



Hit and Run (Lurlene McDaniel)

By Lurlene McDaniel

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In this newly repackaged trade paper edition, *Hit and Run* explores moral and ethical issues, bringing to light the alarming increase in hit and run car accidents in this nation and the lives that are forever changed as a result.

It was an accident. But when the people involved don't come forward, doesn't it become a crime?

Hit and Run is the story of four high school teens whose lives intersect due to a tragic car accident. For better or worse, the choices each one decides to make cannot be reversed. Can they find the courage and strength to face the consequences of their choices, in order to find peace in their new realities?

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Editorial Review

About the Author

LURLENE MCDANIEL began writing inspirational novels about teenagers facing life-altering situations when her son was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. Her novels are hard-hitting and realistic, but also leave readers with inspiration and hope. Her books have received acclaim from readers, teachers, parents, and reviewers. Her bestselling novels include *Don't Die, My Love; Till Death Do Us Part; Hit and Run; Telling Christina Goodbye; True Love: Three Novels; and The End of Forever*. Lurlene McDaniel lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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1

Analise

Friday, October 21, 11:58 PM

I am floating in total darkness. Not floating like in water, but on a stream of air. Floating, trapped within a dark cloud . . . my eyes wide open. But there's no light, not even a glimmer, and I can't see. I hear nothing. I feel nothing. No pain. No brush of air against my skin. Not the limbs of my body. Not the beating of my heart. Not the sound of my blood rushing through my ears.

My heartbeat. My sight. My touch. Where are they? Where am I?

Who am I?

2

Laurie

Friday, October 21, 6:15 pm

"How many times are you going to change clothes tonight?"

I stop riffling through the contents of my pathetic closet and look over at Judie, my best friend. She's sitting on my bed eating potato chips, spilling salty crumbs all over my comforter.

"As many times as it takes to get it right," I tell her.

"I've seen at least four outfits that look good on you. Why not just eeny-meeny-miney-mo them and get over it? He's going to be here in forty-five minutes." She glances at my bedside clock. "And I still haven't done your hair."

I want to be patient with her, but how can I? She knows that Quentin Palmer--Quin to the entire city of Asheville, North Carolina--has asked me, Laurie Stark, out to a bash at some mountain estate. I think of what Dorothy said when meeting the Wizard of Oz. "I am Dorothy, the small and meek. . . ." Freshman girls like me don't get rushed by senior jocks like Quin. And yet, I was. He came right over to the cafeteria table where I was sitting with Judie two days ago and said, "You're Laurie, aren't you? Want to come to a party Friday

night?"

My mouth dropped open. I've worshipped him from afar since school started and now, just before school carnival, he was asking me on a date. Judie nudged me under the table. "This Friday?" Did my voice squeak?

"I'll pick you up at seven," Quin said.

"D-do you need directions?"

"I know where you live."

He gave me a smile that made my blood sizzle, but when he walked away, Judie said, "That's scary."

"What?" I could hardly speak and I was shaking. This happens when a god speaks to you.

"That he knows where you live," she said.

We picked up our trays and headed to the deposit window. I thought every eye in the cafeteria was looking at me because they'd seen Quin come up to my table and talk to me. I thought maybe Judie was jealous. "So then why did he ask me?"

"Because he's working his way through all the new freshman girls at school. It's October and he's up to the S's."

I felt a flare of temper. "That's mean."

"Cool off. I'm kidding. He asked because you're pretty." Judie flashed me a smile.

We've been friends since fifth grade. She's big-boned and round with boobs that need a double-D-cup bra. I'm the tall lanky type with blond hair and size C-cup boobs--okay, a high B. Judie doesn't date anybody. I've dated a few guys, but dumped them when they asked for benefits.

People wonder why we're friends, because we're different. I don't know, but ever since passing from Asheville Middle School to Asheville High, student population just shy of six hundred, we've navigated the wannabe waters of popularity. "With you steering the boat," Judie would say.

Now, with a date to a party with Quin, I see rocks ahead of our boat. But two days ago, I was walking on air. Quin asked me. Me!

When I tell Mom about my date with Quin, she practically does a cartwheel. She knows who Quin is. Everyone who reads the local paper and isn't mentally impaired knows. He's the star of our baseball team, the All-County and All-State team pitcher, member of Parade magazine's A-team, the number-one draft choice of coaches from Duke and North Carolina State and any number of colleges and universities across the country. Quin's hot in every way.

"Tell me how he asked you." Mom wants details, so I give them. Mostly to see her face light up. People say we look alike and I guess we do, but the similarity is only skin deep.

When she went to Asheville High, she was homecoming queen, Miss Student Body, prom queen . . . the list goes on. (My list is painfully short: cross-country team.) Everybody loved Lindsey Duvales, including my

dad, Denny Stark. They got married and had me, but the marriage didn't work out, so Dad left Asheville for Columbus, Ohio. Mom sells real estate and makes enough money to keep us both in trendy clothes and decent shoes.

Sometimes I'm sorry she can't go to high school in my place. She likes it all so much more than I do, and now that I've got a date with Quin, I feel more like Lindsey Duvales than Laurie Stark, which is an interesting feeling.

So now, when I'm standing in front of my closet, all my self-assurance goes out the window. Judie scoots off the bed and picks up three outfits scattered on the floor. Two still have the tags on them from when Mom brought them home. She likes shopping for me.

"What's wrong with this?" Judie holds up a green sweater and a plaid miniskirt. "It'll show off your long legs. You should go for it."

"Too Catholic-school girl."

"Then go with jeans and this sweater."

"I hate that sweater."

"How about these jeans?" Judie holds out a pair Mom just bought, with ragged knees and a hole in one thigh. She looks at the price tag and grimaces. "Why would you spend this much money on something from the thrift store?"

"They're brand-new," I tell her. I snatch the jeans and slide them over my legs, zip them up. They fit like a second skin.

"This sweater," Judie says, giving me a pink one that has a low V-neck and barely skims my waistband.

I try it on, stare at myself in the mirror. "You think so?"

"I think so."

Quin agrees. I see it on his face when I come down the stairs, and it makes my insides glow. Mom has him cornered in the living room and is bubbling with enthusiastic questions. I'm embarrassed, but he doesn't seem to mind. All I can think about is getting out of there.

"You kids have fun," Mom calls from the front door as we start down the walk to his car. I'm thankful she hasn't whipped out her camera.

"You two look alike," he says, opening the door for me.

"I've been told that before." I get in, stare out the window at my mother's figure backlit in the front doorway, where she's standing and waving. I want to sink into the upholstery.

Quin starts the engine. "Buckle up. I drive fast."

I do as I'm told, grateful for his blaring CD player. Now that the commotion is over, now that I'm riding into the dark hills beside Quin Palmer, it occurs to me that I don't know this guy and I have nothing to say to him.

I miss Lindsey Duvales. She'd know how to talk to him. Laurie Stark doesn't.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jordan Sampson:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era where everything reachable by match the internet and the resources inside can be true or not need people to be aware of each data they get. How people have to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Reading a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information specially this Hit and Run (Lurlene McDaniel) book because book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it everybody knows.

Kara Corbett:

The book untitled Hit and Run (Lurlene McDaniel) contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the woman idea with easy method. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read it. The book was published by famous author. The author gives you in the new period of time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice study.

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