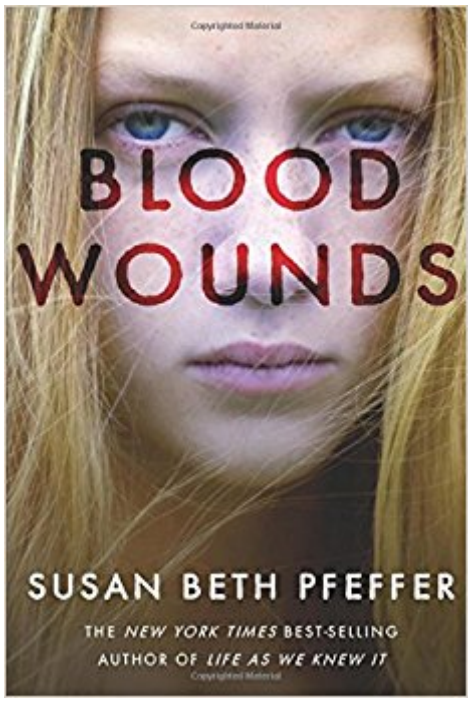
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Blood Wounds



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Synopsis

Blood can both wound and heal . . .Willa is lucky: She has a loving blended family that gets along. Not all families are so fortunate. But when a bloody crime takes place hundreds of miles away, it has an explosive effect on WillaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s peaceful life. The estranged father she hardly remembers has murdered his new wife and children, and is headed east toward Willa and her mother. Under police protection, Willa discovers that her mother has harbored secrets that are threatening to boil over. Has everything Willa believed about herself been a lie? But as Willa sets out to untangle the mysteries of her past, she also keeps her own secretÃ¢â ¬â •one that has the potential to tear apart all she holds dear. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Blood can both wound and heal . . . Willa is lucky: She has a loving blended family that gets along. Not all families are so fortunate. But when a bloody crime takes place hundreds of miles away, it has an explosive effect on WillaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s peaceful life. The estranged father she hardly remembers has murdered his new wife and children, and is headed east toward Willa and her mother. Under police protection, Willa discovers that her mother has harbored secrets that are threatening to boil over. Has everything Willa believed about herself been a lie? But as Willa sets out to untangle the mysteries of her past, she also keeps her own secretÃ¢â ¬â •one that has the potential to tear apart all she holds dear. On the Origins of the Title Blood Wounds By Susan Beth

Pfeffer Dear Reader, On occasion IÃ¢â ¬â„¢m asked how I come up with titles for my books. Sometimes the publisher names the book, and sometimes I suggest a name we all agree to. Blood Wounds is entirely my title. I knew almost from the beginning I wanted the word "Blood" in the title. "Blood" is one of my favorite words (another of my favorite words is "gaunt," but IÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve yet to figure out how to use it in anything besides the occasional statement of fact that gaunt I ainÃ¢â ¬â„¢t). "Blood" sounds like blood, thick and crimson and pulsing and everything else blood is and does. Also it means family, and the novel is about family. So "Blood" it would be. Then I needed something to follow that "Blood." I liked the way it sounded with "Wounds," so I promptly raced to and typed "Blood Wounds" in its ever-useful search box, and found no books with that title. Well, we all know that there are no books with that title because "blood wounds" doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t mean anything. Bullet wounds, knife wounds, sure. Wounds get caused by things going into your body. Blood is best left in your body from the get-go. My way around the problem that the title Blood Wounds doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t mean anything is to say, "Think of 'wounds' as a verb. Then think of 'blood' as meaning family. See? A family can hurt you. 'Blood wounds!'" IÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve convinced one and one-half friends and my publishing house that my title has meaning. I hope IÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve convinced you, too! As always, Susan Beth Pfeffer

This intense psychological drama, showing the brightest and darkest sides of humanity, offers remarkable acts of courage and disturbing images of domestic violence. Willa's frankly portrayed grief, confusion, and uncertainties will have a strong impact on readers."Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly, starred review"The sheer drama of the plot will draw readers, and theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll stay for an insightful exploration of the way families go both right and wrong."--Bulletin

Grade: DWilla's biological father goes on a rampage killing his wife and daughters, and the police think he may be coming from her. Her mom is a wreck and stepfather flies her two step sisters to their mother's fracturing the family Willa believed was so solid. Now she wonders whether her family will ever be whole and happy again, or if they ever were.BLOOD WOUNDS scratches the surface of some difficult issues and provides easy answer and explanations for complex problems. Susan Beth Pfeffer wrote Willa as a cutter, but her self mutilation left more like an unemotional, poorly researched afterthought that was added to give Willa some depth and perhaps attract an additional audience.Pfeffer used much more telling and explaining than showing. What should have been a tension filled story felt flat. I never felt like Willa was in danger either physically or

psychologically.THEMES: family, step families, siblings, domestic violenceBLOOD WOUNDS felt like a missed opportunity, a great premised poorly executed.

Willa knows that her family may not be perfect, but she considers herself pretty happy living in a modest home with her mother, stepfather, and two stepsisters. They all love each other and have a pretty good relationship--Willa never thinks about the abusive father she and her mother left when she was toddler. But he comes back into her life in a violent way when the police show up at her doorstep one day with the tragic and terrifying news that he has killed his new wife and young children...and is on his way from across the country with the intent to make Willa and her mother his next victims.Blood Wounds is an intense, tension-filled novel that is as much of a suspenseful thriller as it is a family drama. At the very beginning of the novel, Willa's family is portrayed as a happy, busy, slightly stressed normal mixed family, with a few underlying tensions that manifest themselves in Willa's secret habit of cutting. The family's issues are put on the back burner as Willa's father is pursued and eventually stopped, but once he is, the family's drama explodes as the circumstances expose all of the lies, half-hidden truths, pent-up resentment, and hurt that every member has been harboring for years. Willa learns the extent to which her stepsisters' mother controls her life, and is finally open about the financial inequality between her and her stepsisters and how it upsets and affects her. Willa does stand strong in demanding to attend her half-siblings' funeral, despite her mother's objections, and she learns a lot about her parents' pasts and what might have led to the unspeakable tragedy that befell her family.Through everything that happens to her, Willa remains strong, and in the face of near poverty, manages to do what she believes is right for everyone involved, The result isn't a rosy, serendipitous solution, and her family isn't completely content, but they are much more honest with each other and on their way to establishing an even stronger relationship. Pfeffer has created a complicated and thought-provoking novel where the bad guy isn't perhaps the most obvious character and the result is a story that will stick with you for a long time.

This YA novel is the perfect marriage (no pun intended) of my love for realistic books about teenagers and my love for true crime stories. Although most readers will not experience the devastating turn of events in this book, many readers will relate to the quest for belonging and figuring out what a "real family" is. I read this book based on my love for Pfeffer's "Life As We Knew It," and although this one is worlds away in terms of plot, the characters were similarly complex. I am glad Pfeffer stays away from the 24-7 romantic angst of most YA heroines.

I don’t know why I’ve come to this conclusion but it seems to me that Pfeffer can only write about sadness and profound loss. Not to demean her abilities, Blood Wounds is well written, but just as in her previous series there’s bad and then there’s worse followed by periods of okay. Looking for an uplifting story, this is not it.

I bought this book because I liked her Life trilogy so much. Have not yet read it. But I plan to.

Very good book. I would recommend it!

good read

Blood Wounds was a very interesting read. The topic of slavery in the United States in this book was detailed accurately and honestly. The plot line was fast paced. The author hardly ever left the reader bored. I would recommend this book to other readers!

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