Dime

By E. R. Frank

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The startling realities of teen prostitution are revealed in this eye-opening, heartbreaking story from the author of *America*, which *Booklist* called “a piercing, unforgettable novel” and *Kirkus Reviews* deemed “a work of sublime humanity.”

As a teen girl in Newark, New Jersey, lost in the foster care system, Dime just wants someone to care about her, to love her. A family. And that is exactly what she gets—a daddy and two “wifeys.” So what if she has to go out and earn some coins to keep her place? It seems a fair enough exchange for love.

Dime never meant to become a prostitute. It happened so gradually, she pretty much didn’t realize it was happening until it was too late.

But when a new “wifey” joins the family and Dime finds out that Daddy doesn’t love her the way she thought he did, will Dime have the strength to leave? And will Daddy let her?

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Dime By E. R. Frank Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Gr 9 Up—Thirteen-year-old Dime is a product of the foster system. She finds an escape in the books she reads, but she struggles academically because she is called on to help out with the younger foster children at home. One day she meets a girl who takes her in. Dime finds acceptance here, but is slowly groomed into becoming a prostitute. The book takes the form of a note that Dime is trying to write, whose purpose is unclear until the last chapters. The multiple nested flashbacks and the attempts to have other concepts contribute to the note (such as Money or Truth) much as Death narrated Marcus Zusak's The Book Thief (Knopf, 2006) (Dime herself credits Zusak for this idea) would have failed at the hands of a lesser writer, but they are effective here. The simple, one-line note that the protagonist ultimately writes is heartbreaking. The conditions in which Dime and the other trafficked girls live are horrendous and difficult to read about; however, this novel serves to illustrate that small acts of kindness can make a difference. This title will appeal to fans of grittier problem novels, like those written by Ellen Hopkins, and will provoke discussion. In spite of the gritty content, there is good reason to make this title accessible to middle schoolers as well. There is a helpful resource list in the back matter, including information for victims and survivors of trafficking. VERDICT An important work that should be an essential part of library collections.—Kristin Anderson, Columbus Metropolitan Library System, OH

Review
"a tremendously affecting novel" (Kirkus Reviews *March 2015*)

* "An important work that should be an essential part of library collections" (School Library Journal - Starred Review *March 2015*)

* "will linger with readers" (Publisher's Weekly - Starred Review *March 2015*)

* "gritty, graphic, and shatteringly painful to read...a masterfully told, unforgettable tale of what hope looks like in desperate
circumstances, and of the struggle to find power in one’s voice." (Booklist - Starred Review *April 15, 2015*)

"Riveting, eye-opening and poignant, **Dime** is an unnervingly real portrait of life on the streets. It's a world where pimps use charm, cunning and violence to exert gradual - then total - control over vulnerable girls. Until Dime, a girl nearly broken by her situation, somehow finds an exit. If not for herself, at least before it's too late for someone even more defenseless than she is. Unforgettable." (Patricia McCormick, Author of Never Fall Down)

About the Author
E.R. Frank is the author of *America*, *Friction*, *Wrecked*, and *Dime*. Her first novel, *Life Is Funny*, won the Teen People Book Club NEXT Award for YA Fiction and was also a top-ten ALA 2001 Quick Pick. In addition to being writer, E.R. Frank is also a clinical social worker and psychotherapist. She works with adults and adolescents and specializes in trauma.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lindsey Gant:

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