

Praise for QUAD:

"Part mystery, part thriller, QUAD is a dark look at the cause and effect of bullying and peer pressure ... A real page-turner." (Tracy Lynn, Rx)

"Do not, I repeat, do NOT begin reading this book at night because you won't be able to put it down. In this tight, finely written story, someone is shooting up the quad. You could guess, but you'd be wrong. Sadly, these people will be all too familiar to you." (Julie Anne Peters, Luna)

QUAD speaks to the problems faced by many teens and offers many opportunities for discussion of current topics. Every library needs a copy, and perhaps every school curriculum needs to adopt it as a learning tool in the classroom. (Sally Kruger, YA Lit blogger)

"What I liked so much about this book was the way in which the author doesn't centre on the shooting, but on what led up to it. ... This is a disturbing and powerful novel, but one that teens, educators and parents will benefit from reading. C. G. Watson is definitely an author to watch out for." (Sheryl McFarlane's Book Blog, author)

31 Reasons to Get Excited About May - Reason #28) Quad by Carrie Gordon Watson will be released May 10, 2007. The shooter's identity is teased out through the students' flashbacks until the reader breathlessly reaches the final page. It's only there that he discovers the shocking answer to the question: Who is shooting out in the quad? (Becky's book blog)

My students and I love this book! ... it is very sensitively and well written. (Debbie Fisher, librarian)

The publisher sent me an advanced reader copy the week before the Virginia Tech shootings and I read it that day. Talk about timely... it was excellent and really makes one think about what drives these kids to do these things. (Joanne Proctor, retired librarian)

This book should be required reading for teachers, administrators and kids who turn a blind eye to what is going on around them. ... a stunning novel. (Kathi Sweeterman, bookseller)

If you're in high school or college, or if you have kids in that age group, this is a must-read. Watson clearly has her finger on the pulse of today's teenagers. (Doug, Amazon.com reviewer)

... with horrible real life events like Virginia Tech's shooting, this book really makes you think about WHY something like this can happen. QUAD is a great story to use as a starting point to get us to talk about what needs to change so these shootings (Lee, Barnes&Noble.com reviewer)

It is obvious that Watson has worked with teens on a daily ...

She knows the triggers that bullies can pull. She knows that these stories do not end happily. However, maybe someone will learn some important lessons? (the goddess of YA literature, aka: professorsnana's blog)

Congrats to SCBWI-Norca member Carrie Watson on the release of her YA novel "Quad" from Razorbill. It's a terrific read about a subject that's all-too-current: a school shooting. ... Just my opinion, but if you've got kids in high school, you and they should read "Quad." (post to SCBWI website)

I was in a school shooting ... a few years ago, and I wasn't sure I could read a book about one, but ... I decided to chance it. I am so impressed by the un-centralness of that event to the story of the book. I would definitely share this book with my students. (C Lynn Jacobs, teacher)

In my opinion, Quad is a remarkable book that showcases raw feelings and expressions. It portrays the pain and grief some cliques inflict upon others and shows what can happen when a bottle of emotions inside a person pops. I thought that the book was very moving and illustrated just how cruel people can be. (Flamingnet Student Book Reviewer, R. Matu)

What if the unthinkable happened? What if in the middle of an ordinary high school day, gunshots rang out and someone died? What if no one knew who the shooter was, but everyone had plenty of ideas of who it could be? Watson draws from her experience as an educator to create a vivid and realistic portrayal of the emotional and physical violence of the suburban high school. ... This first novel is certainly thought provoking, especially for adults who might be shocked to learn what is happening right under their noses. (VOYA)

The language of the book raw teenager as the freaks, the jocks, the preps, the choirboys, the techies and drama queens are confronted by the consequences of their choices. There is no happy ending here, just the haunting question: what has become of our sons and daughters? (Dan Barnett, The Buzz, Chico Enterprise Record)

This is the kind of story you want to read in one go because the story just carries you along, the plotlines just keep getting more and more entwined and the stakes keep going up and up and you *must know what happens next!* (Karen, Book Obsession, Glendale Public Library)

Accolades:

- Nominated for YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) 2008 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Readers
- Teens Read Too (www.teensreadtoo.com) Gold Star and Hall of Fame Awards

C G Watson

Author Bio:

C G Watson is a writer, high school Spanish teacher, musician and songwriter from northern California.

QUAD is her first book.



The story behind QUAD:

C G Watson never set out to write a book about a school shooting. She did so because she was shocked to witness students in one of her classes psychologically dismantle a handful of their classmates in a campaign of meanness, teasing and isolation so cruel, it seemed certain to end in tragedy.

The students didn't care about the potential repercussions of their words and deeds. It seemed as though no one had ever called them on what they were doing, and because of that, Watson's attempted interventions came off as flimsy, even funny to them.

Watson has observed the pandemic of bullying with growing concern over the past 20 years as it has shifted from the occasional incident, in which the bully was easily identified and universally shunned, to a casual, daily activity partaken of by schoolchildren of all cliques and stripes. The most vulnerable students are subjected to years of emotional and verbal abuse at the hands of their peers; abuse which flies just enough under the radar that those who witness it often choose to "let it slide." The ground truth in the classroom is that, in the face of all there is to do, it is often easier and simpler to do this than to confront the offenders.

In her own classroom, it has become a daily battle, admonishing kids to think twice about the vocabulary of separation and humiliation they're not even aware of using with one another.

Privately, most adolescents will admit that even casual, everyday cruelties and the so-called teasing of their friends weigh heavily on them. Yet claims of ongoing, consistent social alienation and teasing keep turning up in the manifestos and suicide notes of those who commit the most unspeakable crimes against their peers.

C G wrote her book in desperate hope of finding a way to engage her students and start a discussion with them. She never imagined that the book's topic would be as horribly relevant as it has become at this, its moment of publication.

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