

Long Way Down

By Author, Jason Reynolds

Reviewed by: Sharanya 12

Star Teen Book Reviewer of the Be The Star You Are! Charity

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After William Holloman's brother, Shawn dies in a shootout, he is shaken. Shawn always told him to follow the "Rules" after a person close to you dies in a shootout. Number 1, don't cry. Number 2, don't snitch. Number 3, always get revenge. So, after Shawn dies, William decides to follow the rules, even Number 3. As he steps into his apartment's elevator with a gun, he meets friends and family who were victims of gun violence, and as he goes down, he is less and less sure about what to do. The trip to the lobby soon became a "Long Way Down".

Long Way Down is an emotional roller coaster ride. It depicts through verses of poetry, the side of the world that many of us are lucky not to be in. The author wrote about a very important social issue, gun violence. The writing was very captivating, and I felt like I was there listening to the conversations. I could not put this book down, even for a second. Also, this book shed light on many key topics, like family and revenge, and is written in a poignant manner. I would recommend this book for pre-teens, and teens. The book contains mild language, and violence. There are some ideas that younger kids cannot understand. But, if you like realistic fiction, and poetry, you would love to read this book.

Recommended Titles :

Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds

Dear Martin by Nic Stone

The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo