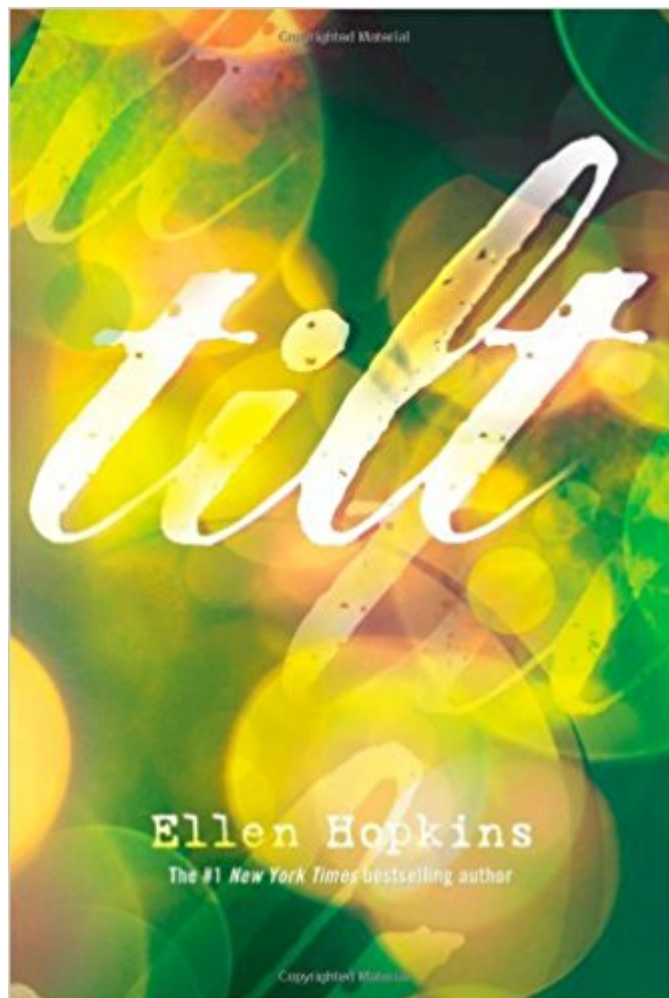


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# Tilt



## Synopsis

Love ã forces three teens ã worlds to tilt in a riveting standalone novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author Ellen Hopkins. Three teens, three stories ã all interconnected through their parents ã family relationships. As the adults pull away, caught up in their own dilemmas, the worlds of the teens begin to tilt. Mikayla, almost eighteen, is over-the-top in love with Dylan, who loves her back jealously. But what happens to that love when Mikayla gets pregnant the summer before their senior year and decides to keep the baby? Shane turns sixteen that same summer and falls hard in love with his first boyfriend, Alex, who happens to be HIV positive. Shane has lived for four years with his little sister ã impending death. Can he accept Alex ã love, knowing his life, too, will be shortened? Harley is fourteen ã a good girl searching for new experiences, especially love from an older boy. She never expects to hurdle toward self-destructive extremes in order to define who she is and who she wants to be. Love, in all its forms, has crucial consequences in this wrenching story from Ellen Hopkins.

## Book Information

Paperback: 624 pages

Publisher: Margaret K. McElderry Books; Reprint edition (February 11, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416983317

ISBN-13: 978-1416983316

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.7 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 243 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #61,850 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in ã Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Sexual Abuse #146 in ã Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Dating & Sex #360 in ã Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-A companion to *Triangles* (Atria, 2012), Hopkins's recent foray into adult publishing, *Tilt* fleshes out the stories of the children of Marissa, Andrea, and Holly. Mikayla cannot imagine loving anyone more than Dylan, yet when she becomes pregnant she begins to understand the limits of that love. Shane finally feels fully himself with Alex, but when mortality bears down on him in the

form of Alex's HIV and his own terminally ill sister, it all becomes overwhelming. Harley wants nothing more than to be noticed by guys, even if it turns her into someone even she can no longer recognize. In Hopkins's usual style, the characters' lives are described in graphic, biting honest, and voluminous verse, all attributes her fans have come to expect and love. In that regard, they won't be disappointed. Yet this title might not work quite as seamlessly for those who chose not to follow her into the realm of midlife issues in *Triangles*. The mothers' stories weave in and out frequently enough to impact the narrative, yet because they are not fully developed here, they lend a feeling of loose ends hanging in the background. Ultimately, though, readers will care most about the clear, anguished voices of the teens. --Jill Heritage Maza, Montclair Kimberley Academy, Montclair, NJ (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"This will be recognizable territory to anyone who has read Hopkins' earlier novels. . . . As a cautionary tale, however, this offers helpful insights into the continuing presence of HIV in teen lives and the urgency of making better choices in matters involving sex."--"Booklist"  
"Brimming with shoes about to drop (some do, some don't) and the drama her fans devour . . ."--"Kirkus Reviews"

I'm a huge Ellen Hopkins fan. I have read a few of her books and am obsessed! Her ability to craft her stories in verse proves to be amazing, and I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every book I've read from her. I read *Tilt* a few months ago, and while I have read a plethora of other novels since then, this one sticks with me. The three teens in this novel are interconnected through their families' relationships, which is covered in Hopkins' prequel *Triangles*. Mikayla, Shane, and Harley's lives are detailed in this novel, and all of their stories are interesting. I felt compelled to read this book because I was going through my own crisis during the time, and my life was beginning to tilt, just like these characters. And while I felt for pregnant Mikayla and love-torn Harley, I especially felt the pain in Shane's story. As told in my bio, I believe that love is love. Shane is homosexual and dating an HIV positive man, which is very challenging and emotional. He also has a terminally ill sister, and finds himself spinning out of control due to his life circumstances. One thing I love about Hopkins' work is that she makes reading time go by fast. This is no short book, but I felt like I finished it in 5 minutes. I was so captivated by the poetry and twists that I could not put it down. I am yet to read the prequel to this novel, mostly because I'm so hung up on this one. If there was one thing I could change about

this book (even though I loved it) it would be to conclude it with more feeling. Did Mikayla ever give the baby up to Shane's parents? I would love to see a 3rd book written just for the sole purpose of learning more about these kids. Well done, Hopkins. I'll be reading your new YA in January.

I am a huge Ellen Hopkins fan. I devour her books the way to do a bag of cookies...I can't stop until the bag is empty (or the book is finished.) She is that compulsive a read. Having read all her other books, I am accustomed to her multi-story line format involving three or four main characters whose stories intersect. TILT is no different. This time around we have nearly 18-year-old Mikayla who is sure her love for her boyfriend is so strong that nothing can break it. Thirteen-year-old Harley is caught in the most awkward of situations, halfway between childhood and teenhood, with her off-and-on dad marrying a woman that appears to understand Harley better than her own mother. Then there is Shane, experiencing his first love with HIV positive Alex. All these characters are compelling and you care about what happens to them. What prevented me from awarding this book my usual 5 stars is the plethora of secondary characters who have their own stories. All of these characters are interconnected in some way...blood relatives, friends, friends of friends. Not only that, but each of the parents of the three main characters have their own dramas. Breaking with her usual form of telling the story through the first person characters of her main characters, this time Hopkins let's everyone have their say. Helpfully, the book designer reminds us that these are "outside observers" by placing their chapters on greyed paper. After awhile with all the cousins, and aunts and uncle, boyfriends and girlfriends, and a posse of friends for each of the characters, I began to wish the book had included a dramatis personae to keep them all straight. Additionally, Hopkins covers a ton of hot button topics...teen HIV, pregnancy, euthanasia, abortion, casual sex, drug use and drinking, adoption and a search for a birth parent, plus both teen and adult infidelity. Whew! I love Hopkins' writing, but perhaps there was just a little too much crammed into this one. I blew through this in four hours (starting the second it downloaded to my Kindle), so now I am going to re-read it, more slowly, to see if I can keep all the characters straight. However, if you are a Hopkins fan, you will not be disappointed. Also a word of warning if you are reading this in the Kindle version. A lot of the meaning of Hopkins work comes from the way the verse is arranged on the page. Not only is this feature mostly missing in the Kindle version, I can tell there are a whole words and phrases left out. This is really reading between the lines.

This book tells the tragedy of three families, the stories are told from the point of view of their young

teenage children, shows the hardships they go through as well as the way they choose to handle the situation. Life is always hard, but how far can someone go before they break when their world has tilted to the point where it can't be fixed? Anyone who is an Ellen Hopkin fan, loves poetry or the style of poetry and just wants a good book to read should definitely purchase this book. Upon reading this book, I couldn't put it down, I wanted more and the ending came much too quickly for me to handle. I wanted more and was disappointed that it ended, it leaves you amazed and completely shocked. Not only is the story good, but the way it is written, this is a fantastic book for critical thinking and analysis. Please highly consider this book when you are shopping. I hope you have a great time experiencing it as I did. I will definitely be purchasing more Ellen Hopkin in the future, she is truly gifted.

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