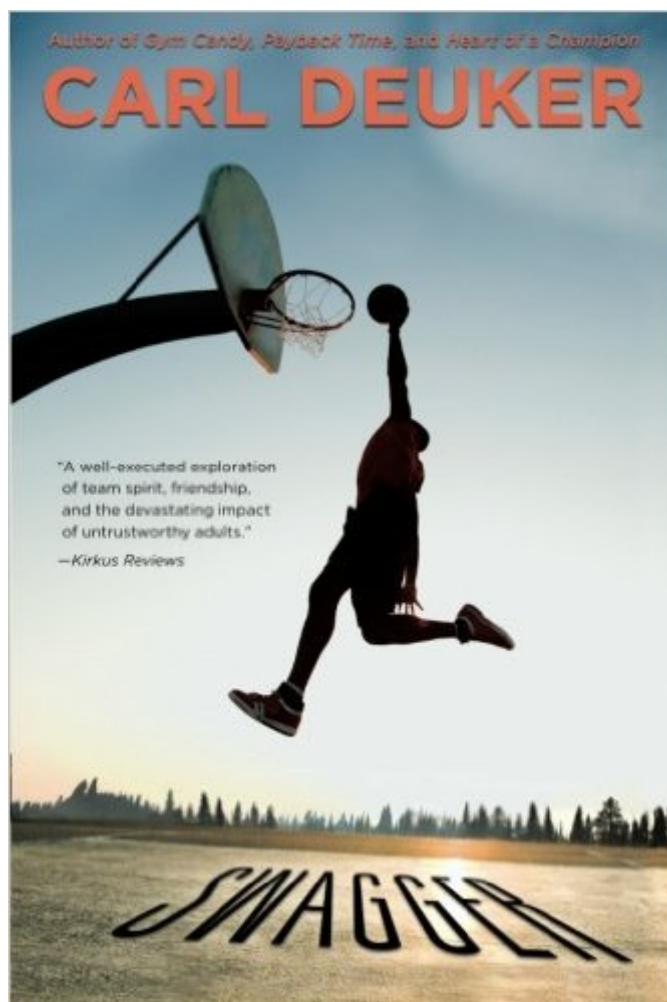


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# Swagger



## Synopsis

Levi was simple, like a child. It was the best thing about him, and it was the worst, too. When high school senior Jonas moves to Seattle, he is glad to meet Levi, a nice, soft-spoken guy and fellow basketball player. Suspense builds like a slow drumbeat as readers start to smell a rat in Ryan Hartwell, a charismatic basketball coach and sexual predator. When Levi reluctantly tells Jonas that Hartwell abused him, Jonas has to decide whether he should risk his future career to report the coach. Pitch-perfect basketball plays, well-developed characters, and fine storytelling make this psychological sports novel a slam dunk.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760 (What's this?)

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (January 2, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544336194

ISBN-13: 978-0544336193

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (45 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #64,092 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Basketball #18 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Peer Pressure #26 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Sexual Abuse

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

"Swagger" is a sports-themed book that highlights an extremely serious issue. Carl Deuker treats the characters and the theme with sympathy and discretion, but he never minimizes the impact of abuse on those whom it affects. When his family moves to Seattle from California, Jonah Dolan, a star point guard on his high school basketball team, must prove himself to a new coach and team. During a summer pick-up game, he meets six foot six inch Levi Rawdon. Levi, who is a gentle giant, is not strong academically and has difficulty remaining eligible to play basketball. He will become Jonah's best friend and teammate. At the pick-up game Jonah also meets Ryan Hartwell, a

confident, twenty-something man, who befriends the boys and invites the pick-up team to his apartment for a party. The balance of the story and ensuing tragedy stem from this. While adult readers will understand immediately that Hartwell is grooming the boys and will select the most vulnerable for abuse, younger readers may not immediately recognize the situation for what it is. When Hartwell appears at basketball practice practice and is introduced as the high school's new assistant coach, his motives become even more obvious. He slowly gains control over the team and over individual team members through his exploitation of their vulnerabilities. It is only after a tragic death that Jonah makes the decision to do what is right for others rather than for thinking only of himself. "Swagger" is an easy to read book. It will appeal to youngsters who love basketball and understand some of the intricacies of the game. Carl Deuker writes in detail about positions and plays, things that will hold little interest for readers who are not basketball fans.

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Swagger

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