so maybe he just needs to move on to fresh material. Regardless, this is just not a book I can recommend. There were some little hints of interesting stuff going on, but it's all smothered in drugged out repetitive actions that drag on for far too long. If you want something edgy, look elsewhere.

This review originally appeared on Owlcat Mountain on April 28, 2014.

Randy says

Basically, hipster wish fulfillment. Which gets pretty tedious.

(More reviews at [The Book Mark](#).)
