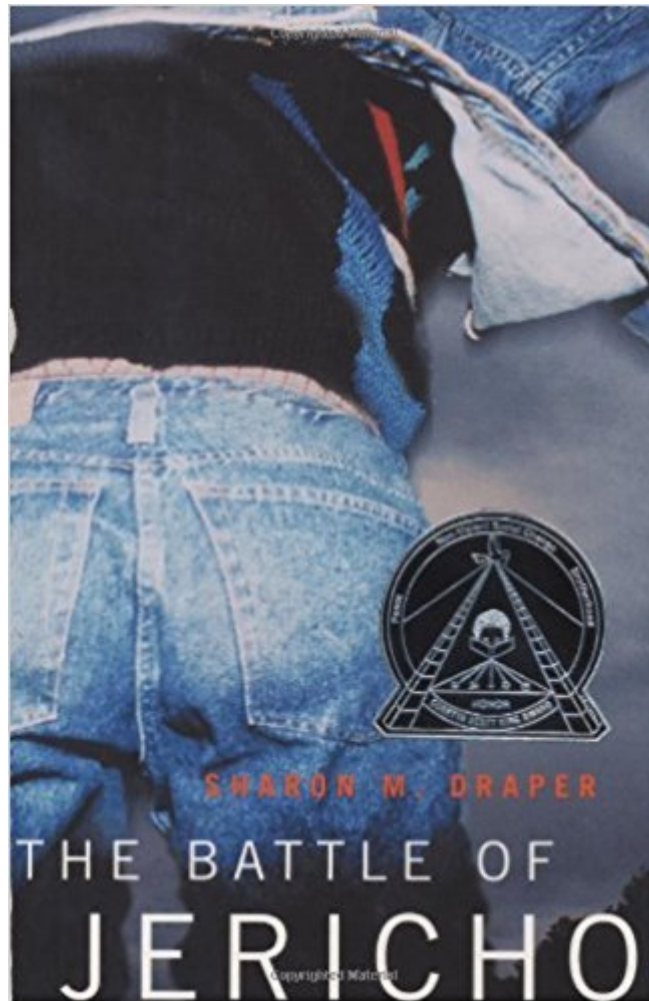




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The Battle Of Jericho (The Jericho Trilogy)



Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Jericho is awaiting initiation to the Warriors of Distinction, the oldest and most exclusive club in school—but how high a price will he have to pay to belong? Find out in this first novel in Sharon M. Draper's Jericho Trilogy. When Jericho is invited to pledge for the Warriors of Distinction, he thinks his life can't get any better. As the most exclusive club in school, the Warriors give the best parties, go out with the hottest girls, and great grades are a given. When Arielle, one of the finest girls in his class, starts coming on to him once the pledge announcements are made, Jericho is determined to do anything to become a member. But as the initiation week becomes progressively harrowing, Jericho is forced to make choices he's not entirely comfortable with. And one member seems to have it in for the sole female pledge in the group—a pledge who will stop at nothing to show she can handle the pressure. But when is she being pushed too far, and when should Jericho and his friends step in and risk losing their places in the pledging process? As Jericho becomes increasingly uneasy, his cousin Joshua breezes through the initiation, never thinking of the consequences, even when the fine line between fun and games, and life and death is crossed.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Winner of a Coretta Scott King Honor Award Jericho's school has a great club that all boys long to be a part of: The Warriors of Distinction. It's been around for years (Jericho's uncle was even a part of it), and it's known for its good deeds and the closeness of the members. Every year new members are inducted into the group, and this year Jericho has been invited to join. Before they can be called Warriors, though, they must go through an initiation process, which lasts a week. At first the tasks seem harmless and only a little demeaning, but as the week progresses, the things the initiates (called Pledge Slime) are asked to do border on hazing. Jericho struggles with staying in the group--if he drops out, then all the initiates suffer. He also would lose the girl he loves, and any confidence the group would provide for him. But he does wonder about lowering himself for this, and he also has a conflict with a musical contest--should he continue with the initiation or go to the contest, where he could win a full scholarship to Julliard? This book is gripping, and the reader finds himself/herself caught up in all the action, wondering where the plot will go. Draper skillfully takes twists and turns, carefully developing the tension to keep interest high. Her characters are likeable, and readers will sympathize with Jericho. I also liked that though the main characters in the story are African American, you weren't blinded by their race--it could have been anyone wanting to join the Warriors. And the topic of school clubs and hazing is a good angle for a novel--pair this with *The Chocolate War*. Where this book fell flat for me was in dialogue and underdeveloped plot threads. Draper wasn't consistent with her dialects and slang, and much of the language felt forced out of the characters. A major plot line that I felt got shoved under the carpet was Jericho's trumpet playing--it was a very big deal at the beginning of the book, but I didn't feel the tension by the end, when he needed to make the decision about continuing with the Warriors or going to the contest. Another plot line that felt stunted and stereotypical was Kofi's (another Pledge Slime) home life. Here is the typical teen character who's parents don't care, but Kofi felt a little forced on the issue, and that whole situation worked out a little too neatly in the end. Overall it's a fast read (because you really want to know what happens), and a good topic, but it's not the best written book I've encountered.

Even though the book started out fresh and interesting it soon developed into too much and not enough. Too much going on and not enough resolution. A group of 15 high schoolers are asked to pledge the Warriors of Distinction. The club has been thought of as a do good character building club for 50 years but something has gone terribly wrong. Bad choices are made and the initiation activities turn quickly into cruel hazing without any supervision. Some of the characters are poorly developed, left you feeling like something was missing. Author just happens to throw in a boy in a

wheelchair and a girl who tricks her way into the pledging. Very little emphasis on the consequences of Jericho choosing the Warriors of Distinction over the chances of a scholarship to Juliard. I wasn't impressed that high schoolers would think the characters or the plot were authentic.

This story will grab you at the beginning. You learn about the teenage mind and how it is to be pressured into being "cool". Josh, the main character, is sucked into a world of wanting. Wanting to be with the so called Warriors. The truth is they aren't the easiest group to get into. Everyone thinks they are so great, all the boys want to be like them, the girls love them, and they are like the kings of the high school. But to get in to the group you must attempt unbelievable stunts. Dana, female character who wants to be in the group even though it is a boys one, secretly joins. They make her get the worst of it and her life is put in danger. Over all it is suspenseful, keeps you guessing on the next task they might have to go through. All through the book you think about what a teen has to go through because "cool" is in. Nice book, should be read.

The Battle of Jericho is a very terrific story. The Battle of Jericho is about 3 friends who got invited to join the club. They were forced to do stupid things, that was hazing, that was illegal but the pledge masters made them do it any way. They had a meeting everyday after school around 7 or 7:30. At every meeting after school during pledge week they did something different. They had to run around the warehouse where they meet or about 15-20 minutes, they had to dig around in dumpsters, they had to crawl around on the floor like dogs with collars tied around their necks and in the mud, and on the last day of pledge week they had to do something called the leap of faith, but something went wrong while they were doing the leap of faith. I encourage everyone to read this book to find out what happened during the leap of faith. It tells some of the things that kids do to get in clubs and to gain all the attention of students and their class mates. Read The Battle Of Jericho.

This is the story of a group of friends who try to pledge for an esteemed high school club. It explores how the teens enact what is demanded even as they question the reasoning underlying the acts. The characters are well delineated. The book is insightful. I highly recommend this well written novel.

Why are young adult books so serious these days? Seems like every one of them needs to convey some message. What happened to the books we had when we were younger. I liked the story, but would have been nice if it had been a little bit lighter.

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