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Blade Silver: Color Me Scarred (TrueColors Series #7)



Synopsis

Ruth Wallace knows she can only hide the scars on her arms for so long. Cutting herself doesn't make her problems disappear, but at least it helps her cope. Ruth needs to find some way, any way, to heal her scars--the ones she hides and the ones she can't--before something terrible happens. The seventh book in the TrueColors teen fiction series, *Blade Silver* deals with cutting, guilt, psychology, and healing. Includes discussion questions.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Ruth Wallace is a ticking bomb --- not one that's liable to explode, but rather implode. Ever since her mom tried to commit suicide, Ruth's dad and his explosive (yet previously manageable) temper have grown to mountainous proportions. Trying as hard as she can, Ruth wracks her brain continually in an attempt to make certain that the household is running as smoothly as it did before her mom's breakdown. Ruth knows that even the most minor infractions of the house rules will send her father into a verbal rampage where he will further humiliate, degrade, and shame her. As Ruth knows, there is no shelter to be found running to her mom for support. Dubbing her now depressed mother the Ghost Mom (since she only comes out of her room when there's no one else in sight), Ruth becomes increasingly angry and frustrated at her circumstances. Even her younger brother, Caleb, is no help. After one argument too many, he takes off to places unknown, leaving Ruth solely

in charge of maintaining the home --- and taking the heat for Caleb's disappearance. Feeling utterly alone and trapped, Ruth's only solace is to lock herself in the bathroom, carefully remove a razor blade she's hidden away so many times before that she's lost count, and begin cutting. Ruth, absorbed in the ritual, feels a measure of control every time she cuts. Following her carefully scripted routine, she watches the blood flow, stops the bleeding with a tissue, and then bandages the wound. For the moment, Ruth feels better --- until the next time she needs an escape from the pain, that is. It isn't until the weather begins to warm and Ruth continues to wear long sleeve shirts that she realizes her cutting isn't going to stay a secret all summer.

To say that Ruth doesn't have issues is an understatement. Her family is having problems. Her brother keeps running away from home. Her mother is depressed all the time. Her father is verbally abusive towards everyone in the family. Ruth is tired of putting up with all this, but feels that nothing she does can change it. The only thing that makes her feel better is when she cuts herself. The pain that comes from seeing her blood flow gives her a sense of calmness. But even Ruth knows that this is wrong, but she can't seem to stop. She tries to hide it from others but someone wearing long sleeves in summer looks suspicious. It finally takes Ruth's admittance that cutting is an addiction that needs to be stopped for her to realize that she can do something to break the cycle that she's been living in. This was one of the most difficult and painful teen fiction books I have ever read. It was so real, like I was reading an actual account of a teenage cutter. I wish that no one ever has to go through what Ruth did, but I know that there are so many kids who share the same experience. I could not stand Ruth's dad. I believe that verbal abuse is just as bad if not more so than physical abuse as inner scars are slower to heal. There is an explanation as to why he acted that way but I was glad that the story did not portray him unrealistically changing at the end of the book. It was horrifying to read about how Ruth would get a "high" from hurting herself in such a matter. Even worse because she would feel sometimes that she deserved it. I think that it was very sad that her extended family did not do anything to protect the kids from their abusive father. Ruth's recovery did not seem fake, in fact it only made it more realistic because it took her so long to accept help.

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