



Boys Don't Cry

Malorie Blackman

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This is the explosively page-turning new novel for teenagers from the author of the award-winning "Noughts and Crosses" sequence. You're about to receive your A-level results and then a future of university and journalism awaits. But the day they're due to arrive your old girlfriend Melanie turns up unexpectedly ...with a baby ...You assume Melanie's helping a friend, until she nips out to buy some essentials, leaving you literally holding the baby ...Malorie's dramatic new novel will keep you on the edge of your seat right to the final page.

Boys Don't Cry Details

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From Reader Review Boys Don't Cry for online ebook

Jo says

“How could ten forgettable minutes of not much turn both our lives inside out and upside down like this?”

Initial Final Page Thoughts.

Yay!

High Points.

Dante. Adam and his story. Let's hear it for the boys! Daddies. Different perspectives. Acceptance. Sleepless nights. Walks in the park. Taking responsibilities. Hiccupping hearts. *"Just bringing up wind."* Living life out loud.

Low Points.

I would really have loved to see more of the social implications that Dante faced. What *was* covered- his friend's reactions, the social workers, the exchange in the doctor's surgery- was done incredibly well but I just think having a bit more of an insight into those side of things would have made it even more realistic than it was. Sometimes I felt like these things were overlooked for the bigger picture and eclipsed by other issues that feature later on in the story.

Completely Unrelated Point

Re: The Cover.

I didn't know Bruce Springsteen was starting his own baby-sitting club....

Hero.

First up, I just have to say how refreshing it was to read a book about teenage pregnancy from the boy's perspective. Whether it's on TV, in books or even in the news, people assume that the dads always do a runner. I'm not saying it *doesn't* happen, but it doesn't *always* happen. The dads who stick around never seemed to get mentioned and they're all painted with the same brush, so it was really great to read a story from a perspective that gets ignored too often.

Anyway...

Oh Dante, you poor little lamb.

If I had found out that I'd had a child on the day I got my A-Level results (not *entirely* sure how that would've worked) I would have been a jibbering wreck. And you should've seen me sans unexpected child; it wasn't pretty, I assure you.

What I loved most about the character of Dante was that he went through a true learning curve and not just in how to look after an eleven month year old girl. This book is a crash course in learning to be selfless, learning to be compassionate, learning that life doesn't always go as planned and learning to take responsibility for your own actions.

In the hands of another author, this story could have stumbled blindly into the preachy trap, but it never did. I never felt like I was being lectured or that she was making a political statement about the levels of teenage pregnancy in modern day Britain.

It's always so satisfying to see a character start off a bit unlikeable and completely useless and watch as they mature and learn from their mistakes with little to no whinging. I hate characters who start off perfect and end just as perfect, where's the fun in that?

Also, Dante's a brilliant big brother. But I'm not saying anything else about *that* for fear I will cry The Ugly

Cry.

Family.

I have so much love for this lot. I love how they interacted because it felt natural and funny without being forced. They had their problems and their skeletons in their closets but you could tell that they all really cared for each other and it was really special to read.

Also, Aunt Jackie was a firecracker.

Theme Tune.

....

I have to do it and I'm not even sorry.

If a song mentions the author then it's pretty much a given it's going to be the theme tune, right?

Written in the Stars by Tinie Tempah ft Eric Turner.

Also, I may or may not have developed some kind of knee-jerk reaction that whenever I say 'Malorie Blackman' out loud, I have to follow it immediately with "Where the hell's all the sanity at? Damn."

Because I'm a ridiculous person.

But anyway, I don't care because I have a lot of time for Mr Tempah and his crazy sun protectors.

Also, this one is for Adam.

Survive It by Ghostpoet.

I know

Times are hard

You're against the wall, and

Your head is down, but

I think

You'll get there soon

Just have a little faith, mate

It'll turn out great.

Sadness Scale.

9/10.

Gosh.

I think a lot of people will be put off from reading this book because it seems like it could either be an "Issue Book" or full of LOLZ and so many hilarious stories that Selleck, Danson and Guttenburg will be hammering on your door so they can get in on the action.

And even though it *does* deal with issues and it is full of LOLZ and hilarious stories, it's so much deeper than that.

I can't tell you the reason why this book is getting such a high sadness scale (spoilers and all) but I had a lump in my throat for most of the second half. *sob*

In this book, Ms Blackman has created a story that is just as much about being male in modern day Britain, what it takes to be masculine, taking responsibility for your actions, family and, above all, staying true to yourself.

Recommended For.

People are looking for a book that offers a different and fascinating perspective on an, arguably, overdone subject. People are looking for a book where the boys take over. People who are reluctant to take their Beyonce posters down. People who want to live their life out loud.

You can read this review and lots of other exciting things on my blog [here](#).

Istefani Marcos says

Adorável!

Estou tão apaixonada pelo livro que o que mais quero agora é abraçar todos os personagens, principalmente o papai Dante.

O plot do livro é muito diferente, nunca havia lido nada igual. Geralmente o que a gente tem nesse universo literário é o cara dando no pé e deixando a mocinha com um filho para criar. Aqui temos a situação contrária. O Dante, aos 17 anos, fica responsável pela filha, já que a mãe da bebê some.

Gostei muito mesmo do livro, foi incrível ver a transformação do Dante de adolescente irresponsável para um super pai. Os personagens secundários também são muito bem construídos. É um livro sem romance, sem drama. Apenas mostrando a realidade de muitos jovens que têm que abrir mão de seus sonhos para cuidar de filhos não planejados.

Recomendo!

Laura V. says

"A veces las cosas que estás seguro de no querer se convierten en las que más necesitas en este mundo."

A veces, MUY de vez en cuando, me gusta leer este tipo de novelas para recordarme que no siempre hay finales felices con lluvia de arcoiris y ponis voladores.

"¿Pensaba que miraría hacia abajo y decidiría que mover un tirón de hamburguesas para el resto de mi vida sería un pequeño precio que debía pagar por tener esta *cosa* en mi vida? ¿Pensó que el que yo la sostuviera en mis brazos iba a hacer que de repente me diera cuenta de lo mucho que la amaba?"

Dante *pierde* su perfecta vida planeada, la tarde en que Mel lo deja con un bebé en brazos y un *"Tú eres su padre, yo no puedo hacerme cargo"*. Él tiene que procesar en ese suspiro de tiempo entre la noticia y su posterior partida que *ha sido padre*, que la niña que ahora grita en sus brazos es suya y que, aunque quiera negarlo, ya *nada volverá a hacer lo mismo*. Mel ha tenido casi dos años para hacerse a la idea, él tiene un *suspiro*, y lo único que quiere es meter la cabeza bajo la almohada y rogar porque todo haya sido una pesadilla.

**"-Dante, te ves cansado.
-Lo estoy, -admití.
-Acostúmbrate a estarlo."**

Nunca pensé que leería un POV de un padre soltero *semi* adolescente. No creí que tal cosa fuera posible. Ver a este chico lidiar con sus miedos (y tiene muchos), con sus inseguridades (y cada día son más), con una niña que crece a cada instante, y que roba su corazón a cada minuto, ver que su vida ya no es suya, es de ambos, que ahora le *pertenece* a Emma, es conmovedor.

"Pero aún así, la vida era algo que estaba pasándole a otras personas. La mía había sido puesta en espera. Pero yo tenía a Emma."

Un personaje del que me hubiera gustado leer más en este libro es Adam, sufrí un poco con él, pero quiero saber *más* de él.

El final me gustó bastante, el hecho de que no hay soluciones mágicas, que todo no puede arreglarse de la noche a la mañana, que no hay un *sueño americano del padre soltero* al que aspirar, Dante no la tendrá fácil, ni con Emma al año, ni a los dos, ni cuando cumpla treinta. Emma es un *para siempre* en su vida.

Por cierto, siento mucho que Mel se sintiera obligada a dejar a Emma con él. Sé que la quería. Sé que volverá por ella (leí la sinopsis del próximo libro). Pero Emma es su hija, y por mucho que Dante sienta derecho sobre ella, no pasó ni tiene idea del esfuerzo que tuvo que hacer Mel para conservarla el tiempo que estuvieron juntas. Ojalá lleguen un acuerdo para ambos con respecto a la niña.

Espero no estar defendiéndola de gusto. Pero es que no creo que por muy *irresponsable* que haya sido Mel, la haya abandonado de buen modo. De ser así se la hubiera dado cuando Emma, no era más que una molestia.

De nuevo, espero no estar equivocándome con ella.

julieta says

It was sweet book, much better than the other book I had read by Malorie Blackman which I had some issues with.

I liked that we had Adam's POV and his story because otherwise the book would have been much gloomier. Although Adam was a "happy" character and then all this shit happened to him but Dante's POV got a bit brighter as he got to get comfortable with the situation.

I was expecting a big dramatic ending where Melanie comes back and they decide Emma's future but this was an open ending that leaves you with a lot of questions of their future.

Muffinsandbooks says

Une superbe lecture ! C'était émouvant et touchant et les sujets abordés sont vraiment importants. J'ai tout aimé dans ce livre, aussi bien le style que les personnages et leur évolution. C'est mon deuxième roman de Malorie Blackman et j'ai hâte d'en découvrir d'autres !

Amy (Turn the Page) says

I am a huge fan of Malorie Blackman and advocator of her work ever since I first read Noughts and Crosses many years ago. Not only does Blackman create extremely well written books with relatable characters, but she also tackles difficult, sometimes controversial, subjects for YA literature, in an honest and thought provoking way. Boy's Don't Cry is a powerful and unexpected novel. I couldn't put it down and ended up reading through until 5 in the morning, and then I couldn't sleep for thinking about it.

Boys Don't Cry is told from two points of view, Dantes' and Adams' – to begin with the reason for this is unclear and though I liked Adam's upbeat narrative in contrast to Dante's, I couldn't figure out why we were switching between the two. This lasted for about 70 pages and from then on I was hooked. I hadn't realised when I started reading Boys Don't Cry that this was a book about much, much, more than just teenage parenthood – Blackman has blended together two stories that deal with two very different topics. I'm not going to spoil it for anyone by telling you everything this one book manages to cover, and cover well. I will say that though, that while I loved both stories, it was Adam I grew particularly attached to as a character, and it was his voice and his journey that struck me the hardest and stayed with me long after I had finished reading it.

Boys Don't Cry takes a unique look at being a teenage parent, as it is told from the boys point of view. I have to applaud Blackman for choosing to do this as it is a topic that young male readers should be able to read about and because too often (in life and in books) the father is either forgotten, or considered less important in a child's life. Then there is the stereotype that if anyone will walk away, it will be the father. In typical fashion, Blackman disputes all these assumptions (and more) in Boy's Con't Cry. She is an author you can depend upon to challenge the every day stereotypes all around us – her writing makes you think and I love her for it.

A few scenes that stood out for me were when Dante takes his daughter out for the first time and has to deal with strangers' prejudices and judgement once they learn Emma is his. I see and hear people dismissing young parents all the time, always assuming they are lazy and exploiting the benefit system. By experiencing this type of public reaction with Dante, Blackman really hits home just how hurtful and wrong it is to judge people without knowing them – reminding us that just because someone is a young parent – doesn't mean they are a bad one.

Though Boys Don't Cry focuses on the prejudices young dads receive in our society, here Blackman briefly touches on how young mothers are looked down on and treated by society as well – you can almost see the word 'slut' forming in this woman's mind as she looks at Collette. It is a sharp reminder not to judge Melanie too harshly for running out (another stereotype – it is considered pretty normal for the father to leave, but unforgivable if the mother does), as this is doubtless what she would of dealt over and over again, on her alone, for the past 18 months.

Blackman also writes some fantastic scenes surrounding the local social worker. We immediately feel as defensive towards her as Dante does and assume she is not only a busybody poking her nose in but also that she is out to trick Dante and wants to take Emma away from him. Why do we automatically feel this way? It

seems not a day can go by without the papers reporting something derogatory about social workers. I loved that as we, and Dante, got to know her a little better, we see that this woman only wants the best for Emma and is, in reality, there to help Dante keep his daughter. It was great, for once, to see a social worker portrayed as someone who cares, who has a difficult, at times impossible, job, and who has to deal with an unfair reputation. I think society in general forgets what an incredibly hard and incredibly amazing job these people can, and do, do. Once again we have another character who, in their own way, has to fight against society's opinion of them, a character who has been judged unfairly; prompting the reader to confront their own reactions and their own prejudices as they read.

Watching Dante fall in love with his daughter is heartwarming without being overly sentimental – the tone in this book is just right to appeal to young male and female readers. What's so great about *Boys Don't Cry* is that it isn't a cute story. It deals with the harsh reality of life as a teenage parent and doesn't shy away from difficult and, at times, shocking truths. Dante doesn't love his daughter immediately, or choose her above his own desires – it is hard, he has to make many sacrifices and deal with a lot of pressure from everyone around him. He comes close to breaking down and almost hits Emma – a feeling/moment I'm sure a lot of stressed out parents can relate to, but one that no one really talks about. We come to understand that coming close to snapping doesn't make Dante a bad person, but walking away from the situation and asking for help does make him a good father. Throughout there is a lovely family dynamic and I enjoyed reading how certain events bring this family closer together and how they come out all the more stronger for it.

If Dante's story is touching, Adam's story is hard-hitting and heartbreaking. Already a strong piece of fiction, this is what made *Boys Don't Cry* unforgettable for me. Both Adam and Dante are ostracized by society but for very different reasons and watching them deal with that, and reading about what happens them, is both upsetting and uplifting – particularly in Adam's case. I loved his character from the start.

SPOILER

It was refreshing to read about a character who is unashamed of his sexuality and Blackman makes a vitally important point that some younger readers may not yet understand: that Adam doesn't choose to be gay, it is who he is and more importantly, he is happy with who he is.

END OF SPOILER

What made this novel so brilliant for me were the characters. All of them, even the secondary characters, felt very real – we can identify with them. Reading this story and experiencing things from a different point of view makes us question our own opinions and prejudices. *Boys Don't Cry* tackles many important subjects. It shows us the importance of understanding, compassion and acceptance – and the power of words. The courage to be yourself and to confront ignorance and hatred in all its forms. A stunning book that every one should pick up, regardless of age or gender – because I think you will learn something about yourself and others by the end of it. Beautiful story, beautiful characters and beautiful narration. And yes – it made me cry.

Yousra & Books says

This book was soooooo goooooood!!!

Review to come...

Irina Villacis says

reto L-I-B-R-O-S
grupo lecturas conjuntas

8.c. Leer un libro cuyo título o primer apellido del autor empiece por la letra “B”.

ANTES DE LA LECTURA

llevo este libro esperandome desde hace mucho tiempo como 5 o 4 años . aunque su trama me atraia no veia momento y aveces hasta me olvidaba que lo tenia. esperaba algo entretenido no sé . algún hombre de edad media que tenia unas dos o 3 novias y que un dia vino diciendome toma a tu bebé.

DURANTE LA LECTURA

Me ha parecido bien entretenido. Dante es un chico de 17 años menor de edad que tiene sueños y aspiraciones. es una persona centrada en sus asuntos pero no tan centrada porque un dia tuvo un desliz con su novia. la primera vez de ambos teniendo sexo. la historia inicia con que Mel le deja a Dante a su hija de un año y medio o un año con ocho meses. resulta que Dante vive junto a su hermano ADAM un chico parecido y a la vez diferente a su hermano Dante . y el padre de ambos. un hombre que se ve maduro por momentos y joven por otros (todavia no llega a los 40) .

Emma es una niña que de tan joven edad me hace estar emocionada por vivir.

Al finalizar la lectura

la historia mas que tratarse del cuidado de Emma se trata de las relaciones familiares. antes de amar a alguien debes amarte a ti mismo. hermano con hermano. hijos con sus padres incluso la tia metiche también es amor. sucede cosas fuertes con la familia de Dante. no tiene un final feliz pero para mi es tan realista y me gustó como se llegó a ese punto ya que Dante los dos primeros dias le molestaba su hija pero al tercer dia la amaba. la amaba y aprendió amar-reconocer que siempre ha amado a los demás .

Aly (Fantasy4eva) says

After reading NOUGHTS AND CROSSES, the author quickly became one for me to look out for. So I was thrilled to receive this book.

It was freaking awesome.

Just imagine. A 17 year old boy (Dante) that has his life all planned out. He is just about to receive his A Level results and is well on his way to University to study Journalism. But then your ex girlfriend pops up. She has a baby. She claims this baby is your baby. Goes out for a few minutes, promising to return. She never comes back.

I was a little gob-smacked when it happened. Of course the synopsis gives it away but it's baffling nevertheless.

In the midst of all this there are family problems. His mother passed away and his father has never quite been the same. He doesn't have much of a relationship with either of his sons and struggles to show emotion - which really pulls a strain on the whole family dynamic. You then have his brother Adam. A young boy that has to live with his family denial every day. With his family turning a blind eye to what he is, and by him getting bullied by his big brother, Dante's friends, things are really taking their toll on him.

You then have Dante, this boy, who struggles with the anger, guilt and confusion of a baby he never wanted or planned. You watch on as the anger resides and he starts to worry about how he can be a better father. This transition is remarkable. I also really loved how his father was a little harsh towards him. He didn't sugar-coat things. He let him have it. He explained that this child is his, therefore his responsibility and making sacrifices are one of the many things that he will have to do.

It's a thought - provoking read, a learning experience and an eye opener - quite inspiring also. BOY'S DON'T CRY is definitely a novel that all of us can learn from.

Zorana says

This is EXACTLY the book I needed after Mockingjay!!!

It was SO GOOD! You clearly need to read it guys. Boys and girls.
It's a pretty light written contemporary but dealing with hard themes which is amazing.
Malorie Blackman is so talented and funny this was just a great read!

It's written in Dante and Adam's point of view (more of Dante's). They are brothers, and the story begins with Dante waiting for the mailguy to come and give him his uni admission letter, and once the bell rings he opens the door and see his ex girlfriend Melanie standing in front of him with a baby.

And this is how his whole life just changed from A to Z.

Oh my days it was awesome. I love Tyler the father and Jackie the auntie, Adam is such a brother and Dante is fabulous like why don't we have some Dante around here :(and Emma of course <3
It's clearly dealing with parenthood when you are young, and when you have to take care of 2 boys after your wife's death but also homosexuality!
I think there isn't any slow parts at all. First because the chapters are pretty short (there is like 49 chapters) and that's what I personally love about a book! Short chapters are life when they are well written.
The characters were fantastic even the bad ones (like the woman at the grocery store and Colette who's kind of a bitch but you understand why she's like this)
I cried like 4 times just because of some simple moments. When Emma grab Adam to kiss him and just hug him or when Bridgeman daddy tell Dante that he loves him and some simple family stuffs like this.
I'm emotional and I think we could all be while reading it because family is the main topic of this book actually.

You all need to read this, It's really funny and so cleverly written, I swear!

Now I need to give this book back to the library but I so don't want to :(that's why I'm gonna order it for myself because this is definitely one of my 2014 favourites and I need it to be on my shelf!!

I'm definitely going to read Noughts and Crosses trilogy by this author too.

5/5 stars for me It totally worth it!!

Liam Owens says

I read this book as I'm researching how modern masculinity is represented in contemporary teen fiction as part of my Masters degree in Children's Literature. This is the first book I've read by Malorie Blackman, though I had pretty high expectations as I know she's a celebrated author who has received considerable recognition for her contributions to children's fiction.

In short, I thought this was a fantastic book. Teenage pregnancy isn't exactly a new topic in YA, but the decision to approach this issue from a male perspective was, I thought, refreshing. When we think of teen fathers, we automatically assume their parenting is inadequate and that they aren't able to raise a child as well as a mother. The book plays on these stereotypes - as well as other assumptions surrounding masculinity - and does an excellent job exposing just how superficial and unfounded they are. It also raises some interesting questions about a father's rights, some of which I felt could have been explored in more depth (for example, the scene towards the end of the novel where Dante reveals he's terrified that Melanie might come back and take Emma away from him and how that won't be a problem because she's her mother).

Whilst we follow Dante as he comes to terms with fatherhood, we also see life through the eyes of his younger brother, Adam, who is openly gay but has a difficult time trying to convince his family and friends to accept his sexuality. I found Adam's narrative to be just as interesting as Dante's, and I thought the two contrasting storylines did a good job of interrogating what it means to be male from two different perspectives. Adam's storyline takes a considerably darker turn towards the end of the novel (which I won't go into because of spoilers), but I felt it did an excellent job of exploring the inner-struggle of teenage boys who don't seem to conform to conventional standards of masculinity.

My only criticism is that the writing was a little simplistic at times, which makes me think this book probably leans towards the younger end of the YA spectrum. I also found some of the plot twists a little predictable, but this is probably because I've read quite a few novels that centre on gay and/or non-stereotypically male protagonists.

Favourite line: "Boys don't cry, but real men do."

Liz* Fashionably Late says

My sister is reading this.

If I find sexy time scenes here, she's gonna hear it from me...

Ana Banda says

PRECIOSO! :)

Wow! cuando leí la sinopsis esperaba a un tipo de 30 años mujeriego pero ¡Oh Sorpresa! Nada que ver! Dante representa al típico chavo que no tiene idea sobre lo que implica ser papá y que en el día a día con su bebé van dándose cuenta de lo maravilloso que es! Me encantó la forma en la que se volvió gracias a Emma; más maduro; un hombre real!

Adam mi vida; no es el único que ha pasado por esas cosas!): Malditos ignorantes -.-

Emma es una belleza de niña! amé cuando ya hablaba :3 aw quiero una bebé así de lista, y lo que es mas maravilloso es que se convirtió en la unión de esa familia :))

Libro gracioso; impactante & con una enseñanza muy grande! :)

Anna says

What an amazing read! I still can't keep my mind out of it.

I am still bemused that as much as I want to tell the tale I'll try to keep it super vague and not let you miss all the action.

BOYS DON'T CRY is, as the last time I checked, the first book I read about young, single parent/s. Dante is just your 17-year-old dreamer, achiever, and typical teenager who parties and went out with friends. But then in the middle of the biggest moment he's been waiting to turn up in life, he was startled to know that he became a father. And so, the story goes on...

As I read, I was so sad and so happy at the same time. The characters, especially Dante, Adam, Dad, Aunt Jackie, and Emma are so very likable. I love how everyone of them are flawed in their own way and that whatever they want to do or what they want to be, they held to that with pride. I realized it is never easy raising a child but, heck even thinking of taking care of one is hard. But life's little surprises makes it more fun and exciting that it'll be part of your life that you don't want to be apart from it. That was what this book has taught me. Dante had never thought what has come his way with Emma, but he's was trying his best to cope, care and nurture her and really let her feel that she's his own. It's actually made me tear everytime he regards Emma as "my daughter", so cute! Just when you thought a family will never have a chance on a harmonious, happy life since the loss of someone very special, think of it as "You lose some, you win some." And on Dante's case, they lost their mother over her death but they were rewarded with a very lovely, beautiful angel that turns their life upside down and makes their world go round.

The characters relationship to one another is very touching. How they are very concerned with one another it make me cry every time. I wish my big brother would be like that! I just realized that Emma is the only female in the household full of men. And I mean men in physicality, if you know what I mean. :) She's the rose among the thorns, the moon among the stars, the light in the dark (yeah, I should probably stop) :)

I really liked this one, scratch that, I love this one. I love how real and relatable they are that proves us

nobody is perfect. I especially love the ending and that's how ending should be. They left you with your imagination to go wild and wild as want it to be. The verdict is it'll turn out great in the latter.

P.S. I thought I won't like that much but ended up loving it. ?

xx

Agnès says

Tellement émouvant cette histoire! J'ai adoré! J'avoue avoir eu plusieurs fois les larmes aux yeux et Emma est tellement adorable! J'ai adoré le personnage d'Adam. Ainsi que toute la famille en réalité.
