



2006

Shock Point

Sarah Wanlass

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Henry, April. *Shock Point*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2006. ISBN 0399243852. \$16.99. 192 p.

Reviewer: Sarah Wanlass

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction; Adventure stories;

Subject: Psychological abuse--Juvenile fiction; Psychiatrists--Malpractice--Juvenile fiction;

Family problems--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Cassie Streng returns from a normal school day to find a strange white van in her driveway. She is thrown into the back of it and shipped off to Peaceful Cove, a harsh Mexican boarding school for troubled teens. Cassie's new stepfather, Rick, has convinced her mother that Cassie needs help, but Cassie knows the real reason he wants to get rid of her.

Rick is a child psychiatrist who has been prescribing an experimental drug, Socom, to many of his patients. What no one knows is that it appears that this drug has driven several teens to suicide. How will Cassie ever tell the world of her stepfather's deception and the abuse that goes on at Peaceful Cove, when she is stuck behind locked doors?

Shock Point is a gripping mystery with an intriguing storyline and excellent character development. Readers will find the portrayal of Cassie and her friends realistic and refreshing after novels that portray a stereotype of teens that are always involved in premarital sex, drugs, and alcohol.

Chapters alternate between Cassie's present troubles in Mexico and the chain of events that spurred her stepfather to send her away. Cassie struggles to maintain hope that she will be able to find a way home to Portland and expose Rick's fraud before the drug he is promoting is approved for wide distribution.