



Double Dutch (Aladdin Fiction)

By Sharon M. Draper

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secrets

Delia loves Double Dutch more than just about anything, and she's really good at it -- so good she and her teammates have a shot at winning the World Double Dutch Championships. Delia would die if she couldn't jump -- but Delia has a secret, and it could keep her off the team next year.

Delia's friend Randy has a secret too, one that has him lonely and scared. And while Delia and Randy struggle to keep their secrets, their school is abuzz with rumors about what malicious mischief the terrible Tolliver twins -- who just may have a secret of their own -- are planning.

Delia and Randy's secrets collide on what should be the happiest day of Delia's life, and the collision threatens to destroy their friendship. Why can't life be as easy for Delia as Double Dutch?

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Secrets, not all of them credible, abound among the eighth-grade protagonists of this disappointing novel. Delia has managed to hide her inability to read from her parents and teachers, but she doubts she can pass the proficiency test that will enable her to graduate to ninth grade and continue competing in Double Dutch jump rope. Randy, whose mother walked out several years ago, hasn't told anyone that his father, a long-distance truck driver, has been missing for weeks. And when twin tornadoes hit the school, it becomes apparent that the Tolliver twins, who dress entirely in black and terrorize their classmates, are actually sensitive fellows behind their intimidating facades. Overflowing with rambling conversations and extraneous details, Draper's (*Forged by Fire*) narrative is often awkward ("The huge gym was filled with crisply ironed T-shirts, frantic practice jumps in the halls and parking lot, and the electric excitement of competition and challenge"). Jump-by-jump descriptions of the Double Dutch championships may rescue this tale for diehard jump-rope fans. Others can skip it. Ages 11-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 6-8-Sharon Draper's novel (Atheneum, 2002) follows a brief time in the lives of middle school students who are training for a major double dutch competition. With this backdrop, the complex personal lives of several major characters are explored, such as Delia, who can't read; Randy, who's father is missing; Yolanda, who embellishes and outright lies to impress others; and the Tolliver twins, the enigmatic tough guys. Their lives intermingle and overlap daily in and out of school as they each try to discover themselves and reconcile their multitude of problems. The opening lines with the brief graphic violence against animals, and later references to a "stripper," should be noted. Despite the fast-paced setting of an urban middle school, and the biting, sarcastic banter of students, the audio format is slow going. There is an enormous amount of dialogue among protagonists, and most is mundane teenage conversation and tedious descriptive details. The use of expressions like, "Guess what, girl?," "Awesome!" and outdated references to "Barney re-runs," become boring with repetition. Combining this with the complexities of the subplots, listeners can easily lose track of the major story line. Actress Patricia R. Floyd can bring little to rescue this novel. While her diction is clear and her enthusiasm for the characters obvious, her stumble in Chapter 6 (Tape 2) and the pauses before "she said," "he said," add to the laborious feel of the dialogue. This book is better in its print format since readers can set a faster pace and skim over plodding text.

Tina Hudak, St. Bernard's School, Riverdale, MD

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From Booklist

Gr. 7-10. Eighth-grader Delia may be a star on a Cincinnati Double Dutch team, but she can't read. Thanks to friends, her excellent memory, and unwritten, extra-credit projects, she's managed to conceal her secret. Her sweet, thoughtful classmate Randy also has a secret--his father has disappeared, and Randy has been on his own for weeks. Twin students suspected of plotting against the school pose another worry. With so much going on in this novel, there are plenty of unanswered questions, and several dramatic contrivances wrap things up. But the exciting rope-jumping action is constant, and each story line explores a different side of fear. Draper raises provocative questions about mass hysteria and prejudice, especially in the students' reactions to the angry twins. And she sharply articulates how anxiety seeps in and overpowers "like smoke." Teens will like the high-spirited, authentic dialogue (including lots of "your mama" jokes), the honest look at tough issues, and the team workout scenes that show how sports can transform young lives. *Gillian Engberg*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Glenn Pryor:

The book Double Dutch (Aladdin Fiction) make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem with your subject. If you can make studying a book Double Dutch (Aladdin Fiction) for being your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like open up and read a reserve Double Dutch (Aladdin Fiction). Kinds of book are several. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this guide?

Fred Polak:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want sense happy read one together with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. The Double Dutch (Aladdin Fiction) is kind of book which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Pearl Minjares:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always try and and must have the spare time or they will get lot of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , whenever we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is actually Double Dutch (Aladdin Fiction).

Robert Hill:

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