

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons

Caught in the Crossfire Alan Gibbons: Exploring the Impact of Conflict through Powerful Storytelling

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons is a phrase that immediately evokes a sense of tension, hardship, and personal struggle amidst larger conflicts. It's also the title of a compelling novel by Alan Gibbons, a British author well-known for his ability to weave social issues into gripping narratives. In this article, we will dive deep into the themes, characters, and significance of "Caught in the Crossfire" by Alan Gibbons, exploring why this book resonates with readers and how it sheds light on the human side of conflict.

Understanding "Caught in the Crossfire" by Alan Gibbons

Alan Gibbons is an acclaimed writer whose work often centers on young people facing challenging social realities. "Caught in the Crossfire" stands out as a vivid portrayal of how ordinary lives can be disrupted by violence and political unrest. The novel does not just depict conflict superficially; it delves into the emotional and psychological aftermath experienced by those who find themselves trapped in situations beyond their control.

The Plot and Setting

The story is set against a backdrop of political turmoil, where communities are polarized and tensions run high. Gibbons crafts a narrative that follows characters who are literally caught in the crossfire — civilians who find themselves in the middle of violent clashes, unable to escape the consequences of a conflict that is not of their making. Through their eyes, readers witness the chaos, fear, and resilience that characterize life in conflict zones.

This setting is not just a physical location but also a metaphor for the broader struggles many face when caught between opposing forces, whether political, social, or personal. The novel's setting helps readers empathize with those who suffer in silence, highlighting that the impact of violence extends far beyond the battlefield.

Themes Explored in "Caught in the Crossfire"

Alan Gibbons uses his narrative to explore several powerful themes, making the novel more than just a story of conflict. Here are some of the key themes that emerge:

1. The Innocence of Youth Amidst Conflict

One of the most poignant aspects of the novel is its focus on young characters who are thrust into

situations that rob them of their innocence. The portrayal of children and teenagers caught in violent scenarios emphasizes the loss and trauma that war and conflict impose on future generations.

2. The Human Cost of Political Violence

"Gibbons's storytelling is grounded in the human experience," and "Caught in the Crossfire" vividly illustrates the personal toll of political strife. The novel reminds readers that behind headlines and news reports are real people, families, and communities suffering profound consequences.

3. Resilience and Hope

Despite the grim circumstances, the novel also highlights the resilience of the human spirit. Characters find moments of hope, solidarity, and strength, showcasing how even in the darkest times, people can come together and strive for a better future.

Why Alan Gibbons' Writing Style Makes "Caught in the Crossfire" Stand Out

Gibbons is known for his accessible yet evocative writing style, which makes complex social issues understandable to a wide audience, including young readers. His prose is straightforward but emotionally rich, allowing readers to connect deeply with the characters and their experiences.

Engaging Young Readers with Real-World Issues

One of Alan Gibbons' strengths is his ability to write for younger audiences without talking down to them. "Caught in the Crossfire" is an excellent example of how literature can be both educational and engaging. The book encourages empathy and critical thinking, making it a valuable tool in classrooms and book clubs.

Use of Realistic Dialogue and Settings

Gibbons' attention to detail in crafting authentic dialogue and vivid settings helps immerse readers in the story. This realism grounds the narrative and makes the impact of the crossfire feel immediate and personal.

Who Should Read "Caught in the Crossfire"?

This novel is particularly suited for readers interested in contemporary social issues, young adult

fiction, and stories that tackle themes of conflict, resilience, and human rights. Educators looking for material that sparks discussion on war and its effects on civilians will find it especially useful.

Educators and Students

Teachers can use "Caught in the Crossfire" to introduce students to the realities of conflict zones and the importance of empathy in understanding global issues. The book's accessible language and relatable characters make it an ideal choice for middle to high school curriculums.

Readers Interested in Social Justice

Anyone passionate about social justice will appreciate how Gibbons highlights marginalized voices and the consequences of violence on ordinary people. The novel encourages readers to think critically about the causes and effects of conflict.

How "Caught in the Crossfire" Reflects Broader Social and Political Contexts

While the story itself is fictional, it draws inspiration from real-world conflicts and the experiences of those living in war-torn areas. This connection to actual events adds depth and urgency to the narrative.

Promoting Awareness Through Fiction

Books like "Caught in the Crossfire" play a vital role in raising awareness about issues that may otherwise feel distant or abstract. By humanizing the victims of conflict, Alan Gibbons encourages readers to consider the complexities behind news headlines.

Encouraging Dialogue and Understanding

The novel can act as a springboard for conversations about peace, conflict resolution, and the importance of protecting vulnerable populations. It challenges readers to reflect on their own perceptions and the global impact of violence.

Tips for Readers Approaching "Caught in the Crossfire"

If you're planning to read "Caught in the Crossfire," here are a few tips to enhance your experience:

- **Read with an open mind:** The book may depict harsh realities, but it also offers hope and insight into human resilience.
- **Reflect on the characters' perspectives:** Try to imagine the emotional and psychological challenges they face, which can deepen your understanding.
- **Discuss with others:** Sharing thoughts about the book in group settings can uncover different interpretations and enrich your reading experience.
- **Explore related topics:** Consider researching the historical or political background that inspired the story to gain a broader context.

Engaging with "Caught in the Crossfire" on multiple levels can turn a simple reading experience into a meaningful exploration of global issues.

Alan Gibbons' "Caught in the Crossfire" is more than just a novel; it's a window into the lives of those affected by conflict, a call for empathy, and a reminder of the resilience that defines the human spirit. Through his powerful storytelling, Gibbons invites readers to step into the shoes of those caught between opposing forces and see the world through their eyes. Whether you're a student, educator, or casual reader, this book offers valuable perspectives that linger long after the last page is turned.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Caught in the Crossfire' by Alan Gibbons?

'Caught in the Crossfire' explores themes of conflict, family loyalty, and the struggles of growing up in a challenging environment.

Who is the protagonist in 'Caught in the Crossfire'?

The protagonist of the book is a young boy named Jay who finds himself caught between rival gangs and family tensions.

What genre does 'Caught in the Crossfire' belong to?

'Caught in the Crossfire' is a young adult novel that combines elements of contemporary fiction and social realism.

How does Alan Gibbons portray urban life in 'Caught in the Crossfire'?

Alan Gibbons portrays urban life as tough and dangerous but also highlights the resilience and hope of the community.

Is 'Caught in the Crossfire' suitable for teenage readers?

Yes, the book is targeted at teenage readers and deals with relevant issues they may face, such as peer pressure and violence.

What inspired Alan Gibbons to write 'Caught in the Crossfire'?

Alan Gibbons was inspired by real-life stories of young people living in areas affected by gang violence and social challenges.

Are there any significant secondary characters in 'Caught in the Crossfire'?

Yes, secondary characters include Jay's family members and members of rival gangs who influence the story's development.

What message does 'Caught in the Crossfire' convey to its readers?

The novel conveys a message about the importance of making positive choices and the impact of violence on communities.

Has 'Caught in the Crossfire' received any awards or recognition?

While not widely awarded, 'Caught in the Crossfire' has been praised for its authentic portrayal of youth and urban issues.

Can 'Caught in the Crossfire' be used in educational settings?

Yes, the book is often used in schools to discuss social issues, conflict resolution, and to promote empathy among students.

Additional Resources

Caught in the Crossfire Alan Gibbons: A Critical Examination of Conflict and Consequence in Contemporary Literature

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons is more than just a phrase; it is the title of a compelling novel by Alan Gibbons that explores the harrowing realities faced by young people caught amidst violence and social upheaval. This work, recognized for its gritty realism and emotional depth, offers readers a profound insight into the challenges that arise when innocence collides with conflict. As a notable contribution to contemporary young adult literature, "Caught in the Crossfire" exemplifies Gibbons' commitment to addressing difficult themes through accessible storytelling.

Contextualizing "Caught in the Crossfire" within Alan Gibbons' Oeuvre

Alan Gibbons is an acclaimed British author known for his socially conscious narratives that often highlight the struggles of marginalized youth. His works frequently delve into issues such as poverty, racism, and political unrest, making his stories resonate with readers who seek authenticity and relevance. "Caught in the Crossfire" aligns with this trajectory, focusing on the impact of sectarian violence on young individuals navigating complex social landscapes.

The novel is set against a backdrop of societal tension, reflecting real-world conflicts that have shaped communities in the UK and beyond. By grounding his story in a recognizable socio-political environment, Gibbons ensures that the narrative transcends mere fiction, serving as both a mirror and a critique of contemporary issues.

In-Depth Analysis of Themes and Narrative Structure

At its core, "Caught in the Crossfire" is a study of the human cost of conflict. Gibbons employs a multi-layered narrative that intertwines personal stories with broader socio-political commentary. The protagonist's journey is emblematic of many young people who find themselves involuntarily embroiled in clashes that threaten their safety and future.

Exploration of Sectarian Conflict and Its Impact on Youth

One of the most striking elements of the novel is its unflinching portrayal of sectarian violence. Gibbons does not romanticize or simplify the realities of such disputes; instead, he presents a nuanced perspective that captures the fear, confusion, and resilience of those caught in the crossfire. This approach offers readers an immersive experience that fosters empathy and understanding.

The narrative demonstrates how sectarianism extends beyond mere physical confrontations, permeating social relationships, education, and community cohesion. For young characters in the story, allegiances and identities become sources of both protection and peril, highlighting the complexity of navigating divided societies.

Character Development and Emotional Resonance

Gibbons' skillful character development is central to the novel's impact. The protagonist's internal conflicts mirror the external chaos, creating a compelling duality that drives the story forward. Through detailed characterization, readers witness the gradual erosion of innocence and the emergence of a cautious awareness shaped by trauma and survival instincts.

The emotional resonance of "Caught in the Crossfire" is amplified by Gibbons' use of vivid, sometimes stark, language that conveys the urgency and gravity of the circumstances. The dialogue

and inner monologues provide insight into the psychological toll of living amidst violence, making the narrative relatable to audiences beyond its immediate setting.

Thematic Relevance and Educational Value

Alan Gibbons' work holds significant educational merit, particularly in discussions centered on conflict resolution, social justice, and youth empowerment. "Caught in the Crossfire" serves as a catalyst for conversations about the root causes of violence and the importance of community dialogue.

Comparison with Similar Works in Young Adult Literature

In the landscape of young adult fiction, several authors have tackled themes of conflict and displacement, including Malorie Blackman and Markus Zusak. However, Gibbons distinguishes himself through his grounded approach, avoiding sensationalism while maintaining narrative tension. Unlike some contemporaries who may focus on dystopian or fantastical settings, Gibbons remains anchored in real-world issues, thereby enhancing the novel's immediacy and relevance.

This comparison underscores the unique contribution of "Caught in the Crossfire" to the genre, particularly in its ability to engage readers with authentic social challenges without compromising on storytelling quality.

Pros and Cons of the Novel's Approach

- **Pros:**

- Authentic depiction of sectarian violence and its effects on youth.
- Complex characters that foster empathy and emotional engagement.
- Clear educational value for understanding social conflicts.
- Accessible language suitable for a young adult audience.

- **Cons:**

- Some readers may find the depiction of violence distressing.
- The narrative's focus on specific socio-political contexts might limit universal relatability.
- Occasional pacing issues where thematic exposition slows the plot.

Reception and Critical Perspectives

Since its publication, "Caught in the Crossfire" has garnered attention from educators, literary critics, and social commentators. Reviews often praise Gibbons for his courageous engagement with challenging topics and his ability to foster dialogue through literature.

Critically, the novel has been lauded for its balanced portrayal of complex social realities without resorting to didacticism. Scholars have noted its potential for use in classroom settings to complement curricula focused on citizenship, history, and ethics.

Conversely, some critiques highlight the difficulty younger readers might face when confronting the novel's intense subject matter. Nevertheless, the consensus positions "Caught in the Crossfire" as a valuable resource for promoting awareness and empathy among adolescents.

Integration of Caught in the Crossfire Alan Gibbons in Educational Curricula

The novel's inclusion in school reading lists underscores its pedagogical relevance. Teachers find it effective for sparking discussions about prejudice, community division, and the importance of peaceful conflict resolution. Its narrative invites students to analyze multiple perspectives and consider the broader societal implications of sectarian strife.

Moreover, "Caught in the Crossfire" complements educational goals that emphasize critical thinking and emotional literacy. By engaging with the text, students develop a nuanced understanding of how historical and contemporary conflicts shape individual lives.

Final Reflections on the Novel's Place in Contemporary Literature

Alan Gibbons' "Caught in the Crossfire" stands as a poignant exploration of the intersection between youth and conflict. Its careful balance of storytelling and social commentary ensures that it remains relevant in discussions about violence, identity, and resilience. By weaving together personal narrative and broader societal themes, Gibbons challenges readers to confront uncomfortable realities while offering hope through the resilience of his characters.

The novel's ongoing resonance attests to the power of literature as a tool for empathy and education. As issues of sectarianism and social division continue to affect communities worldwide, works like "Caught in the Crossfire" provide vital perspectives that encourage understanding and, ultimately, peace.

Caught In The Crossfire Alan Gibbons

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: *Caught in the Crossfire* Alan Gibbons, 2010-12-23 Set in a Northern town, where right-wingers are determined to stir up hatred and racial prejudice, **CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE** is about six teenagers whose lives are woven together by a series of shocking and tragic events. A British Muslim brother and sister, two Irish brothers who take different sides, and two lads out looking for trouble: all of them get caught in the crossfire. Inspired by the Oldham riots and the events of September 11th, this is a book that needed to be written. It is a chilling account of what is happening in Britain today, but as always Alan Gibbons writes with humour and understanding and is utterly on the wavelength of his many readers.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: *Hold On* Alan Gibbons, 2010-12-23 When Annie returns from an extended stay in Canada, she discovers that her friend, John, has killed himself. Annie is devastated by his death and is determined to confront those she believes responsible - a group of boys from her school, who bullied John mercilessly in the months before he died. But Annie's parents and friends don't share her wish to bring the boys to justice. She finds herself treading a lonely path - and soon discovers that nothing is straightforward. She is helplessly attracted to one of the boys, and when she reads John's diary, it's clear that they weren't the only ones to cause him so much unhappiness... Alan tells John's story in an unsentimental and compassionate novel, but he also tells Annie's story which is as much about moving on and looking forward to the future, as about the tragic waste of a young life.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: *The Demon Assassin* Alan Gibbons, 2010-08-26 Having once risked everything precious to him to halt King Lud's progress from the ancient bowels of London to the city's modern streets, teenage Paul Rector knows his task is far from over. Paul also knows that, like his brother John and his great uncle Harry, he is both demon and man. Will it be fate that decides which side wins out? To find out, Paul takes Hell's Underground back to London of the Blitz in World War II and becomes involved in defeating Harry Rector's plot to assassinate Prime Minister Churchill. His main weapons are fire and fear. Along the way, he learns more about the Rector curse and once again endangers not only his own life, but that of the people he comes to regard as a second family.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: *Under Pressure* Alan Gibbons, 2010-12-23 The Rough Diamonds are a close knit team. Kev McGovern, their captain, makes sure they work hard and play hard, but Kev acts swiftly when too many of the lads just aren't playing the game and let pressures off the pitch threaten the team's future.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: *Hell's Underground: Scared to Death* Alan Gibbons, 2010-08-26 Late one night after a strange tube journey to Whitechapel in East London, Paul makes a new friend, John Redman - daring and enigmatic, just as Paul longs to be, away from his cloying mother (his only family - so he thinks). Redman charms Paul at once, but also a girl called Jude they meet on a night about town. A few days later, Paul learns that Jude has mysteriously died, and Redman has disappeared. Shortly after that, one of Paul's teacher dies suddenly - frightened to death - near where Jude's body was found. A link for sure. And Paul feels implicated, because both victims were known to him. He senses Redman, who comes and goes as it suits him, is involved as well. His new friend is dangerous. But so, we learn, is Paul. In uncovering the truth about Redman he learns shocking facts about himself. There's an evil curse loose in his family and Paul is the latest inheritor. The spree of death - camouflaged as copycat Jack the Ripper-style murders - will continue until Paul confronts the demon in himself head on.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: *Power Play* Alan Gibbons, 2010-12-23 The Rough Diamonds are a close knit team. Kev McGovern makes sure they work hard and play hard. Kev doesn't make any allowances. That goes for the new boy Chris Power who's just signed up with the Diamonds. Can he earn a place in their affections when he's living in a children's home and trying to make sense of what's happened in his life...?

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: Final Countdown Alan Gibbons, 2010-12-23 The Rough Diamonds are a close knit team. Kev McGovern, their captain, makes sure they work hard and play hard. Kev has lived total football and worked the Rough Diamonds to the top - but will the ghosts from his past come back to haunt him, ruining all their chances and snatching victory from them?

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: Total Football: Injury Time Alan Gibbons, 2010-12-23 The Rough Diamonds are a close knit team. Kev McGovern, their captain, makes sure they work hard and play hard. Kev is stunned when he discovers that Dave has to cope with epilepsy. When he suffers a major attack, the victory the Rough Diamonds are so desperate to win, hangs in the balance.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: The Defender Alan Gibbons, 2010-12-23 Guns, violence, mob rule or defending the cause? We all have choices. Or do we? Who would choose blood, sacrifice and exile? At the height of the Troubles in Northern Ireland Ian's dad did. He thought he was fighting for a cause, for his people. But the price was too high - after the murder of his sister's husband and his own wife's death, he's paying for trying to get out. Somewhere along the line the cause got blurred by organised crime and revenge, and all it's left is a bitter taste. He's still a target, still a victim. Now he faces a lifetime of running with nowhere to go and constantly putting at risk the son he loves. This page turner tackles a controversial topic head-on and makes powerful and memorable reading.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: The Dark Beneath Alan Gibbons, 2010-12-23 Winner of the Blue Peter Book Award, *The Dark Beneath* tells the chilling tale of how one girl's friendship with three refugees could cost her life. 'Today I shot the girl I love'. GCSE's are over and sixteen-year-old Imogen is looking forward to a perfect, lazy English summer. But her world is turned upside down by three refugees, all hiding from life. Anthony is fourteen, already an outcast, bullied and shunned by his peers. Farid is an asylum seeker from Afghanistan, who has travelled across continents seeking peace. And Gordon Craig is a bitter, lonely man. She knows all of them, but she doesn't know how dangerous they are. Being part of their lives could cost Imogen her own. Supercharged with tension and drama, Alan Gibbons' novel is about what happens when the fabric of normality is ripped apart exposing the terrifying dark beneath.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: Witch Breed Alan Gibbons, 2010-08-26 When Paul journeys back to 17th-century London, he expects to be thrown into a life or death struggle for the three gates that imprison the ancient King Lud. But the battle doesn't come. Instead, Paul roams alone, learning how to survive in a city where all the talk is of the savage civil war that rages beyond its ramparts. Somewhere underground, Lud is waiting in his crypt, preparing to rise again. War, fear and want are his tools. But Paul has his own weapons. Beyond the city, a witchhunt rages out of control. Only one woman possesses the power to help Paul in his quest.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: Renegade Alan Gibbons, 2010-08-26 Paul has met his most audacious - and powerful - ancestor yet, Samuel Rector, who seemingly has the entire East End in thrall to him in the 1830s. His legion of 'rat boys' use terror and menace ordinarily, but with the demon seed inside them, their powers know no end. Their only match is Paul, the renegade, the one member of the Rector clan determined to strike each poisoned generation from the family history. But nobody is stronger than Lud, the King of London, struggling against imprisonment in his cell where the city's five gates meet.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: Setting of a Cruel Sun Alan Gibbons, 2010-12-23 The Helat rebels have broken the power of the demon lord and challenged the rule of their masters, the Sol-ket. But the Darkwing is merely in retreat, biding his time, and the Sol-ket will fight to their last breath to keep control of their golden cities. The power of the slaves is mounting as they rise to fulfil once-forbidden prophecies. When the Darkwing returns for his final onslaught, is anyone, soldier or slave, equipped to defeat him - especially as the cruel sun sets, beckoning a devastatingly relentless winter? A brilliant continuation of the journey begun in *RISE OF THE BLOOD MOON*, this novel also stands alone, with its own twists, turns and surprises for characters and readers alike. Be prepared

for changes of allegiance, surprise new arrivals, and sudden deaths. Page-turning and unpredictable from start to finish.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: *Raining Fire* Alan Gibbons, 2013-03-07 The gun is the coward's fist. The gun is power. Alex and Ethan are growing up on an estate where there are just two choices: sport or crime. Ethan is selected for a football training programme in the US, his chance to escape the gangs that terrorise his neighbourhood. But Alex is drawn into an explosive feud with a gun at its heart. In this gripping and absorbing real life thriller, Alan Gibbons explores the complex issue of gun crime, and the far reaching consequences it can have.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: *The Legendeer: Warriors of the Raven* Alan Gibbons, 2010-12-23 The Legendeer opens the gateway between our world and the world of the myths, between triumph and tragedy. The Gamesmaster almost has us at his mercy. Twice before fourteen-year-old Phoenix has battled against him in Shadow of the Minotaur and Vampyr Legion, but Warriors of the Raven is the game at its most complex and deadly level. Set in the world of Norse myth, Phoenix enters the arena for the final conflict. Join him in Asgard to fight Loki, the Mischief-maker, the terrifying Valkyries, dragons and fire demons - and hope for victory. Our future depends on him. The Legendeer is more than just a game. Play it if you dare.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: *The Edge* Alan Gibbons, 2010-12-23 Winner of the Angus Book Award, THE EDGE is crackly with tension. How will this mother and son escape their abuser and start a new life? We've got to go. Now. It's early morning and Danny's mother is at his bedside, urging him to get up. They're on the run from Chris, his mother's boyfriend, a violent man who beats them both up, and won't let them go. Chris pursues Danny and his mother from London to the north, where they take refuge with Danny's grandparents. But even there, nothing is safe. Danny is conspicuous as the only mixed-race boy in their small community, and with the ever-present threat of discovery, he has to learn how to live continually on the edge. A tense and chilling story with terrific drama, THE EDGE shows the depth of character and the understanding of the predicaments of children today that gives Alan Gibbons his special quality.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: *The Legendeer: Shadow Of The Minotaur* Alan Gibbons, 2010-12-23 'Real life' or the death defying adventures of the Greek myths, with their heroes and monsters, daring deeds and narrow escapes - which would you choose? For Phoenix it's easy. He hates his new home and the new school where he is bullied. He's embarrassed by his computer geek dad. But when he logs on to The Legendeer, the game his dad is working on, he can be a hero. He is Theseus fighting the terrifying Minotaur, or Perseus battling with snake-haired Medusa. It feels as though he's really there & The Legendeer is more than just a game. Play it if you dare.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: *End Game* Alan Gibbons, 2015-04-09 A real-life thriller about memory loss, arms dealing, and fathers and sons from million copy selling, prize-winning author, Alan Gibbons. 'He was here again last night, the man with the dead eyes. He was in my room and in my head.' There are not many things Nick Mallory knows for sure. He knows there was a car crash. He knows he is in hospital. And he knows he feels furious with his father. What he doesn't know is why. As his memories start to return, Nick finds himself caught in a net of secrets and lies - where truth and perception collide and heroes and villains are not easy to tell apart. Shortlisted for the Grampian Children's Books Award.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: *The Trap* Alan Gibbons, 2016-09-08 Terrorism, heroism and everything in between... THE TRAP is a teen thriller about espionage, a missing brother and the ever-raging war on terror by million-copy-selling author, Alan Gibbons. MI5 agent, Kate, receives a tip-off about an asset, who seems too good to be true. Amir and Nasima are trying to make friends at their new school but struggling to keep a terrible secret. A group of jihadists are planning something. And behind it all stands Majid. Brother. Son. Hero. Terrorist. Spanning Iraq, Syria and England, THE TRAP grapples with one of the greatest challenges of our time.

caught in the crossfire alan gibbons: *Playing With Fire* Alan Gibbons, 2010-12-23 Kev's a loner, a hard case. When his mum and dad split up, he goes off the rails. He's looking for trouble - but he never means it to go that far . . . the fire, the shed, that old man. After the fire Kev is moved

to a new school to build a new life, but his terrible secret is found out. The only way Kev knows how to deal with it is through another fire. But this time perhaps it's Kev's life that will go up in flames. Alan Gibbons writes with compassion and intuitive understanding about one boy's battle to survive against the odds.

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