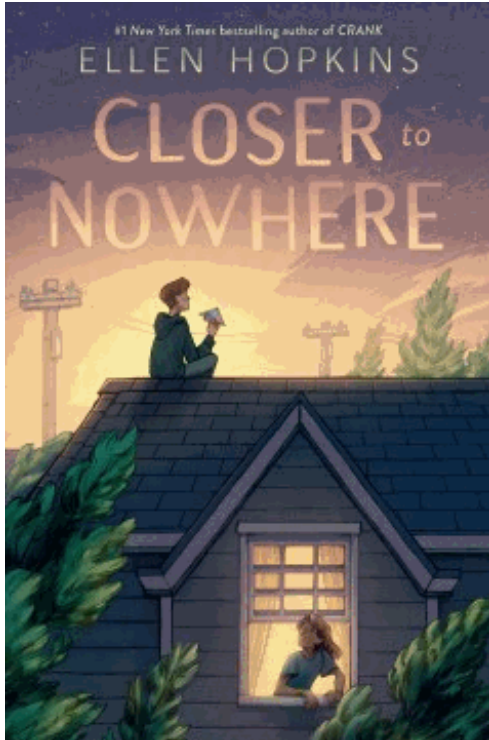


CLOSER TO NOWHERE



Young Adult

By Ellen Hopkins

ISBN:978-0-593-10861-1

Book Summary:

A twelve-year-old boy goes to live with his cousin's family and turns his cousin's world upside-down.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains violence including child abuse; alcohol and drug addiction

2/**5**

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
124	When Cal was little- like, three or four- his dad started using drugs.
125	<p>Mom nods. And a few times Cal tried to step in between them. David hit him, too.</p> <p>"No way!" Who hits little kids?</p> <p>Afraid so. And as David's addiction got worse, so did the violence.</p> <p>One night, he came home with a stolen gun.</p> <p>...When she insisted, he beat her pretty badly.</p>
126	But sometime after Caryn died, he started doing drugs again, and things got pretty rough for Cal.
129	<p>"...Did...did Aunt Caryn ever do drugs, too?"</p> <p>Mom hesitates, but then says, She experimented, but didn't like how they made her feel.</p>
180	<p>Mom and Dad fought. A lot. Sometimes things got physical shoving scratching hitting.</p> <p>I saw bloodied lips and noses purple welts and bruises.</p> <p>After one epic battle, Dad passed out. Mom hustled me to her car.</p> <p>...And then he lifted his right hand.</p> <p>In it was a gun.</p> <p>Pretty sure it was loaded.</p> <p>If he'd pulled the trigger, he would've killed Mom, and maybe me.</p>
183	This is true
348	"I mean, does she always drink that stuff?"
349	She asks what I know about alcoholism and I have to answer, "Not very much, except sometimes people die from it."
350	<p>Mom never got over what happened between my sister and her, and when Caryn passed away without them reconciling, she was devastated.</p> <p>Drinking can't change that, but it can make her forget how sad and lonely she is, at least temporarily.</p>
354	"Grandma's an alcoholic."
355	<p>I Know a Lot About Addiction</p> <p>Answer: More than any kid should.</p> <p>I know</p> <p>what it was like to put a blanket over my mom when she fell asleep on the couch before dinner.</p> <p>The stuff she drank was brown, not clear, but it smelled the same on her breath as Grandma's.</p> <p>Some people say alcohol can cause cancer. Which came first? That's the question.</p> <p>I know</p> <p>how it hurts to shrink back into a corner when my dad stormed in, eyes red and bulging.</p> <p>I was too little to understand his nervous pacing and ranting were symptoms of his drug use.</p>
356	<p>I know</p> <p>how it felt to go to the school nurse because my teacher noticed a suspicious bruise on my arm.</p>

Page	Content
	To have child protective services pay us a visit. To lie to the nice lady that I fell and hit a rock.
357	Turns out Dad's latest "job" was using a gun to rob people. The money he took all went for drugs.
380	<p>Three short bursts of fire alarm interrupt, followed by Hard lockdown; hard lockdown; hard lockdown. Definition of Panic: What Happens Next No. No way. Three "hard lockdowns" mean this is not a drill. We've done those lots of times. But this is different. Teachers, lock your doors and follow protocol.</p>
386	<p>Uncle Frank used drugs. Pretty soon, so did Dad. Sometimes they went on benders- long drug parties. They were having one of those and didn't want a kid around, so they locked me in the closet. Gave me a bucket to use for a toilet. I ate peanuts. Jerky. Water. To keep me quiet, they gave me cold medicine, which made me really sleepy.</p>