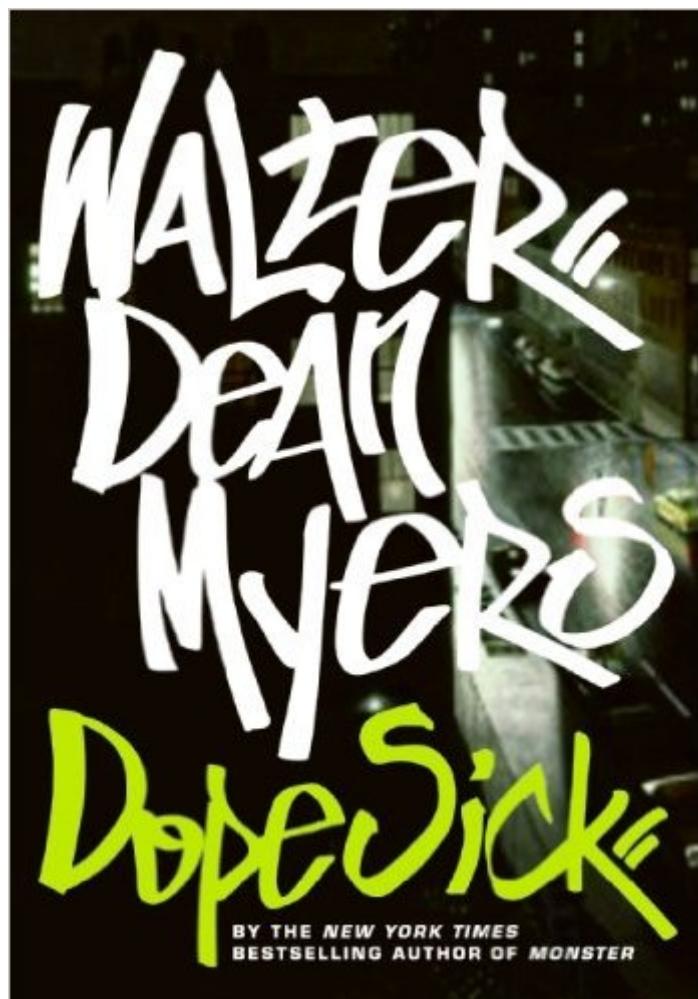


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## Dope Sick



## Synopsis

The itch starts when things get too heavy for Lil J. Skin popping or stealing pain pills from his mom help him relax. But Lil J's focus is wandering because money is short, and his man Rico knows a way to make some quick cash. It's supposed to be an easy deal, but it isn't so simple when the buyer is an undercover cop. With a gunshot wound to the arm, Rico in jail, and a police officer clinging to life, Lil J is starting to get dope sick. He'd do anything to change the last twenty-four hours, and when he stumbles into an abandoned crack house, it actually might be possible. . . . Walter Dean Myers weaves elements of magical realism into a harrowing story about drug use, violence, alternate perceptions of reality, and second chances.

## Book Information

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Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #232,519 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #101 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Drugs & Alcohol Abuse #152 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Violence #4956 inÂ Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

## Customer Reviews

I was privileged to read an advance copy of Walter Dean Myers' new book *Dope Sick*, and let me say, simply: this is a good book. It was nicely crafted for its intended audience, well-written, intriguing and thought-provoking without being too preachy or overly complex. It had a science fiction flair in a realistic story, and I love when authors do that well. The main character, Lil J, was perfectly rendered, and his narrator's voice seemed spot on to me, though I admit some ignorance as to popular street slang of today -- I live in a small town in Oregon, which is not exactly the 'hood. I know that it sounded genuine to my dull ears, and I think it would seem the same to young men who read the book, so I will be recommending this book to them. The story was interesting, though I know the ending will not satisfy many readers -- the lady or the tiger? I thought it was great, since the

book's theme is how hard it is to pinpoint the moment when things start to go wrong in one's life. The story picks up as Lil J is running from the police, having been involved in a drug deal that went bad and ended up with the shooting of an undercover cop; J (whose full name is Jeremy Dance, and that name almost gave me goosebumps, it was so good) runs into a building that seems abandoned but isn't. On an upper story, J finds a mysterious figure named Kelly, watching TV. This TV can show J's life, past, present, and possible future, and Kelly shows J exactly where he is headed and what awaits him there -- and J doesn't like what he sees.

"But why do spirits walk the earth, and why do they come to me?" "It is required of every man,' the Ghost returned, 'that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellowmen, and travel far and wide; and if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. It is doomed to wander through the world -- oh, woe is me! -- and witness what it cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and turned to happiness!" "Again the spectre raised a cry, and shook its chain and wrung its shadowy hands." "You are fettered,' said Scrooge, trembling. 'Tell me why?'" "I wear the chain I forged in life,' replied the Ghost. 'I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it. Is its pattern strange to you?'" -- A CHRISTMAS CAROL A CHRISTMAS CAROL IN PROSE, BEING A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS is a tale of social injustice and poverty, written by Charles Dickens who was forced to go to work at the age of twelve when his father was sent to debtors' prison. In A CHRISTMAS CAROL, set on Christmas Eve in Scrooge's joyless house, Marley's Ghost holds a metaphorical mirror up to Scrooge, a man who has come to care for nothing but accumulating money. Gaining self-knowledge from the experience and perceiving what is to become his own wretched fate, Scrooge comes to understand that he has the power to change himself and alter that fate. Thanks to epiphany, change, and redemption, Scrooge's own future is brighter and -- like ripples moving outward in ever-widening circles -- things will be better for everyone around him." Kelly talked street, but I wasn't sure. Something about him wasn't from the 'hood.

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