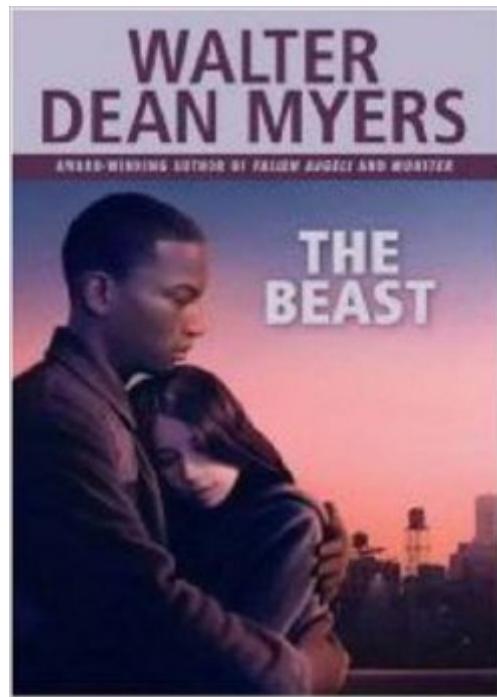


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# The Beast



## **Synopsis**

An exciting, eye-catching repackage of acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers' bestselling paperbacks, to coincide with the publication of SUNRISE OVER FALLUJA in hardcover. Seventeen-year-old Anthony "Spoon" Witherspoon is returning to Harlem after seven months at an exclusive prep school. He never wanted to leave the city in the first place--especially not to walk the hallowed halls of a mostly white New England school. But now that Spoon is back home, he realizes how much he's come to rely on his prep-school friends and routine. And the one thing he's looking forward to most--seeing his girlfriend, Gabi--brings him the greatest shock. When he left, Gabi was a vibrant young poet. Now she's a thin, wasted drug addict. Can Spoon help her find her way again?

## **Book Information**

Mass Market Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks (May 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439368421

ISBN-13: 978-0439368421

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ  [See all reviewsÂ  \(18 customer reviews\)](#)

Best Sellers Rank: #617,738 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #110 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs #244 inÂ  Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Drugs & Alcohol Abuse #911 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Book ReviewTitle: The Beast Author: Walter D. Myers ISBN: 0-06-440731-4 Returning To These Mean Streets Have you ever went away and then came back to a place that you know so well but are so confused about it all? Or had someone that you were really close to do the most self destructive thing? When I first wanted to read this book it was right after my teacher Mrs. Lyons gave her book talk about it. When she read some parts from it I automatically fell in love with it. This book is about a guy named Anthony Spoon who went away to boarding school and came back to

Harlem, a place that he was raised that wasn't so bad when he left but was so chaotic when he returned. He comes home from school to be a mentor and to be confused about the relationship between him and his girlfriend Gabi. Gabi was a nice poet who Anthony fell in love with before he left to school. He thought she had it all. Brains, beauty, and street smarts. But just like most people she got sucked into the game of life and got rapped up in the mean streets. I think that this book was a spectacular book. It talked about the real things that go on in life and that's the kind of books that I like to read. Although I didn't quite agree with choices that Anthony made it was still a great joy to read this. I feel that if Anthony would stay with someone it should be Chanelle (another character in the book that he tends to lust about). I also don't feel that the ending of the book fit the criteria of the book. I thought that it would be a real eye opener or a great cliff hanger. Some things to know about the author Walter Dean Myers are: he was the first winner of the Michael L.

I finished this book yesterday, but had to give myself some time to think about it before writing anything down. There's a lot to say when you come across a book like this, the questions is always what can I say that will make other people want to read it? Of course there's the plot. A kid who grew up in Harlem goes to a private boarding school, only to come back over Christmas break and find everything has changed. His girlfriend is addicted to heroin, her younger brother is messing around in gangs, his friends have dropped out of high school. Suddenly he feels like an outsider in a place he has always considered his own. His territory. Where does he fit in now? Definitely not with the rich kids at his school, but not in the hood anymore either. He feels completely lost. For me, the most striking this was the language used to describe life in the hood. The poetry the author uses is extraordinary, but without making the spoken words cheesy or out of place. The main character describes everything around him, his sense of isolation, the flow of life around him, all these things with such accuracy that it's impossible not to relate to him even though I've lived in an upper middle class neighborhood my entire life. Maybe the most interesting thing (at least to me, the nerdy English major) is that the entire story takes place in about two weeks. It's not a conventional novel about drug abuse, there's no story of spiraling down, getting caught, trying to pick yourself back up. You only hear about that secondhand from his girlfriend, and again in a very poetic way. Instantly you get this sense of time flying by, of being out of control as things rush past and you racing to figure out how to deal with everything that's happening. I loved it.

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