



Smoke

By Ellen Hopkins

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Smoke By Ellen Hopkins

Pattyn's father is dead. Now she's on the run in this riveting companion to *New York Times* bestseller *Burned*, which *Kirkus Reviews* calls "a strong, painful, and tender piece about wresting hope from the depths of despair."

Pattyn Von Stratten's father is dead, and Pattyn is on the run. After far too many years of abuse at the hands of her father, and after the tragic loss of her beloved Ethan and their unborn child, Pattyn is desperate for peace. Only her sister Jackie knows what happened that fatal night, but she is stuck at home with their mother, who clings to normalcy by allowing the truth to be covered up by their domineering community leaders. Her father might be finally gone, but without Pattyn, Jackie is desperately isolated.

Alone and in disguise, Pattyn starts a new life as a migrant worker on a California ranch. But is it even possible to rebuild a life when everything you've known has burned to ash and lies seem far safer than the truth?

Bestselling author Ellen Hopkins continues the riveting story of Pattyn Von Stratten she began in *Burned* to explore what it takes to rise from the ashes, put ghosts to rest, and step into a future.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

In her poetic sequel to *Burned* (2006), Hopkins pays homage to the old adage "The truth shall set you free." In haunting memories, Pattyn and younger sister Jackie return to the horrifying scene of their father's murder: Caleb's rape of Jackie, their father's discovery of the crime and his brutal beating of his violated daughter, and Pattyn's gunpoint threat. Now Pattyn is on the run, disguised as a California migrant farm worker, while Jackie is a pariah in church, at school, and in her mother's eyes. Hopkins' riveting story line is full of the perpetual premonition of danger, and the simple free-verse format belies the complexity of both plot and craft. The poems are sparse, each word and phrase carefully chosen, each line and stanza designed to convey both girls' desperation and resilience. Each sees herself as damaged and unlovable; each harbors guilt and hate for the father who physically beat her and the mother who emotionally betrayed her. Hopkins also tackles issues of immigration, homosexuality, bullying, Mormon extremism, and America's shadowy antigovernment militia, making for a compelling and thought-provoking read. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Hopkins is a number-one New York Times best-selling author, and her fan base is huge, huge, huge. Grades 9-12. --Frances Bradburn

Review

"A strong, painful and tender piece about wresting hope from the depths of despair." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

"Hopkins' riveting story line is full of the perpetual premonition of danger, and the simple free-verse format belies the complexity of both plot and craft...a compelling and thought-provoking read." (*Booklist*)

"The book is rife with real issues and demanding attention, leaving the reader to realize that when the smoke clears, redemption is always possible. In the end, voices are heard that refuse to be silenced and the empowerment that comes with the character's decisions transcend the page and leave much to be discussed and contemplated among readers." (*VOYA, starred review*)

"Hopkins's fans should and will clamor for this sequel." (*School Library Journal*)

About the Author

Ellen Hopkins is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of eleven young adult novels, as well as the adult novels *Triangles*, *Collateral*, and *Love Lies Beneath*. She lives with her family in Carson City, Nevada, where she has founded Ventana Sierra, a nonprofit youth housing and resource initiative. Visit her at [EllenHopkins.com](#) and on Facebook, and follow her on Twitter at @EllenHopkinsLit.

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