



***Masked* by Norah McClintock**

Orca Soundings, Orca Book Publishers, 2010

9781554693641 (paperback)

*12+

Gr. 8+

BOOK SYNOPSIS

When Daniel enters a convenience store on a secret mission, he doesn't expect to run into anyone he knows. That would ruin everything. And when Rosie enters the same store to see what her father wants, she's hoping to make a quick getaway with her waiting boyfriend.

All Daniel and Rosie want is to get in and out without any trouble. Neither expects what happens next. A masked man enters the store.

"This is a stickup," he announces. He has a gun and isn't afraid to use it. When he's ready to leave, he decides to take Rosie hostage.

And then things get complicated...

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Tight plotting, swift pacing, and tension that intensifies with each page turn mark this entry in the always reliable Orca Soundings series for reluctant readers...With scarcely an extraneous word, McClintock keeps the suspense at a roiling simmer, doling out pieces of crucial information that twist the crime drama into a doomed love tangle, capped by an arresting and satisfying conclusion." *–Booklist*

"There is suspense to keep reluctant readers interested...[A] nice surprise is the lack of foul language, even though an armed crime is taking place. Of course, secrets are revealed, and Leon's tale is particularly tragic." *– School Library Journal*

Updated 08/30/2024

Orca Book Publishers

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"Each new perspective adds an insightful layer to the story leading to an unexpected plot twist...The characters are all interesting and believable...Would be good as a class novel as it has a range of characters with problems that everyone can relate to." – *Resource Links*

"The short chapters are appropriately tense and suspenseful, and the novel does provide some unexpected twists." – *The Horn Book Guide*

"Teens will like the cover and the action." – *Puget Sound Council for Reviewing Children's Media*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Resource Links, The Year's Best Books, commended, 2010
- Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Quick Picks, commended, 2012

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

[Teacher Guide](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

"Public education serves *all* families," says Ferrell. "These are American values that are not partisan. *All* students should have access to the material they want to learn," regardless of whether the subject is sex education, the rise of slavery in the New World, or the Civil War. "We don't have the right to restrict all children. It stops at our own." —Stephana Ferrell, cofounder of FFTRP in a Miami New Times [article](#)

The book was challenged by the Clay Country School District in Florida.

<https://pen.org/2023-banned-book-list/>

<https://thebannedbook.shop/products/masked-orca-soundings?srsId=AfmBOoqyYarB2qv4kgGGqXYWqpL28BgjSh8DKLI3RtAUyA4KciWi4k59>

*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.