



Drive-By (Harper Trophy Books (Paperback))

By Lynne Ewing

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"Jimmy always told me there were only two kinds of gangbangers: Those who were dead and those who were going to die. Joining a gang doesn't make sense to Jimmy..."

Jimmy is dead now—gunned down in front of his little sister, Mina, and his brother, Tito. And Tito is left wondering: Was Jimmy in a gang after all? Ice Breaker Joe and Lamar think so. They say Jimmy was skimming their drug money. And if the missing cash isn't returned, Tito may have to pay—with his life.

Some people go to the crossroads, but Tito's crossroads laid themselves down in front of him. His brother Jimmy sprawls on the sidewalk at his feet. Shot in a drive by. Now a gang claims that Jimmy was their Ace Man. They say Tito must take his place and resolve some unfinished business. They give him a gun. "You need protection. It's not safe on the street." What path will be choose at the crossroads? He knows one leads to safety and one to death . . . but which is which?

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

When his older brother is killed in a drive-by shooting, a boy realizes his role model was a gang member. "Ewing's fast-paced first novel offers distinctly drawn, affecting characters and lots of action," said PW. Ages 10-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8?Jimmy was always joking around. That's what Tito thought he was doing that night in front of the library. But when the gang car sped away and Jimmy lays motionless on the ground, Tito realizes that his brother is dead. He later learns that Jimmy had been skimming money from his "deliveries" and hiding it from his gang and now that he is gone, the gang members begin a destructive search of Tito's house for the stolen cash. After being bullied, badgered, and threatened with death, Tito knows what he has to do. This novel explores the aftermath of a gang-related shooting in a first-person narrative style. While realistic actions and language propel readers through it, character development is minimal; thus, there is no sense of emotional involvement toward Tito and his family. The story encourages readers to do the right thing, but the overall effect is one of helplessness and lack of control. S. E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* (Viking, 1967) and Walter Dean Myers's *Scorpions* (HarperCollins, 1988) are far better explorations of gang life.?Jana R. Fine, Clearwater Public Library System, FL

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From Kirkus Reviews

Ewing's first novel is grim, taut, and ultimately hopeful, with a satisfying ending that makes its point without belaboring it. In the early pages, Tito's older brother, Jimmy, is killed in a gang-related drive-by shooting. This is only the beginning of Tito's family's troubles, for while they cope with their grief, the gang attacks their house repeatedly, forcing the family to move. Following revelations about Jimmy's secret life, Tito's innocence is gradually stripped away; he confronts hard truths about gang life and takes action to protect his family and do what is right. Written in stripped-down prose that mirrors (sometimes gratingly) Tito's bleak world, the brief tale combines the plot twists of a mystery with a topical setting and theme that will appeal to reluctant readers. (Fiction. 10+) -- *Copyright ©1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bobby Kile:

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Anne Hahn:

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