



Title: The Girls I've Been

Author: Tess Sharpe

Imprint: G.P. Putnam's
Sons Books for Young
Readers

Publisher: Penguin Young
Readers

On sale date: January 26,
2021

ISBN: 9780593353806 and
9780593353820

Format: Hardcover and
Paperback

Age Range*: 14 and up

Grade Range: Gr 9 Up
(Recommended by School
Library Journal)

BOOK RESUME: THE GIRLS I'VE BEEN

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Nora O'Malley's been a lot of girls. As the daughter of a con-artist who targets criminal men, she grew up as her mother's protégé. But when her mom fell for the mark instead of conning him, Nora pulled the ultimate con: escape.

For five years Nora's been playing at normal. But she needs to dust off the skills she ditched because she has three problems:

#1: Her ex walked in on her with her girlfriend. Even though they're all friends, Wes didn't know about her and Iris.

#2: The morning after Wes finds them kissing, they all have to meet to deposit the fundraiser money they raised at the bank. It's a nightmare that goes from awkward to deadly, because:

#3: Right after they enter the bank, two guys start robbing it.

The bank robbers may be trouble, but Nora's something else entirely. They have no idea who they're really holding hostage...

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"A captivating, explosive, and satisfyingly queer thriller."
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"An arrestingly incisive narrative... fiercely captivating and impressively characterized, this tightly plotted thriller is engrossing from start to finish."
—*Booklist*, starred review

"Not since Veronica Mars have hardscrabble swagger, enormous grief and teenage noir been combined into such a satisfying piece of storytelling. *The Girls I've Been* is a heart-wrenching, perfectly paced, cinematic thriller... a romance, a tragedy and a story about reclaiming agency and power. It is a triumph."
—*BookPage*, starred review

"YA thriller fans, *The Girls I've Been* is the perfect read for you." —*BuzzFeed*

"This action-packed story sizzles with suspense . . . In this thriller, characters prove that they can rely on their strength, friendship, and desire to be the confident and caring people they know themselves to be."
—*School Library Journal*

Updated 7.15.2024

Penguin Random House

Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers 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 range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

“Sharpe (Barbed Wire Heart) focuses as much on [Nora’s] trauma—and the systems of power that enable and excuse abuse—as on mystery and heart-pounding action... the small, complex cast of characters and emotional core make this a poignant thriller.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“The tension is absolutely nailbiting.”
—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*

“A non-stop thrill ride... This book is so INTENSE. It jumps back and forth from the robbery in progress to Nora’s earlier life with her mother, a con woman married to a dangerous man. It’s so well done, extremely cinematic.” —*Book Riot*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- An ALA RISE: Feminist Book Project selection
- An ALA Rainbow Booklist selection
- A YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults selection
- A Florida Teens Read selection
- A Georgia Peach Book Award selection
- A Illinois Lincoln High School Book Award selection
- An Iowa High School Book Award selection
- A Maine North Star YA book Award selection
- A Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award selection
- A Michigan Great Lakes, Great Books Award selection
- A Michigan Thumbs Up Award selection
- A New Hampshire Flume Book Award selection
- An Oklahoma Sequoyah Book Award selection
- A Pennsylvania Keystone to Reading Book Award selection
- A Rhode Island Teen Book Award selection
- A South Carolina Book Award selection
- A Texas TAYSHAS Reading List selection
- A Vermont Green Mountain Book Award selection
- A Washington Evergreen Teen Book Award selection
- A Washington D.C. Capitol Choices selection
- A Massachusetts Teen Book Award selection
- A New York Public Library Best Book of the Year
- A Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year
- A BookRiot Best Book of the Year
- A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of the Year
- A *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [TeachingBooks.net resources](https://www.teachingbooks.net)

Updated 7.15.2024

Penguin Random House

Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers 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 range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

Updated 7.15.2024
Penguin Random House
Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers 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 range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.