



[Impulse](#) by Ellen Hopkins

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Margaret K. McElderry, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2008

*Age Range: 14+ (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Sometimes you don't wake up. But if you happen to, you know things will never be the same.

Three lives, three different paths to the same destination: Aspen Springs, a psychiatric hospital for those who have attempted the ultimate act -- suicide.

Vanessa is beautiful and smart, but her secrets keep her answering the call of the blade.

Tony, after suffering a painful childhood, can only find peace through pills.

And Conner, outwardly, has the perfect life. But dig a little deeper and find a boy who is in constant battle with his parents, his life, himself.

In one instant each of these young people decided enough was enough. They grabbed the blade, the bottle, the gun -- and tried to end it all. Now they have a second chance, and just maybe, with each other's help, they can find their way to a better life -- but only if they're strong and can fight the demons that brought them here in the first place.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"In sharp, searing free verse divided into two-page chapters, Hopkins sketches three adolescents who have just attempted suicide. Each distinct first-person story slowly reveals its grim secrets, stinging from start to finish...There's a tiny place for love here, but readers familiar with Hopkins' *Burned* (2006) or with signs of serious depression will anticipate the tragic ending. A fast, jagged, hypnotic read," – [Kirkus](#)

"Hopkins (Crank) weaves together the story of three troubled teens locked up in a psychological facility after suicide attempts, once again writing in artful free verse. Each character is full-bodied and distinct," – [Publisher's Weekly](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
- Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults
- Georgia Peach Book Award for Teen Readers Nominee
- Grand Canyon Reader Award Nominee (AZ)
- Soaring Eagle Book Award Nominee (WY)
- Joan F. Kaywell Book Award - Honoree (FL)

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MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Reading Group Guide](#)
- [Poetry Brochure](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

[KIDS' RIGHT TO READ PROTESTS EFFORTS TO CENSOR YA AUTHOR ELLEN HOPKINS](#)

[NCAC DEMANDS RETURN OF 13 BOOKS BY ELLEN HOPKINS TO HERNANDO SCHOOL DISTRICT LIBRARIES](#)

[NCAC PROTESTS CANCELLATION OF ELLEN HOPKINS APPEARANCE AT TEEN LIT FEST IN TEXAS](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT

“Censorship comes from a place of fear. We fear that which is different, what we cannot comprehend. Books gift us with understanding, empower us with knowledge. So, obviously, would-be censors have it all wrong.” —Ellen Hopkins

*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.

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