



Crash and Burn

By Michael Hassan

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On April 21, 2008, Steven "Crash" Crashinsky saved more than a thousand people when he stopped his classmate David Burnett from taking their high school hostage armed with assault weapons and high-powered explosives. You likely already know what came after for Crash: the nationwide notoriety, the college recruitment, and, of course, the book deal. What you might not know is what came before: a story of two teens whose lives have been inextricably linked since grade school, who were destined, some say, to meet that day in the teachers' lounge of Meadows High. And what you definitely don't know are the words that Burn whispered to Crash right as the siege was ending, a secret that Crash has never revealed.

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Crash and Burn By Michael Hassan Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up-Steven "Crash" Crashinsky becomes a hero when he saves more than a thousand people at his high school by confronting his armed and dangerous classmate, David "Burn" Burnett, during a chilling hostage situation. Crash signs a book deal to write about events leading up to the crisis, his understanding of Burn, and the final secret Burn shared with him that horrible day. In chapters that alternate between the past and the present, Crash details a sporadic and at times competitive, supportive, and antagonistic friendship. Crash's energetic but often rambling narrative delves into his ADHD; learning and behavior issues; dislike for his unsympathetic father; affinity for alcohol, drug, and sexual excesses; self-image illusions; and aspirations to become a better person. Crash describes Burn's intelligence and uncanny perceptions, which mask a troubled teenager haunted by staggering personal tragedies. During Burn's occasional absences for mental-health treatment, Crash becomes romantically involved with his sister, who tutors him and offers insight into her brother's erratic behavior. Crash's empathy for Burn enables them to connect on that fateful day. The protagonist is a restless antihero whose maturation and self-realization occur in (often amusing) spurts of self-awareness. Although insecurity, improprieties, profanity, and hedonistic behavior abound in this overlong account, Crash's spontaneity is engaging and entertaining.-Gerry Larson, formerly at Durham School of the Arts, NCα(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Sprawling, messy, vulgar, sexy, irreverent, violent, bighearted, harrowing. These are just a few of the many adjectives about to be hurled in the direction of this roaring freight train of a debut. In telling the tale of a tumultuous decade-long antagonism between two boys destined to fulfill their ying/yang fate, Hassan constructs three of the most vividly alive characters in recent YA fiction: Steven "Crash" Crashinsky, the oversexed, good-natured, dope-smoking C student; David "Burn" Burnett, the bipolar, tragedy-plagued genius given to openly weeping and obsessed with revenge; and Burn's older sister, Roxanne, a world-weary goth whose headlong fight against her demons has both boys enthralled. Hassan begins at the end: Crash is a media darling for saving his entire high school from Burn's siege of guns and explosives. National attention scores Crash a book deal, and between horny interludes, he begins to work. Both of them, he writes, have been connected since grade school when Burn tried to blow up the building, promising Crash upon his failure, "One day, I am going to kill you." A travelogue of the subsequent 10 years of parties, drugs, sex, and secrets may sound exhausting, but Hassan writes with such fire and drills down so deep that it's difficult to believe these characters are fictional—this would read quickly even at twice the length. Gutsily conceived, written, and edited, this is, quite simply, a great American novel. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Hassan may be an unknown right now, but this looks ready to gather strong critical support and award notice. Be prepared: demand could light up quick. Grades 9-12. --Daniel Kraus

Review

"Sprawling, messy, vulgar, sexy, irreverent, violent, bighearted, harrowing. These are just a few of the many adjectives about to be hurled in the direction of this roaring freight train of a debut... Gutsily conceived, written, and edited, this is, quite simply, a great American novel." (Booklist (starred review))

"[Crash and Burn] is a must-read for teens and adults alike who want to understand the lack of empathy that permeates contemporary culture; it offers no answers, but the mirror it does present may be chilling enough to awaken readers to the costs of not getting it right." (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (starred review))

“Michael Hassan has written a darkly funny story about a school shooting. I didn’t know it was possible but I knew it was brave. Thankfully, he pulls it off.” (Ned Vizzini, author of *It's Kind of a Funny Story* and *The Other Normal*s)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Martina Barton:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be up-date about what going on or information even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era which can be always change and progress. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know which one you should start with. This *Crash and Burn* is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Tamiko Harmon:

The book untitled *Crash and Burn* contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains your ex idea with easy way. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was published by famous author. The author gives you in the new time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice go through.

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Thomas Ellis:

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