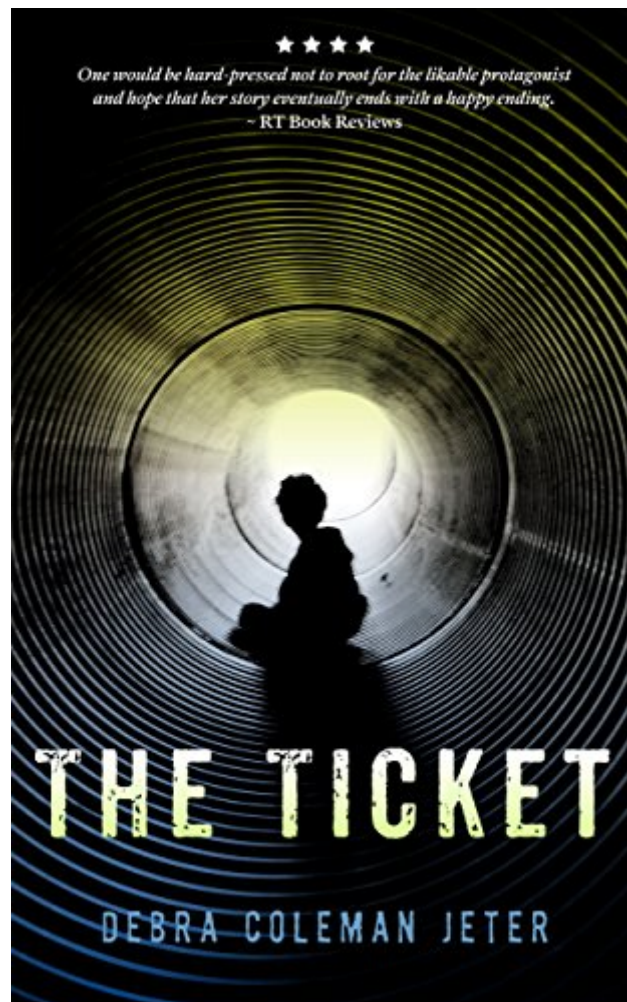


The book was found

The Ticket



Synopsis

She hoped winning the lottery would solve her problems. Her problems have just begun.... Complex characters ... Jeter's coming-of-age novel considers the problems that might follow a sudden windfall. ~ Publishers Weekly 4 Stars! One would be hard-pressed not to root for the likable protagonist and hope that her story eventually ends with a happy ending. ~ RT Book Reviews 1975 -- Volkswagen introduces the Golf, John Mitchell, H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman are found guilty of the Watergate cover-up, the Weather Underground bombs the U.S. State Department, and Bill Gates founds Microsoft in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As Communist forces take Saigon and the Vietnam War winds down, Tray Dunaway, an ordinary teenager from a poor Southern family longs to become part of the popular clique at school. Tray's mother, Evelyn, lies in bed most days with a headache. With her bipolar tendency toward extreme highs or desperate lows, Tray watches her mother veer ever closer towards depression. Tray's grandmother Ginny, still grieving over the loss of her husband, would love to move out and find a place of her own. Maybe even a bit of romance to replace the loss she feels. But given the sorry state of the family's finances that's not possible. Then the Dunaways' luck changes. Or so it seems. Tray's father drives a down-and-out friend of the family, Pee Wee Johnson, to Hazard, Illinois, so Johnson can buy lottery tickets. As a gesture of thanks, Johnson gives a ticket to Tray's father. And what do you know? The Dunaways are suddenly rich. When Johnson demands his cut of the winnings, Tray's dad refuses. As Evelyn's illness spirals toward madness, Johnson threatens the family. Tray makes one poor decision after another until what initially seemed like a stroke of good fortune quickly becomes a dangerous game of life and death for Tray.

Book Information

File Size: 2432 KB

Print Length: 213 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Firefly Southern Fiction (May 20, 2015)

Publication Date: May 20, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00XLCKVJ4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #193,731 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #132

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers > Financial #207

in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Financial #357 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers > Pulp

Customer Reviews

The Ticket is told from the point of view of a young, budding, teenage girl whose home life is anything but normal. When her Dad wins the lottery, it has a drastic affect on the girl and her mother, but even more so on complete strangers. Readers will feel the tension building within the Dad who is moving slowly with any decisions regarding the spending of the lottery money. Tray is the young girl who feels like her Dad isn't understanding that her requests for clothes has more to do with her growing and less to do with spending money because they finally have extra. In the home, along with the Tray, her mother and father, is the maternal grandmother who shares nuggets of wisdom when Tray seeks her out. However, some of the words of wisdom seem like foolishness to Tray as she feels her grandmother cannot relate to her feelings or experiences. In the novel, there is a scene that did throw me for a loop and I am still not sure why it was included in the book. Perhaps as a way of warning young girls to be aware of anyone watching them and the ways those with evil intent try to take advantage of their ignorance. A lot of subplots happen at the same time in the story that made it somewhat hard to discern how it all fit together, or what exactly the author was attempting to convey to her audience. What happens toward the end of the book took me by surprise and the ending was a touch of genius. As I read I could see how Tray's body changes and not fitting into any group at school, especially the ones she viewed as cool, could hurt young girls. I think that is why it is helpful for parents to talk with their children often and be willing to talk about any subject.

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