



Scum by James C. Dekker

Orca Book Publishers, 2008

9781551439242, Paperback

*Age Range: 12+ (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 12+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Megan's brother Danny is dead. Killed in an apparent robbery in a bar. It seems like a terrible but simple case of mistaken identity, of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. But as the truth comes out, Megan realizes that Danny was "known to police." He was in much deeper than she realized, and the police are not motivated to solve the crime. As Megan watches her family self-destruct, she decides she has to find the truth. But the truth is hard to come by, and there are people who will kill to keep it hidden.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"The book's willingness to forego hackneyed messages is refreshing...a quick but satisfying drama for those aware that darkness is only a step away in even the most comfortable lives."—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"*Scum* is full of suspense...[and] would make an excellent addition to intermediate classroom and school library collections."—*Resource Links*

"The story moves along and provides enough plot twists to keep the reader engaged. All in all it's a solid, if not exceptional, title from Orca."—*NMRLS Youth Services Book Review*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens | 2010 | Commended

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

[Scum Teacher Guide](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

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Offer the author an opportunity to provide a statement about the potential impact of banning their book or a link to an existing author statement.

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.