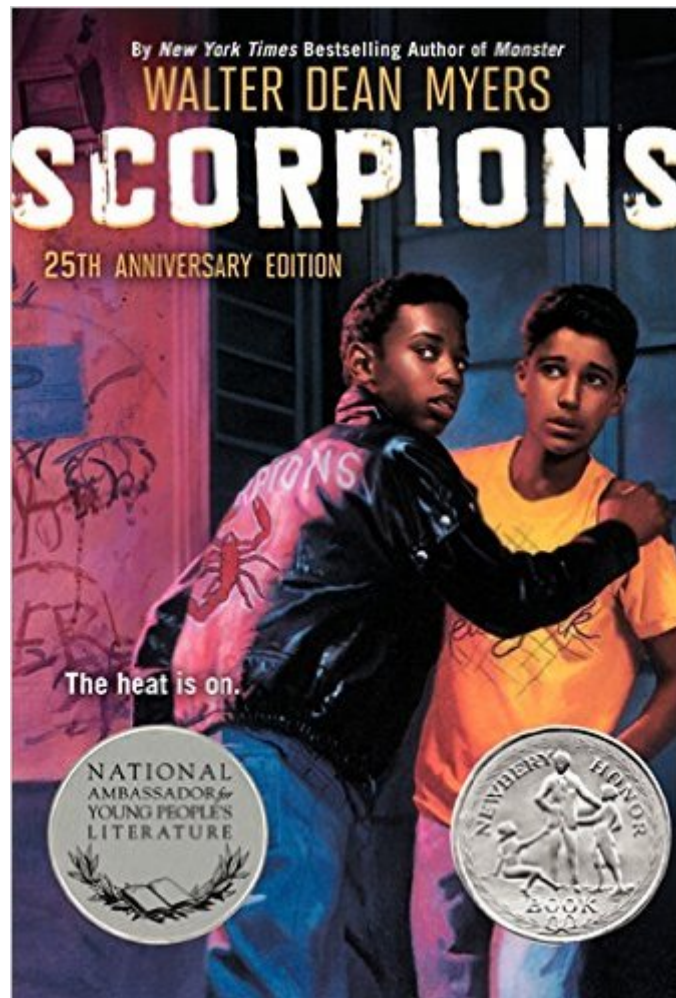


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# Scorpions, 25th Anniversary Edition



## Synopsis

Scorpions, a Newbery Honor Book by National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Walter Dean Myers, is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary! When it was first published in 1988, Scorpions amazed readers. It continues to do so today. This special twenty-fifth anniversary edition contains the original Scorpions novel, plus an extra Q&A with New York Times bestselling author Walter Dean Myers including questions about juvenile detention facilities, gang life today, and friendship. Also included are a sneak peek at Kick, by Walter Dean Myers and Ross Workman, and an excerpt from Myers's New York Times bestselling novel Monster!

## Book Information

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Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (168 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #196,652 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Peer Pressure #134 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Violence #189 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Law & Crime

## Customer Reviews

Scorpions, a book about a gang. Very true to life. It really makes you think about the society today. Drive-by shootings, drugs, sexual harrassment, mostly by gangs. In this book, it really makes you think about these gangs and the dangers of being involved with them. That's what happened to Jamal, isn't it? This is a very sad story about a poor family who is just kind of having to eke out on the edge. Jamal's brother is in jail, and he wants Jamal to take over his gang. The problem is, the whole gang's whacko. This story is very well-written, and you can actually feel Jamal's fear and his sadness. This book is excellent, and I reccomend it to anyone who likes read.

Gangs, violence, guns, drugs, and poverty are just some of the topics that other sugar-coated books steer clear of. Walter Dean Myers, however, is a risk-taker and isn't afraid to expose the public to

these subjects. In the well-written book *Scorpions*, Myers breaks away from the everyday children's books. He writes about a young boy from Harlem, Jamal. When Jamal's brother Randy goes to jail, Jamal has to take his place as the leader of the gang *Scorpions*. He thinks it is a bad idea. In my opinion, Myers successfully intertwined the worlds of violence and gangs. Jamal, the innocent bystander, and Indian, a fellow gang member, battle for position of head *Scorpion*. It is Indian's rough personality that Jamal is intimidated by. I enjoyed this book a lot. The book reminds me of how people fight in my school and I could relate. As I was reading the book, I felt supportive of Jamal and the decisions he needed to make. I would recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a refreshing change of perspectives. Anyone can relate to this book.

*Scorpions* Tim Roat Per. 3 4/30/01 My book is called the *Scorpions*, a book written by Walter Dean Meyers 1988. Its about a 13 year old boy named Jamal, who's older brother went to jail for murder. He was the leader of the gang called the *scorpions*. Since his older brother is locked up, his right hand man Mack is trying to get his little brother Jamal to run the gang. So he decides to do it so he can get the money to bail his brother out of jail. There is a lot of strong points in this book, such as, Jamal pulling a gun on one of his class mates in school, his brother gets stabbed while in jail, and one of Jamal's fellow gang members is trying to kill him. Personally I thought this was a really good book and I HATE to read. Everything is understandable, its not like other books where every other word you don't understand. So if your looking for a good easy book to read, I would suggest *Scorpions*.

I used this book as a middle school English teacher in the inner city with kids who hated to read, and it was always a unanimous success. *Scorpions* is a story about a 12 year old boy named Jamal who lives in NY city. His family is struggling and faces lots of pressures. Jamal's absentee father pops in only long enough to borrow money and belittle Jamal. At the same time, Jamal's brother is in jail for taking part in an armed robbery. Jamal's little sister Sassy loves needling her brother, but she can also sometimes thoughtlessly hurt her mother with the things she does and says. Jamal is getting mercilessly bullied at school and the principal, instead of helping, seems determined to only see the worst in Jamal. "I'd have your mother come in and talk about your behavior, but I doubt she cares." (paraphrase) But the worse pressure on Jamal is the pressure to join the "*Scorpions*," the gang his brother ran before he went to jail. Jamal is tempted. It seems like joining the gang will solve his problems. His family would have enough money for food and hot water, the bully at school would leave him alone, his father would show him respect and stop belittling him. But then once Jamal

starts getting involved, things start falling apart...This is an honest look at the pressures a young African American boy faces in the inner city. The story uses a lot of slang, and occasionally a swear word. I read other reviews that criticized the book for both, and I have to respectfully disagree. This book is an honest look at what life is like in the inner city. As someone who lived in the inner city for 10 years and crawled out of that environment through luck and hard work, I have to strongly object to people who criticize a portrayal of a place they have never lived in and never experienced. If you have never walked in Jamal's shoes, I wish you'd keep your opinion of the way the place is depicted to yourself.

This book is perfect for people looking to see what life is like in the inner city. If you have read other Walter Dean Myers books than you'll see this is just as good as them. I really got into the book because the book has tons of subplots. You can't put the book down because every time the story switches to the next event it is another exciting part. All the characters were very round and interesting to read about. Walter Dean Myers style was very good in this book because you read one big part after another. I think the main theme Walter Dean Myers was trying to get across was that you have to stay strong and not give in to bad things like gangs. Also this book was just full of conflict one bad thing after the last and it seemed like Jamal would never get out. Like Jamal got in trouble in class then in the principal's office then getting into gang then fighting with Dwayne the bully. The book really started to make me feel bad for Jamal because his life was a mess and there wasn't much good in it. The only good he really had was his best friend Tito and art. It was like good things were being stripped away from him here and there and it kept going and going. I would have to give this book a very high rating because it was such a good book. I would give it a 9/10 and would suggest anyone who enjoys Walter Dean Myers read this book!

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