



***Overdrive* by Eric Walters**

Orca Soundings, Orca Book Publishers, 2021 (initially published in 2004)

9781459830899: (paperback)

\*Age Range: 12+

Grade Range: Grade 8 to 12

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

---

A street race ends in a tragic accident. Jake's friends tell him to run, but he doesn't know if he can—or should—run from the truth.

Jake has finally got his driver's license, and tonight he has his brother's car as well. He and his friend Mickey take the car out and cruise the strip. When they challenge another driver to a street race, a disastrous chain reaction causes an accident. Jake and Mickey leave the scene, trying to convince themselves they were not involved. Jake finds he cannot pretend it didn't happen and struggles with deciding on the right thing to do. Should he pretend he was not involved? Or should he go to the police?

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

---

"This story illustrates the power of peer pressure and how easy it is for good people to make bad decisions. No doubt teens, especially boys, will be able to relate to the events in this story. Recommended." —*Canadian Book Review Annual*

"The plot moves quickly...this high interest, low reading level novel is simple, engaging, and well written...A satisfying read." —VOYA

"Walters captures the heart and spirit of the 16-year-old first time driver through Jake, the stereotypical teenage boy, who wants to be cool and drive a cool car...This is more than a story about street racing; it is about responsibility and accepting the consequences of one's actions. It is a story about growing up. Highly recommended." —*CM Magazine*

"This book is slim, though it manages to look quite grown-up in its appearance. And the ending certainly opens the way to further thought and/or discussion." —*Resource Links*

**Updated Sept. 9, 2024**

Orca Book Publishers

orca@orcabook.com

"This is a gutsy, admirable attempt to provide a viable counter argument to the blinking lights of brain-dead video games and dimwit movies. This is perhaps the most effective employment of the reflective medium of print; an introduction to the internal voice of conscience, cause and effect and consequences. Walters has a disarming, empathetic way with his story. He understands the rhythms of an adolescent's speech; the id-driven energies behind their motivations."

– CD Syndicated

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

---

- Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Quick Picks | 2005 | Commended
- Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC) Our Choice, starred selection | 2005 | Commended

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

---

<https://www.orcabook.com/Assets/PDFs/Guides/overdrive.pdf>

## \*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.

**Updated Sept. 9, 2024**

Orca Book Publishers  
orca@orcabook.com