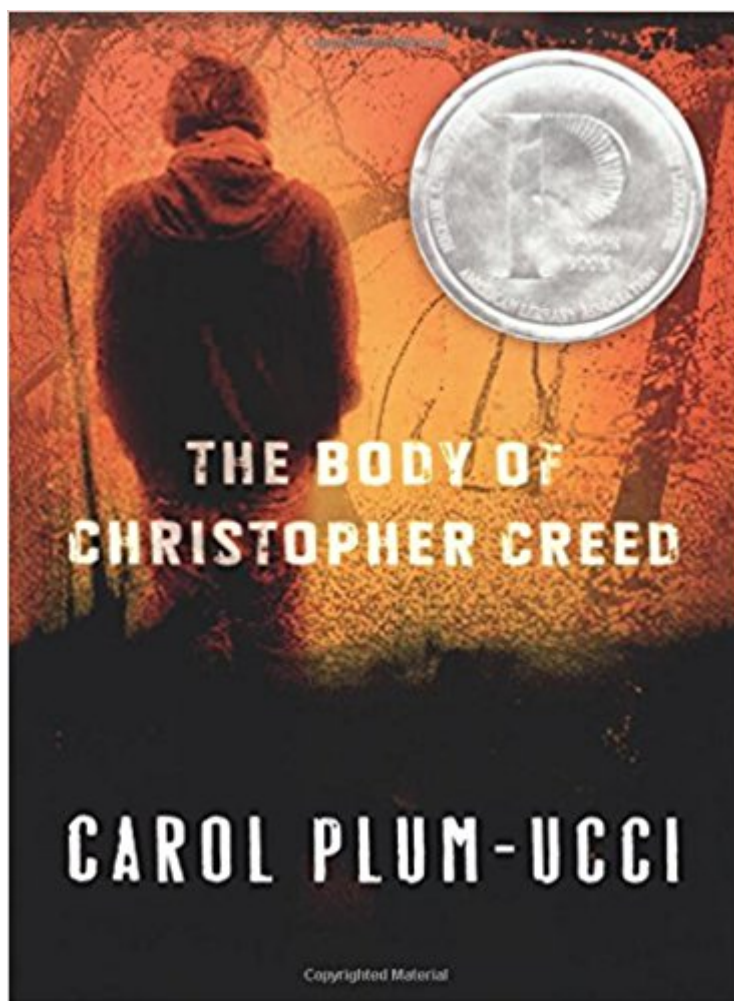


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The Body Of Christopher Creed



Synopsis

Chris Creed grew up as the class freak—the bullies’ punching bag. After he vanished, the weirdness that had once surrounded him began spreading. And it tore the town apart.

Sixteen-year-old Torey Adams’s search for answers opens his eyes to the lies, the pain, and the need to blame someone when tragedy strikes, and his once-safe world comes crashing down around him. Includes an interview with the author and a reader’s guide.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (November 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152063862

ISBN-13: 978-0152063863

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 138 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #192,605 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Dysfunctional Relationships](#) #79 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Abuse](#) #96 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Physical & Emotional Abuse](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

The often-tortured class weirdo has disappeared, leaving an enigmatic note on the school library computer. Is he a runaway, a suicide, a murder victim? Sixteen-year-old Torey Adams and his friends remember beating up Chris Creed when his gentle but obnoxious ways exasperated them. Now that he is gone, they joke uneasily about him to ease their guilt. The town is full of ugly rumors, as Torey's lawyer mother tells them "See, guys, this is what happens when a kid suffers a personal tragedy. Nobody wants to take responsibility. Nobody wants to admit they had a part in it. So, they spend a lot of time pointing the finger, and things just get worse and worse." Suspicion of murder conveniently falls on big, tough Bo Richardson, an outcast "boon" from the boondocks edge of town. Torey's smug assumptions about people are rattled when he discovers that his childhood friend Ali is secretly romantically involved with Bo, who displays surprising tenderness and maturity in caring

for her. The three try to solve the mystery of Chris's disappearance by attempting to steal his diary, but only succeed in implicating themselves, as the town is consumed with rumors and the revelation of adult secrets. Torey begins to find himself distanced from his other friends by his growing understanding of the importance of compassion toward those who are different. The Body of Christopher Creed challenges teens to think about the damage done when lines of exclusion are drawn between people. (Ages 12 and older) --Patty Campbell --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

First-novelist Plum-Ucci wraps a well-crafted mystery around a topical issue: the effect teenage intolerance can have on misfits. When class freak Chris Creed suddenly disappears, his fellow students are not so much worried but abuzz with speculation: Is he a runaway, a suicide, a crime victim? Through a complicated but believable turn of events, narrator Torey Adams, a popular 16-year-old, starts to feel some concern and resolves to find the truth. His unlikely allies are two kids of dubious social status: Ali, who is Chris's neighbor, and Ali's boyfriend, Bo, a "boon" (shorthand for boondocks) with a juvenile record. Convinced Chris's mother is to blame for Chris's disappearance, they plan to break into his house to steal his hidden diary in hopes of finding evidence. The plan backfires: Bo is caught, Torey is implicated and all three are the subject of malicious gossip that proves to have dangerous consequences. Told as a flashback, the novel drags slightly at the beginning. Plum-Ucci, however, picks up the pace and builds to a fever pitch near the conclusion, vividly describing Torey's late-night hunt for Chris's body in a nearby Indian burial ground. Readers will likely be enthralled by the mystery, and, even more, they will be moved by Torey's hard-won realization that everyone deserves compassion. Ages 12-up. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

I just completed The Body of Christopher Creed, a six hour read for me, dedicating half of the read to late last night into early morning and then completing it this morning after 5 hours of sleep. I honestly couldn't think of doing anything else today until I finished the novel (I love the "quick-sand books", which you grab you from the start and leave you sinking). As soon as I finished the book, I insisted my 15 year old read it next. We are, to say the least, book lovers. This story is in your face and full of profanity, which I am not convinced was totally necessary. But, aside from that, I find no other fault and can even forgive the author for throwing the f-word around like it was candy. A word of caution, this is not a book for the young. I recommend it for 15+ and, although it is given a 6.1 grade level equivalent (it is indeed an easy read), it is also rated as "young adult" and believe that

rating should be taken seriously. This novel is amazing for a first-time author. I wish I had read it sooner. Now, because I have found a new author to love, I'll move on to another of Plum-Ucci's books, *What Happened to Lani Garver*.

As much as I enjoyed parts of this book, some of the diction really became distracting. The use of the phrase "turbo slut" was really overdone, so much so that it was annoying to keep reading. I wish the author could have been more creative with the insults or terminology. I felt that the Creed family was not as featured as they could have been. I was happy to see a part at the end of the book address them a bit. This book had a great plot, but there were parts that were developed and went nowhere. The police chief had so much potential as did the brothers of CC, but we saw so little of them. The plot was cool and I really liked the setting of the story. I liked the psychological aspects of the story, but after reading it I did not feel a huge connection to the characters, nor did I find myself caring too much about what happened to them. I am sure, like other avid readers, it is not uncommon to have thoughts about what happened to characters after the last page or have some desire to see a sequel. For this book, I just found myself happy to be done with it.

I absolutely loved this book and everything about it! I had to read it for a college class and it easily became an instant favorite in that class. The book makes you think and it does it in a thrilling way which I absolutely love. The story centers around Torey and after receiving a letter his fascination with Christopher Creed, a fellow student who has disappeared. All of the students have no idea if he simply ran away or committed suicide. This book does a fantastic job of looking at human nature and how we as people treat other people. How you should never be mean to someone because you honestly never know what they're through. Overall this book was amazing. It makes your heart hurt to see how mean children can actually be. How horrible it is that we don't care until something terrible happens. I loved this book because it's thrilling and deals with a very real topic. It even has a little hint of supernatural in it. Overall fantastic book!

"This was the most dangerous kind of lying, it struck me, the kind that was happening to me now - where people need the lie so badly they become convinced the lie is true. It's dangerous because they can tell the lie with so much belief that it sounds like the truth, and they can make other people believe it." - Torey Adams
Two years ago, before all of this began, Torey Adams was a different person, one of Steepleton High's elite. On the football team, in a band, dating the most beautiful girl in school - Torey was the perfect son of perfect parents living a perfect life in a perfect town. That

changed when Chris Creed disappeared. It's not like Torey and Chirs were friends, really. Chris didn't have any friends. He had been the class freak for as long as anyone could remember. He was just that kind of kid, weird and irritating and totally without social skills. Still, as Torey put it, "...when a kid sits behind you every day since kindergarten, sits across from you in Sunday school, belongs to your pool, annoys you in Cub Scouts, and throws a thousand balls over your head in Little League, you don't have to like him in order to love him."When Chris disappears, leaving behind only an ambiguous note that could signify either his suicide or running away, people in town - and particularly the kids who have known him all his life - are not terribly concerned. Unlike his popular friends, Torey doesn't see the humor in imagining Chris as a suicide and wondering how he did it and where his body will turn up. He's more concerned with the fact that none of them, not one person who had been going to school with Chris since kindergarten, noticed that he was troubled enough to run away or commit suicide. He accepts, when no one else will, that he and all of his classmates played a part in whatever it was that Chris decided to do. When ridiculous - and dangerous - rumors begin to swirl and everyone in town seems determined to point his or her finger at someone else, Torey becomes determined to uncover the truth. The Body of Christopher Creed is one of the very best examples of a psychological mystery/thriller that it has ever been my pleasure to read. As Torey's interest in Creed's disappearance spirals into obsession, he sees clearly how difficult it is for most people to take responsibility for their own actions in the wake of an event such as this. That difficulty leads many to bend the truth to fit their perceptions rather than to view the world as it really is and not as they would prefer it to be. The Body of Christopher Creed is one of those novels that hooks you from the beginning and then reels you in steadily as the tension ratchets ever tighter. This is a cleverly plotted, wonderfully written mystery that is sure to keep you guessing until the end.

Fantastic, excellent, breathtaking...I'd add more superlatives, but I'll stop to tell you to READ THIS BOOK. Plum-Ucci perfectly captures her teenage characters -- particularly the outcast, scorned Christopher Creed. I could go on and on, but believe me when I say the end of this book took my breath away.

Just an absolute great piece of literature. Recommend to anyone. I've read it twice and the sequel once. While the sequel was good it will obviously never live up too the original. Thank you Ms. Plum-Ucci for this book. I hold fewer books in higher regard.

The book did have a deep meaning to it which made it unique, but the setting seeming to unreal because I never hear of a place where 14 year olds smoke and break laws.

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