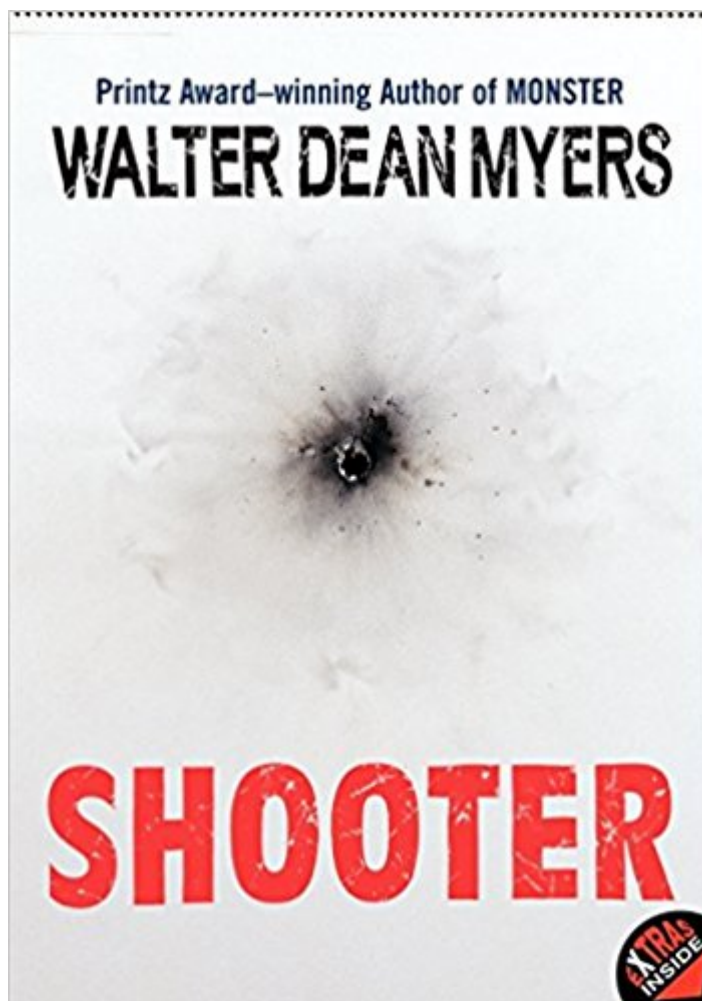


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# Shooter



## Synopsis

The groundbreaking and widely praised novel about a school shooting, from the acclaimed author of *Monster*. Multiple narratives, a personal journal, and newspaper and police reports add perspective and pull readers into the story. "Questions of guilt and innocence drive the plot and stay with the reader," said Hazel Rochman in a starred Booklist review. "Highly readable." "A haunting story that uncovers the pain of several high school students," according to Teenreads.com. "It explores the tragedies of school violence and how the result of bullying can go to the most dramatic extreme. Myers has a gift for expressing the voices of his characters. *Shooter* is not a light read, but it will leave you reeling."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Cameron, Carla, and Len were fascinated (for different reasons) with guns and target shooting at the Patriots' club range until the day Len brought his Kalashnikov rifle, his AR-18, and his Ruger pistol to school, and shot and killed football jock Brad Williams, and then himself. Here is yet another school shooting story that begins with bullying and ends with disaster--a type that is becoming almost a sub-genre of YA fiction. Yet Walter Dean Myers, winner of many awards for his young adult novels, brings freshness and new anguish to this familiar tale (and growing social problem) of unstable victim tormented by bullies to homicidal rage. Following the example of his own masterwork *Monster*, Myers uses different perspectives in the aftermath of the "incident" to reveal the characters and to tell the story: interviews with Cameron and Carla by The Harrison

County School Safety Committee, newspaper reports, a police report, Len's handwritten "die-ary" of his deranged thoughts, and finally, a grim medical examiner's report. The contrasts and contradictions in these various perspectives challenge readers to produce their own versions of why Cameron and Carla became Len's followers and what could have prevented this tragedy and others like it in real life. (ages 12 and up) --Patty Campbell --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**\*Starred Review\*** Gr. 7-12. Like Myers' Printz Award book, *Monster* (1999), this story is told from multiple viewpoints, and questions of guilt and innocence drive the plot and stay with the reader. This time there's a shooting in a high school. Len, a senior, commits suicide after he shoots a star football player and injures several others in the schoolyard. The actual facts of that carnage emerge slowly, as Len's best friend, Cameron, is interviewed at length by a therapist, a sheriff, and a threat-prevention specialist. Adding more perspective are newspaper and police reports, and Len's personal journal, which reveals his fury and hurt about his macho father and school bullies. The multiple narratives move the story far beyond case history, the chatty interview format is highly readable, and Cameron's voice is pitch perfect. One of the few black students in the school, he's an outsider like Len, but he's quiet about it, "an ordinary guy." He doesn't want to stand out; he does nothing about the racism implicit in an image of Martin Luther King on a shooting-range practice target, and he's ashamed. It's this bystander role readers will want to talk about, as well as who is to blame. Why does Cameron just go along with things? What about the parents, the principal, the counselors who knew about the bullying and tell Len to "grow up"? Hazel RochmanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade: BOne Word: soberingIn the aftermath of a shooting in Madison High School, a report has been commissioned to deconstruct the events leading a student to perpetrate the crime and commit suicide. *SHOOTER* is that report, including interviews with two of Leonard's friends, and his own diary.I enjoyed William Dean Myers' book, which read exactly like a report, though I'm not sure *SHOOTER* has universal teen appeal, due to the format of telling vs allowing the story to unfold with the shooting as the climax. *SHOOTER* doesn't have a main character. Cameron's version of the story has the most space, but much of his story is about his relationship with Len. We learn about Cam through his interview more than anything he actually does.Myers does a great job setting the scene for Len's disenfranchisement from his peers, his interpersonal demons as well as the

pressures Cameron feels from his father and how the friendship between the boys exacerbated the negativity in their lives. THEMES: violence, school shooting, friendship, parents, bullying SHOOTER will appear to readers interested in character studies and school violence.

"Shooter" is the story of a school shooting told from the perspective of the two friends of the perpetrator, in interview format after the tragedy has occurred. Cameron Gray is the shooter's friend, and Carla is their mutual friend. Both teens have problems in the form of indifferent or abusive parents, bullying by peers, and in the girl's case, sexual abuse. However, neither is as troubled as Leonard, who plots to blow up the school and eventually makes an attempt. The book's strength comes from the fact that both Carla and Cameron are entirely believable teens. They don't speak in pop culture soundbites, they aren't endlessly snarky, and they don't have insight into their situation more appropriate for an adult of the author's age. I appreciated the fact that none of the young characters sounded as if they were on a primetime teen TV drama. The reader is given enough clues to piece together what happened and figure out why, without it being overly obvious or "message-y". So why the semi-low rating? When it comes to the shooter, Leonard, himself, the author makes it impossible to figure out what is making this guy tick. Is he mentally ill? His diary entry has the language usage of someone suffering from perhaps either schizophrenia or manic depression. At times, I found it nearly unreadable, though that could have also been the font. While I felt sorry for the teen, I was unable to glean any insight into his behavior. While this is an interesting direction to take with a character, it removes a lot of responsibility for his actions, and makes the issue of bullying, bad parenting, etc., secondary. At least if you believe these conditions are caused by nature, not nurture. "Give A Boy a Gun" by Todd Strasser uses a similar format as "Shooter," only expanded to include interviews with the shooter's classmates and teachers. I think that might have helped provide more insight into the Leonard character.

My son read this, then I did. Its about a school shooting, and its really and intense read, but something most teens should read. I being an adult found it an easy but enjoyable read.

this was one of the best books i have ever read . the story that Walter Dean Myers put out is just amazing i couldnt believe the plot twists and points . i was on the edge of my seat at every single page turn . this is a must have book. every book he writes makes you feel like your actually in the story next to the characters . i love every single one of his books they are amazing.

I am waiting for Walter Dean Myers to write a play or screenplay. I am an actor and a playwright and when I read "Shooter" just like "Monster" he crafts dialogue so effectively that it carries the story even without the narrative. Each character has a specific and active voice. Even the psychologists and reporters who merely record or probe information. But it's the diary of the Shooter at the end where you will be blown away by how Myers is able to get inside the mind of a disturbed, misunderstood and lonely teenager. This book is so incredible that whenever I lend it to one of my students, I don't get it back.

Scary and realistic. Got inside the head of a teenager who feels unaccepted. Walter Dean Myers is a master writer for adolescents.

Explaining this book is a little difficult because it's not written like your traditional novel and you really have to put the pieces of the puzzle together with the different sections of information you're given. It sounds really unconventional but it works great and you'll love it. The book is an easy read and I finished it in four days. The story centers on three main characters and the reader gets a chance to piece the story together from all three different perspectives and viewpoints. The weakest part of the book is probably the journal portion because it's really hard to understand at times and it jumps from topic to topic. However, I think this portion of the book is really trivial to understanding the story because it gives the reader a 1st person look into the mind of Leonard Grey, the shooter. Leonard is defiantly a troubled kid and unfortunately I have been around kids who had similar personality traits so the story really struck a cord with me. This is a great story to bring awareness to the consequences and end results of bullying. Bullying is something that should be taken serious and the sad part is that sometimes we don't take these situations serious until the damage has already been done.

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