



Panic

By Lauren Oliver

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From *New York Times* bestselling author Lauren Oliver comes an extraordinary novel of fear, friendship, courage, and hope that *Kirkus Reviews* says "will have readers up until the wee hours," *School Library Journal* raves is "fast-paced and captivating," and E. Lockhart, author of *We Were Liars*, calls "a thrill a minute."

Panic began as so many things do in Carp, a poor town of twelve thousand people in the middle of nowhere: because it was summer, and there was nothing else to do. Heather never thought she would compete in panic, a legendary game played by graduating seniors. She'd never thought of herself as fearless, the kind of person who would fight to stand out. But when she finds something, and someone, to fight for, she will discover that she is braver than she ever thought.

Dodge has never been afraid of panic. His secret will fuel him, and get him all the way through the game; he's sure of it. But what he doesn't know is that he's not the only one with a secret. Everyone has something to play for. For Heather and Dodge, the game will bring new alliances, unexpected revelations, and the possibility of first love for each of them—and the knowledge that sometimes the very things we fear are those we need the most.

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Panic By Lauren Oliver Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, March 2014: Imagine a game that required you to walk, on a dark rainy night, across a narrow plank 50 feet in the air between two water towers. What could be worth that or any of the other terrifying tests of reckless courage in the game of Panic? For Dodge and Heather, graduating high school seniors of Carp, population 12,000, winning means a \$67,000 chance at freedom from their claustrophobic town. In *Panic*, Lauren Oliver's characters are imbued with the emotional intricacy of teenagers hungry for both connection and new beginnings, some hiding secrets that blunt even the most frightening challenge the game can impose. Although there can only be one winner, a competition based on fear shapes powerful new relationships, understanding, and even forgiveness. --Seira Wilson

PANIC Playlist by Lauren Oliver

One of the things I loved most about writing Panic was that the fictional town of Carp became, in a way, a secondary character. Carp is small, and it's poor; it's a place where opportunities come rarely, if ever, and change comes not at all. Most of all, it's a place that inspires dreams of escape. I've assembled this playlist with Carp—and the places like it, filled with people who dream of getting out—in mind.

“Blowin' Smoke” by Kacey Musgraves: I love the way this song focuses on a very specific moment in the day of a small-town waitress. The waitresses talk about their plans to get out, to live a better life, but in the end all they’re doing is “blowing smoke.” The song paints a great picture of these characters with both humor and pathos.

“Spaceship” Feat. GLC and Consequence by Kanye West (WARNING: Lots of F-bombs): An angry, biting perspective from someone working long days at an insipid job for very little money.

“A Change Is Gonna Come” by Sam Cooke: Some of the most powerful lyrics in music history, sung by one of the most powerful voices. “I was born by a river in a little tent, and just like that river I’ve been running ever since.” ALL THE FEELS!

“Poor Man” by Old Crow Medicine Show: This haunting song is part ballad, part lullaby. The singer laments the seeming futility of being a poor farmer, but nonetheless makes sure to tell his “honey” that “things are gonna get better.”

“Born to Run” by Bruce Springsteen: OBVIOUSLY I had to include a Bruce Springsteen song! Springsteen has so many songs that could have made the list, but this one is a classic! “Baby this town rips the bones from your back, it’s a death trap, it’s a suicide rap. We gotta get out while we’re young. “Cause tramps like us, baby we were born to run.” Take me with you, Boss!

“The Long Way Around” by Dixie Chicks: In places like Carp, life can seem limited: nothing changes and nothing ever will. This song shows that there are other options, other paths you can take, even if you have to be “taking the long way” to get there. This is the story of someone who made it out.

“Fast Car” by Tracy Chapman: No matter how many times I hear it, this song breaks my heart. Tracy Chapman tells the story of a person who believes she’s going to make it away from her insular and

impoverished life, only to find herself trapped in the same cycle she thought she was escaping. In the chorus, she reminisces about the brief time in which it seemed as though everything was going to get better. It hurts in the most beautiful way. Confession: this was my all-time most-played song in high school.

“Merry Go ‘Round” by Kacey Musgraves: I know, this is the second song I’ve included from Kacey Musgraves, but hey—if ain’t broke, don’t fix it. “Merry Go ‘Round” is the perfect metaphor for the systematic cycles of poverty, alcoholism, and drug abuse that ensnares people in places like Carp. “Just like dust, we settle in this town.”

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—There's not much to do in tiny Carp, New York, so a group of teenagers take it upon themselves to create their own excitement through Panic, a risky game with potentially deadly sets of challenges. Panic is all about facing fears, and this year's winner will take home a pot of \$67,000. Both Heather and Dodge need to win for personal reasons, and they decide to form an alliance, one that will be threatened repeatedly throughout the game. The large cast of characters slowly reveals secrets, schemes, and fears that complicate the competition and its outcome as they participate in increasingly dangerous trials. Oliver maintains a high level of tension throughout, starting right in the middle of the action and relentlessly building momentum. The desperate and broken characters are willing to do just about anything to win, making it impossible to guess how the story will unfold. A mix of fear and determination permeate the writing, often manifesting in clipped, no-nonsense tones and a straightforward approach to unimaginable situations. The bleak setting, tenacious characters, and anxiety-filled atmosphere will draw readers right into this unique story. Oliver's powerful return to a contemporary realistic setting will find wide a readership with this fast-paced and captivating book.—Amanda MacGregor, formerly at Apollo High School Library, St. Cloud, MN

From [Booklist](#)

Oliver brings the survivalist competition of the Hunger Games series to present day New York State, where newly graduated seniors can take part in an annual game called Panic. In a small town where factory closures laid off 40 percent of the population, students are understandably concerned about financial security, and Panic awards the ultimate winner a sizable cash jackpot gathered from mandatory contributions from all high-school students. Participants are judged on physically and mentally challenging dares that culminate in a game of chicken called The Joust. The game's genesis, organizers, and judges are carefully kept secrets, and participants work hard to keep the police in the dark, as dangerous stunts have resulted in deaths in years past. Told in alternating chapters by Heather and Dodge, two players with siblings to protect and avenge, Oliver's novel is a wholly believable and compulsively readable tale of friendship, loyalty, survival, and courage. Although loose ends are tied together a little too neatly, the depressing yet realistic picture of new high-school graduates facing a bleak future balances unlikely heroism and happy endings. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** The Delirium trilogy books are New York Times and international best-sellers. Expect demand. Grades 9-12. --Debbie Carton

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angel Huitt:

This Panic book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is usually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This specific Panic without we know teach the one who reading it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't be worry Panic can bring any time you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it with your

lovely laptop even cell phone. This Panic having fine arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Paul Cockrell:

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