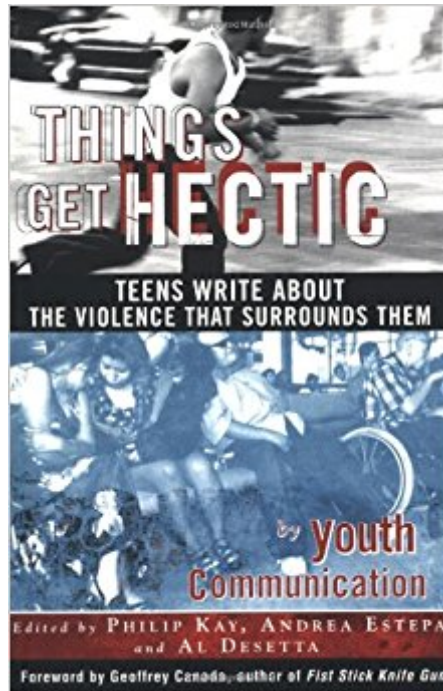




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Things Get Hectic: Teens Write About The Violence That Surrounds Them



Synopsis

Covering everything from sexual abuse to gangsta rap, from the decision to seek revenge in "the hood" to combat in the Persian Gulf War, *Things Get Hectic* offers a kid's-eye view of a world infinitely more terrifying than the one most of us grew up in. Here is a book that chronicles with vivid immediacy the violence young people are subjected to in their homes and neighborhoods; the sudden, wrenching loss they experience when friends and loved ones are taken from them; and their daily struggles to fashion a sane response to a world gone completely mad. Each piece in the collection is full of insight into the ways different forms of violence are learned, endured, resisted, and ultimately overcome. *Things Get Hectic* will let teen readers know that they aren't alone and will help them cope with their own sense of menace, loss, and rage. The book also offers teachers and parents a unique opportunity to listen while kids share their most urgent concerns.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Powerful teen writings that invite the reader into a world where violence is a part of everyday life. Often raw and brutal, these essays, focusing on war, terrorism, abuse, gangs and other kinds of violence, provide a moving testimony to the resilience of youth in the midst of mayhem. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A startling series of testimonies about urban violence from New York City teens. These first-person essays on sociological issues first appeared in *New Youth Connection*, a newspaper for and by

students of New York City high schools. By choosing the best essays on the theme of violence, the editors have compiled a book more eloquent than a thousand police reports. For the writers live in housing projects; they know violence all too well. So why do kids kill each other? In their own words, "Kids nowadays are ready to kill . . . over the dumbest things." You'll hear talk of trafficking in gold chains--one young man is stabbed for a good fake. Yet the cause of violence is rarely just material. Instead, it erupts when one gets dissed (disrespected) too often in a life where to hold onto a shred of dignity is rare. To their credit, two of the teenage boys here write about why they will not pack a pistol: because they've seen innocent loved ones get killed, and because it gives the owner a dangerously distorted sense of power. While all the killing seems to involve young men who treat life "like a reset button in a video game," some of the most abused victims are the young women in their lives--or, in one case, a homosexual young man who cannot take part in their bad-mustached, bad-mouthed behavior. Among the women, one Chinese girl, not dressed provocatively enough to earn the usual stream of catcalls from the corner full of unemployed truants, is angry enough to say, after a bottle is thrown at her, that it's as though a female in the city "has a bullseye on her body." Unheard voices crying for a hearing. -- Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

If you have ever experienced violence in any form, as you read this book you will realize that you are not alone. The thoughts that struck your head when violence presented itself upon your life are guaranteed to be similar to these teenagers. It's down to earth, not toned down in any way. You feel the pain, frustration and anger of these kids. Makes you wonder what you can do for them.

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