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After the Shot Drops

Amanda Morgan

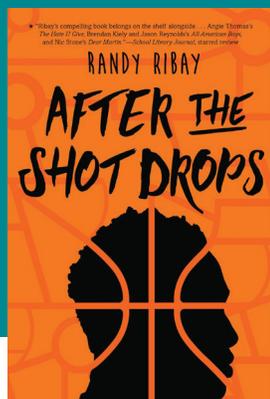
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Book Review

After the Shot Drops

Author

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Reviewer

Amanda Morgan

Rating

Excellent

Level

Young Adult

Pages

325

Year

2018

ISBN

9781328702272

Publisher

Houghton Mifflin
Harcourt

Bunny transfers to a private high school, leaving behind his best friend, Nasir. Offended, Nasir cuts all ties with him. Determined to one day play in the NBA, Bunny stays at the school and practices hard. Meanwhile, Nasir becomes closer to his cousin, Wallace. Wallace struggles to stay in school and out of trouble. Nasir tries to get Wallace a job, but Wallace resorts to betting against Bunny's basketball team. Bunny is so talented it's easy for people to put high stakes in his favor. Wallace knows that if Bunny slips up, the rest of the team will crumble and he can make good money. As Bunny and Nasir get closer again, Wallace's situation gets more desperate. Eventually, Nasir is forced to choose between Bunny and Wallace, and Bunny is forced to choose between Nasir and his basketball career.

This book is told in the perspectives of both Bunny and Nasir. The transitions are artfully done and easy to follow. The setting is a difficult neighborhood in Philadelphia, written in a way that encourages the reader to imagine what it might be like to actually live there. The characters in this book are well developed. Each one has a different story and personality and it is easy for the reader to root for all of them. The author does well at conveying a message of acceptance for all people and trying to understand their actions. No one in this book is portrayed as purely good or purely evil. Just as is in the case of real life, each character desires to do good, but sometimes makes mistakes. The stories of every character in the book are inspirational, even the stories that may not end very happily. After the Shot Drops is a well-written and easy-to-read book with a great moral.

*Contains severe language and moderate substance abuse.