



The Fever: A Novel

By Megan Abbott

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In this impossible-to-put-down "panic attack of a novel,"* a small-town high school becomes the breeding ground for a mysterious illness.

Deenie Nash is a diligent student with a close-knit family; her brother Eli is a hockey star and her father is a popular teacher. But when Deenie's best friend is struck by a terrifying, unexplained seizure in class, the Nashes' seeming stability dissolves into chaos. As rumors of a hazardous outbreak spread through school, and hysteria and contagion swell, a series of tightly held secrets emerges, threatening to unravel friendships, families, and the town's fragile sense of security.

A chilling story about guilt, family secrets, and the lethal power of desire, THE FEVER is "a potboiler in the truest, best sense" and "a great novel, full stop."**

*Jodi Picoult

***Slate*

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The Fever: A Novel By Megan Abbott Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, June 2014: Megan Abbott writes about the madness of adolescence better than anyone. She seems to understand teens' urgent rush to grow up, to try on adult masks and costumes and play adult games. But she also knows: in the big game of pretend, there are often grown-up consequences. In the spooky town of Dryden--"the cloudiest city in the state," we're told--high school girls are getting sick, one by one, seizure by seizure. Is the lake toxic? Is the drinking water poisoned? Are vaccinations to blame? Is it the sex? Paranoia begets fear and, fueled by texted whispers and internet rumors, a frenzy roils into a contagious hysteria. Characters' legs and hands shake. They feel a flutter in the chest. Their chins quiver. It's hard to breathe. "Don't you see?" says one parent. "It's just begun." The story of what's afflicting this tainted school is told through the entwined points of view of a divorced teacher, his fast-maturing daughter, and his stud hockey player son, all three tied in their own mysterious way to the source of the fever. The real fever here is the lust, hormones, jealousy, and fear of being a teenager. And high school is its breeding ground, the place that can mark us for life. As one teacher observes: "That's what high school does." *The Fever* is a brilliant and chilling tale of the bewildering age when everything--friendship, love, sex, revenge--feels "new and terrifying and significant." To survive it? It's heartbreaking. --*Neal Thompson*

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Following her brilliant, cheerleading-as-blood-sport *Dare Me* (2012), Abbott returns to high school for another disturbing drama. In an isolated northeastern town known for its miserable weather, Deenie and her best friends, Lise and Gabby, find themselves at the center of a mysterious epidemic that causes girls to—do what, exactly? The symptoms are puzzling. Lise seizes in class, and Gabby collapses onstage during an orchestra recital, leaving Deenie to wonder if she's next. Or is she a carrier? The affliction affects only girls, leaving Deenie's caring science-teacher father and her hockey-player brother feeling worried but utterly helpless. Despite texts and videos sent from hospital beds, information seems as scarce as in the Dark Ages, and rumors and misinformation fly: Is the cause HPV vaccinations? Or the water of the town's dead lake? Is it—a thought that lurks darkly in Deenie's mind—her recent loss of virginity? Once again, Abbott makes an unforgettable inquiry into the emotional lives of young people, this time balanced with parents' own fears and failings. It's also a powerful portrait of community, with interesting echoes of *The Crucible*: it's the twenty-first century, and, in many ways, we're still frightened villagers, terrified of the unknown. Abbott may be on her way to becoming a major writer. --Keir Graff

Review

"With *The Fever*, Megan Abbott has created a mesmerizing, modern portrait of teenage life today: Brutal crushes, competing allegiances and first-bloom sensuality, all magnified by the rush and crush of technology. *The Fever* holds true to its title: It's dark, disturbing, strangely beautiful and utterly unshakeable." *Gillian Flynn, author of Gone Girl*

"*The Fever* is a potboiler in the truest, best sense of that devalued word: Its ingredients are expertly combined, patiently agitated, and heated to an inexorable boil. But it's also a great novel, full stop, without any of the usual genre caveats, and I can think of no higher recommendation than that you'll want to read it twice: First insatiably, speeding through to find out just what's going to happen, and then again slowly, to savor the sharp, dare I say literary, insights about her characters that Abbott effortlessly scatters

throughout."? **Adam Sternbergh, *Slate***

"The book to beat...in the 'Is it the next *Gone Girl*?' sweepstakes.... [Megan Abbot has] exceptional gifts for making nerves jangle and skin crawl.... It's the book's constant throb of horror that keeps it gripping."? **Janet Maslin, *The New York Times***

"If the phenomena that led to the Salem Witch trials were to revisit the world today, it might very well look like the scenario in Megan Abbott's engrossing, disturbing, panic attack of a novel, *The Fever*. In a time when suicide and pregnancy pacts can go viral, this story of mass hysteria in a high school is not only completely plausible -- it's impossible to put down."? **Jodi Picoult, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Storyteller***

"No one understands the social dynamics of teenage girls better than Megan Abbott...settling into *The Fever*, one realizes that Abbott is setting a rhythm, one that's measured and paced with the brilliance of one of the best living mystery writers."? **Kevin Nguyen, *Grantland***

"This smart thriller about the dynamics of panic keeps you guessing till the last scene."? **Good Housekeeping**

"[Megan Abbott is] a unique talent with a signature style that gets stronger with every book. With its confident plotting and lyrical prose, *The Fever* may be her best novel yet."? **Los Angeles Times**

"Abbott is able to render the texture, ambivalence, and confusion of the inner life of a teen, coupling it with sparse, plain dialogue that highlights the disjunction between the way a teen experiences the world and how he or she can actually articulate that experience. And the plot! It's like a riptide! I was hooked by Page 4. Seriously, Page 4 - the end of the first, highly ambiguous, totally tantalizing mini-chapter that begins the book. I knew, four pages in, that I was ruined for the rest of the day . . . It was delicious."? **BuzzFeed**

"a chilling new novel set in the emotional world of teenagers...In many ways, the message of THE FEVER is about how these things--ambivalence about sex, insecurities about their appearance and navigating the intensity of female friendships--affect the girls and their families, and how a traumatized community stumbles through a crisis."? **Elizabeth Blair, *NPR***

"Stunning....Nothing should be taken at face value in this jealousy-and hormone-soaked world except that Abbott is certainly our very best guide."? **Kirkus (Starred Review)**

"*The Fever* sends chills. Megan Abbott's 'high school noir' is sensual and sinister...atmospheric and compelling...What sets Abbott apart from other mystery scribes is her evocative language. There is drama and a fast-moving narrative, but she skillfully weaves a mounting dread into the novel, as well as a claustrophobic sensuality. You feel as if you're in the heads of each of the teenagers in the fictional town of Dryden, but also privy to the inner life of the adults, as well."? **The Detroit News**

"*Dare Me* hurtles past the glitter and angst of high-school cheerleading, right to the bruising inner struggles of adolescence."? **New York Magazine**

"Make no mistake, this is no pulpy teenage tale: It's a very grown-up look at youth culture and how bad behavior can sometimes be redeemed by a couple of good decisions."? **Sara Nelson, *O, the Oprah Magazine***

"A heady tale of high-school drama with grown-up stakes...Abbott's rendering of the power-plays, rites of

bonding and twisted loyalties of teenage girls is pitch-perfect. As much as *Dare Me* is page-turning murder mystery, it is also an ode to the dark side of girlhood friendship and all its twisted loyalties."?Mythili Rao, *The Daily Beast*

"Megan Abbott has cornered the 'dark desires of teenage girls' territory too, with *Dare Me*."?Sarah Weinman, *Salon*

"Megan Abbott has been called the Queen of Noir...Her new novel, *Dare Me*, is something of a switch for Abbott in that it's about a cheerleading squad, though - trust us - it's still quite hard-boiled...A contemporary novel about a cheerleading squad that somehow manages to be as dark and sinister as any of Abbott's fiction."?Sherryl Connely, *New York Daily News*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Theresa Gayle:

The experience that you get from *The Fever: A Novel* is a more deep you rooting the information that hide in the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but *The Fever: A Novel* giving you excitement feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood through anyone who read that because the author of this book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this particular *The Fever: A Novel* instantly.

Augustine Klotz:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book could be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the book untitled *The Fever: A Novel* can be excellent book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Willie Collins:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day every day to reading a guide. The book *The Fever: A Novel* it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

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