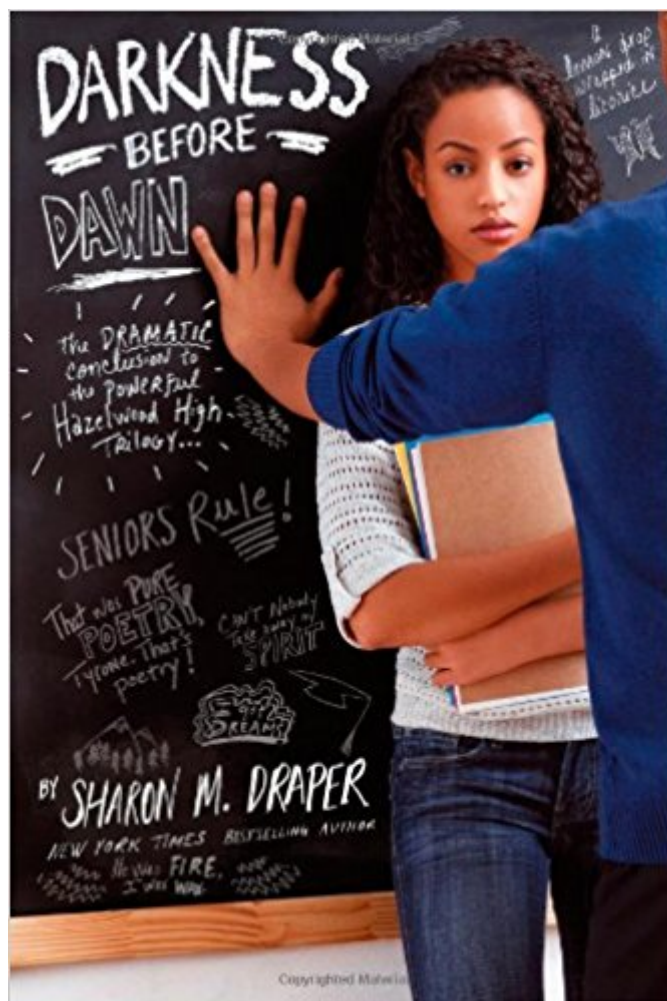


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# Darkness Before Dawn (Hazelwood High Trilogy)



## Synopsis

>In her senior year, things are finally looking a little brighter for Keisha. Still haunted by the suicide of her ex-boyfriend, Andy, she finds comfort in the attentions of the new track coach, twenty-three-year-old Jonathan Hathaway, the principal's son. How can Keisha not be swept off her feet by a tall, dark, handsome "lemon drop wrapped in licorice" who treats her like a woman, not a girl? But suddenly this intoxicating relationship takes a frightening turn, and Keisha is once again plunged into the darkness she's fought so hard to escape. Will Keisha ever be able to find her way back into the light?

## Book Information

Series: Hazelwood High Trilogy (Book 3)

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (July 23, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442489154

ISBN-13: 978-1442489158

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 77 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #373,059 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Sexual Abuse #691 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American #1820 in Books > Teens > Romance > Contemporary

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-Keisha's senior year of high school is quite an ordeal. Her ex-boyfriend has recently committed suicide; a good friend was killed in a car crash; and she is attracted to the new track coach, the principal's college-aged son. When he begins to make advances, Keisha decides that she is mature enough to date this older man. Jonathan, however, turns out to be more than a smooth talker, and attempts to rape her after a romantic date. Readers may be overwhelmed by the soap-opera feel of this issue-laden world of suicide, anorexia, teen models, divorced or dead parents, homelessness, car accidents, and girl power. There's even a romance that Keisha doesn't

see coming, but readers will. Although never didactic or preachy, the issues are there to teach a lesson. While slightly unrealistic, the book still may appeal to readers who love page-turners, as Draper has given her characters life by developing relationships and using believable teen-speak.-Angela J. Reynolds, Washington County Cooperative Library Services, Aloha, ORCopyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Gr. 8-12. It's been a hard summer for Keisha Montgomery. She is still recovering from the recent suicide of her ex-boyfriend, Andy, though she finds comfort in her tight circle of good friends and supportive family. Then handsome new track coach (and the principal's son) Jonathan Hardaway notices Keisha and sweeps her off her feet with his smooth manner. When a dinner date with Jonathan turns into attempted rape, Keisha successfully fights him off, but the incident leaves her depressed and shaken. This third title in Draper's books about Hazelwood High will draw readers anxious to follow the personable characters from *Tears of a Tiger* (1994) and *Forged by Fire* (1997). However, the teen phone conversations, so well handled in those titles, become awkward here when used to relate plot developments, and the frequently didactic tone of the characters is contrived. What's more, so many problem issues are raised--date rape, anorexia, depression, mental illness, suicide, and grief, to name a few--that the focus blurs. Yet the graduation scene, in which class president Keisha gives the closing speech, is moving and triumphant, showing Draper and her vibrant characters at their best. Debbie CartonCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

I highly recommend for used books. This particular one is part of a trilogy. My classroom library needed a replacement copy and I got a like new book for 4 dollars. Great deal!

I can relate to this book in so many ways. I am around the age of the main character of this book. She taught me about the importance of independence, she taught me that I do have a voice, and most importantly, she taught me to never give up on my dreams even with the various tragedies I have encountered at such a young age. I highly recommend this book to young adults. Sharon Draper did a phenomenal job!

I am a middle school language arts teacher. I have a class full of reluctant readers, boys especially. However, they'll love the Sharon Draper books and this one is no exception. I fell in love with her

after reading "Out of My Mind." I ordered this for one of my previously reluctant readers and he is the one who told me to give this book a five!

I loved the book. It has me wrapped in every single sad and happy word of every amazing page of the book. I would recommend this series for all teens or pre-teens. This series has changed my life forever. Thank you Sharon M. Draper

This is a wonderful book. It shows love, strength, and unbreakable friendships, but also pain, fear and sorrow. Draper used beautiful words to describe how a small group of friends face problems that occur in our world everyday. This book will make you cry not only in sorrow, but also joy. I read it in two days! It's a real page turner and a great way to wrap up the Hazelwood High series.

Good read

Bought as a present for my Grandson. He loves reading this author's works.

I love the twist on the stereo type about perfect guys and how Keisha realized that she doesn't need a man and how they included Monty in everything

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