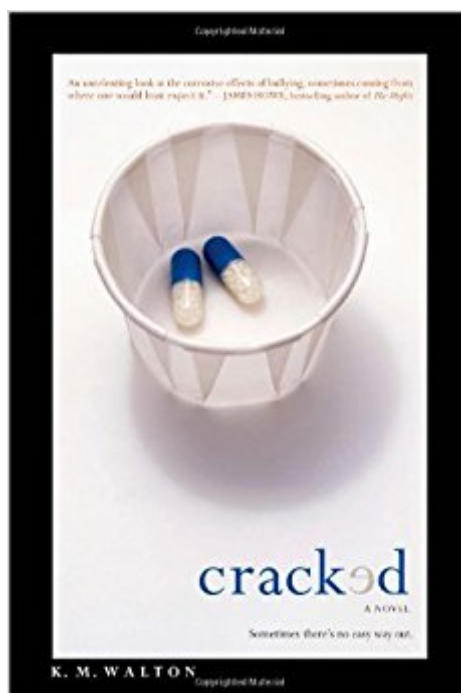


The book was found

Cracked



Synopsis

>Victor hates his life. He has no friends, gets beaten up at school, and his parents are always criticizing him. Tired of feeling miserable, Victor takes a bottle of his mother's sleeping pills only to wake up in the hospital. Bull is angry, and takes all of his rage out on Victor. That makes him feel better, at least a little. But it doesn't stop Bull's grandfather from getting drunk and hitting him. So Bull tries to defend himself with a loaded gun. When Victor and Bull end up as roommates in the same psych ward, there's no way to escape each other or their problems. Which means things are going to get worse much worse before they get better.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"In this powerful debut novel, K.M. Walton takes an unrelenting look at the corrosive effects of bullying, sometimes coming from where one would least expect it. *CRACKED* crackles with emotional intensity from beginning to end."--James Howe, bestselling author of *THE MISFITS*"Readers who enjoy stories of dysfunction, personal growth, and redemption will love this book." -- "VOYA", February 2012"[Bull's and Victor's] stories offer a strong message of hope to the bullied and abused." --"The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books", April 2012

K. M. Walton is the author of *Cracked and Empty*. A former middle school language arts teacher and teaching coach, she is passionate about education and ending peer bullying. She lives in Pennsylvania with her family. Visit her online at KMWalton.com and follow her on Twitter at

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Victor's parents either ignore or belittle him, and at school he's bullied in the worst way by Bull. His caring grandmother is far away. He has no one. When circumstances become unbearable for him, he takes a bottle of his mother's pills and wakes up in a hospital. Bull, his tormentor, is cruel for a reason. He has his own bruises, being beaten by his grandfather, with a drunken mother who does nothing to support him. When he finds a gun he decides to defend himself. But instead of shooting his grandfather, he accidentally shoots himself. With people thinking it was a suicide attempt, rather than self-defense, he ends up in the same psychiatric hospital as Victor. They're roommates! It was an interesting relationship to have in a book. What goes on in the hospital between Victor and Bull, as well how they interact with the other patients, was fascinating. This novel made me teary-eyed, although the authentic teenage voices, areas of comic relief, and the love and hope the boys find in the hospital add lightness to this otherwise sad story. Kudos to K.M. Walton on this amazing debut.

My mini review--I hope that once I am done recovering from Disney and the resulting cold, I hope to more thoroughly review this one. I love how gritty and real Walton writes. The characters are so realistic, flawed and in this case, has serious problems. The bullying is so hard to swallow. I hate it, and I have been on the side of getting picked on, but luckily for me, never severely. I think that especially with boys, it is true to life and could really have happened in a school setting. It is sad to have to live in that fear and the object of hatred and you can tell how that coupled with distant parents who are requiring perfection, and he hopes if he reaches it, they will finally show him affection, leads him to want to end his life. In *Cracked*, we also get the perspective of the bullyer, although we never really see what is going through his mind when he was being his cruelest, we do see his messed up home life, and see that it is a cycle. Feeling out of control at home, he finds an easy target and has control over something, much like a girl with an eating disorder. There is so much more to his character though, and some surprising twists. I def felt for him, but it was hard to get past what he did to Victor. A good portion of the book is in the mental hospital, and I think that also gives a look into the world of mental illness that is slowly being broached in the world of YA. I don't know how realistic it is, since I have only been in individual therapy, but I did tear through the pages at their realizations, unexpected friendship, healing and ultimately having the unexpected people to stand up on their side. The ending was fitting, and left me satisfied while still sad to leave my character. I loved getting the dual perspective from two guys, with no romantic connection between the two. Bottom Line: Emotional look into what leads to suicidal thoughts/actions and then

healing.

This book broke my heart from the very beginning. On one side there is Victor. He is bullied at school by Bull and there is no love for him at home. His parents are horrible. They might be rich and provide for him, but he is completely alone. Then there is Bull. Bull's dad isn't in the picture, his mom is an alcoholic who literally made her child eat mouse crap when he was seven, and his grandfather beats the crap out of him all the time. On the same day, Victor tries to kill himself and Bull tries to kill his grandfather, landing them both in the suicidal psych ward in the hospital. Both boys are in so much pain and are so broken, each in their own way. My main issue I had with Cracked was that from the description, I really thought that both Victor and Bull were going to bond. I thought that they were going to spill their hearts out to each other, but that did not happen. Bull didn't even talk about his life with the other teenagers in group therapy, and I was really hoping that he would. The ending was very moving and filled with hope. Overall, I really enjoyed Cracked. It was a very quick read which flowed nicely.

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