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Mick Salisbury wonders how he got where he is. For as long as he can remember, people have been saying the same thing about life being a series of choices. The problem is, he's never been particularly good at making the right ones, especially since he was born and raised in Flint, Michigan, where most people are cheated out of all the better options in life.

So when a normal night spent hanging out, drinking with his two best friends, ends in a deadly mistake, individual decisions suddenly seem more important than Mick ever realized. And when he's sitting in the police interrogation room, it will all come down to one choice. But once he heads down one road, will it ever be possible to turn back?

Cheated Details

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Author : Patrick Jones

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Celestasaurus says

Mick Salisbury has cheated, been cheated, and seen cheating being done. But now it's worse than ever-- either sell out his friends for his personal gain or betray his mother by acting like his father. He can't lie, but he can't tell the truth.

Rewind! Mick is stuck in the interrogation room, his lawyer on one side, an investigator on the other. They both want to know the truth. A homeless man Mick and his two friends called "the Scarecrow" was murdered, and Mick's fingerprints were found at the crime scene. Mick is innocent of murder, but he knows what went down that night. The only thing stopping him from ratting out his buddies is his determination to be loyal.

What I found most interesting in this novel was Mick's view of the world. Unlike the saying "there are two sides to every story," Mick believed there were always three that completed a triangle. So his father betrayed his mother, he betrayed his father, and all that was left was for his mother to betray him.

Temira says

Setting: I picked this book because I was reading two other books that were by the same person and they both were good so I wanted to read another one. But they all have something in common they were all being told about a kid that always got into trouble and they lived in a town called Flint.

Setting of the book is it takes place in a town named Flint, and its school time in the morning and then goes from school to weekends of getting drunk.

Conflict: The crisis of the book is when Mick and his friends were drinking one night and things got out of hand and his friends killed a homeless man for ripping them off. The next week or so the police find Mick's lighter and arrest him and his friends and the investigator is pressuring him to confess of what happened, and his mom and dad are there with him but he won't talk, until his mom comes and tells him either he confesses or he's no longer her son.

Characterization: The character "Mick" is always the type of boy who hides his face and that gets heartbroken when he loses a girlfriend and he likes to drink and get into trouble but he doesn't like lying to his mom about anything, if he had to tell his mom something he would go and tell her what he did and he wouldn't be like his father because his father cheated on his mom and never been a man and admitted that to him or his mom.

Theme: I think the book is really about his childhood maybe he didn't have a good childhood because of the three books I read all the characters were always getting into trouble for something, and always liked a guy or a girl who never liked them back. So the books all have to deal with the characters being alone and dark on the inside.

Strategies: I used predict, because I predicted that they were all going to get caught for killing the homeless man because someone had to have left something behind from when they were running away from the scene. I used visualization because when I first read that Mick was in the investigating room I pictured him sitting there in the chair scared to do or say anything. I also used monitor because I felt that the situation he was in would only get worse if he didn't confess or say anything to anyone.

What I thought of the book: I thought the book was good, The book talked a lot about sex, drugs and alcohol and mostly what all teenagers do sometimes I think anyway, but of all the books I read of the author I

thought it was telling a story of his life and what happened as he was a child, and how it was like growing up as a teenager and everything else. But by far the book was good and I enjoyed reading the book. So at the end Mick gives up his friends and tell his mother the entire thing on what happened that night. At first when he was in the investigatin room he didn't want to talk but when his mom told him to be a better man then his father and tell her the truth because if he doesn't confess he'll go to prison living a lie and his friends will get to walk away with nothing on their records. But at the end he did confess.

Brody McNulty says

3 / 5 stars for Cheated

To start off the beginning of the story is kind of easy to grasp on because they author come out and describes the characters, but I can't relate to the main character Mick because I am never as angry as him but i can see where it is coming from but it really doesn't make the book interesting. Many of the other characters were unlikable because they were all going out on the weekends getting drunk and being disrespectful to their parents. The plot was very slow nothing interesting really happened until the end of the middle of the book was boring. But not all things are negative about this book one thing i really like is all the different quotes, "When you mess up, you know you've messed up, you could just press a button, and whatever you did wrong would go away, but no life is not like that" it just had a lot of inspirational quotes and life advice. It took a long time to come out and say something they put in too much detail to where the point it got to boring to continue reading. In conclusion this is why I rated the book a 3 / 5 because it was a little boring in the middle but it had quotes and the end was very interesting.

TheSaint says

(Sorry: Really unlikeable characters.)

Patrick Jones is making a name for himself creating characters that act (until the eleventh hour) in their own worst interests. In the aptly titled *Cheated*, Mick, Aaron and Brody are the champs at screwing up their own lives.

Oh, sure, they each have their demons. Primarily in the form of their equally demonized fathers. Plus, they're really angry, and have a ready supply of alcohol. Stir together, add a convenient target who seems less powerful than they are, and voila! Cold-blooded murder.

Jones uses the theme of "choosing your path" as evidenced by the introductory quotations. I think a stronger theme is repeated throughout: Who do you stick with and who will stick by you: your family or your friends? It is the ultimate choice that Mick makes that answers that fundamental question.

Tori says

This one started out a little slow, but picked up momentum until the story was running at a breakneck pace halfway through. For this adult reader, what was coming was pretty clear, but the aftermath was not. A little reminisant of Cormier in the psychology involved. I enjoyed this book, but I think Chasing Tail Lights is Patrick's best so far. Here's to many more.

Rebecca says

Many of my 8th grade students -- particularly the guys -- would find familiarity with Mick Salisbury in the beginning of the novel: divorced parents, relationship gone wrong, etc. The rest of the novel gets very serious for Mick and his friends, serving as a warning to quickly your life can spiral out of control based on a few seemingly harmless decisions.

Morgan Dungan says

Overall Rating: ??? (3.5)

Suspense Rating: ★★ (2.5)

Action: ↗↗ (2)

Drama: **** (4)

This is a story of about the repercussions of the bad decisions made by a few young men. The story is told from Mick's POV and he is troubled by the fact he caught his father cheating on his mother and has become obsessed with making sure not to hurt his mother like his father did. But he hides everything he does from her and it ends up backfiring when he makes a few too many wrong decisions. Mick is a good kid but he is overwhelmed with his need to impress others and his obsession with some of the girls in his classes. This leads him to cheat on his girlfriend, lose good friend and turn to alcohol. All of these seemingly innocent young mishaps turn out to make Mick look guilty of a crime that will ruin his entire adulthood.

This book was a little too teen centered for my tastes but would make a great read for my teen boys if I had any! Patrick Jones did a great job stuffing loads of information into a short book while still keeping the reading enjoyable. I loved how at the end of each chapter there was a flashback or memory that allowed you to better understand Mick and his thought patterns. Overall I am giving this book a lower rating because of the ending. It to me seemed the last part of the book was very rushed and anticlimactic.

For more reviews and to follow my current reading challenges please join me at <http://redheadreadingaddict.blogspot...>

Katie says

I didn't really care for the writing style. I did enjoy the theme because I can relate. People rarely take responsibility for their own actions. It's always the fault of someone else. Mick is 15 years old, and grew up with the blame of his father cheating on his mother. The father didn't see what he did wrong, he blamed his son for telling on him. Mick grew up thinking that hiding the truth is the best way to protect somebody. He thought he was the center, that he was responsibility for picking up pieces. He blamed himself even if he had nothing to do with it. When he was protected, he took it as a betrayal.

Kyle says

In this book there was a guy named Mick. Mick grew up without his father and lived with his mom. his mom and dad got a divorce. he always was mean to his mother but always new that he could treat her better. Mick and his friends always went out dricking almost every fiday. and on homecoming day he told his mom that he was going but instead went drinking with his friends. and during that mick spilt the beer and then they had no more beer. so mick suggested that they get so from this guy they call the scarecrow. When the scarecrow came back with the beer, he ripped off mick. so brody got out of control and started yelling at the scarecrow and started hitting him with a brick. He was dead. a couple of days latter the cops were at micks house. mick didnt want to rat out on his friends so he didnt say anything to the cops. finally he did and did not have to go to jail. but his friends did

i liked this book, because it kepted me reading. it was very intesting.

imts says

3.5/5 stars :)

The writing style of the author may have been a little childish in comparison to the content, but the plot was really good, so I enjoyed reading this. :D

Katie says

I read this for a class. It was an ok book. It was difficult at time for me to relate to Mick because I fortunately was not that angry as a teenager. I understood why he was so angry given his circumstances but when I finished the book I didn't really feel anything.

Marc712 says

It was a great book. My favorite part of the book is when Mick, Brody and Aaron are at the club playing pool and Mick saw this pretty girl. When Mick started talking to her, her boyfriend came over and told Mick to back off. Brody was already drunk and he walked over to the guy, that told Mick to back off of his girlfriend and whacked him right in the collar bone. If you were to read it, it would be funny to you, if you understand it.

Meaghan says

A gripping account of the events leading up to a teenager's arrest for murder, and the choice he has to make afterward as to whether to give up his friends and save himself from life behind bars. The three boys in the story were very well-drawn -- you didn't necessarily like them, but you could understand them and why they did what they did. Also well illustrated was the deep bonds of friendship teenagers have with each other. I will have to check out more of this author's work.

James says

CHEATED, written by Patrick Jones, tells a convincing story of a boy and his friends who on a November night make a decision that will stress their friendship to the limits. The story is told through the eyes of Mick Salisbury, a teenage boy suffering from a personal demon brought on by his father's betrayal, a man who he calls his ex-dad. Mick and his friends Aeron and Brody commit a serious crime in which Mick can get out of being punished by testifying against them though his feelings of trust towards his friends keep him on the edge for a long time with no intention of jumping.

The author does a very good job connecting the reader to the main character, Mick by letting us read his thoughts. These almost soliloquies allow us to understand better just how Mick feels about the decisions he has made. Mick also has a life many people can connect to with a father who was unable to be a role model and influential friends though the influence is not a positive one the reader will still feel sympathy for Mick. There is a sturdy feeling of progression built by the connections that Mick's past have with his present and future especial with his ex-girlfriend and his one-night-stand.

Though there are many good aspects to the book a few things to be wary of is that the author gives Brody a very controlling feeling almost as if he was meant to be the main character instead of Mick, this mix up in character importance leads to several moments where Mick just follows exactly what Brody does. The other thing that the author needs to work on is his style of speech in the book for there were a few times where I found myself rereading a section just to fully understand what is being said by who and what is being thought by Mick. I am not saying that the author is not good he just picked up to many levels of speech in his story. All in all this is a very compelling book with a tragic story and very good draw back making it a hard book to put down.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Sally Kruger aka "Readingjunkie" for TeensReadToo.com

Three hard-partying fifteen year olds form a special friendship. Together, they try to cope with the problems they all face in their home lives. Trust is the bond that cements their friendship. But can this friendship, with even the strongest of bonds, survive the choices they made one dark November night?

Mick Salisbury and his friends, Brody and Aaron, all struggle with personal demons. Their fathers have not turned out to be the positive role models young boys deserve. One is dead, one is in prison, and the other betrayed his family and refuses to accept responsibility for devastating their lives. In response to their unsettled lives, the three boys have turned to rum and Coke and late nights out to ease their pain. Mick knows what they are doing carries a risk of consequence that may be more than he bargained for, but he is powerless to stop.

CHEATED tells about a series of events that lead to the tragic death of a homeless man, and the attempt to cover up the crime and avoid punishment. Author Patrick Jones takes readers into the mind of Mick Salisbury, where they will learn about a love for his devoted, hard-working mother and a hatred of the man he refers to as his ex-dad. Mick feels a sense of betrayal from his parents and a sense of self-betrayal as he

deals with his role in this deadly mistake.

Written in a straight-forward, no-nonsense style, CHEATED will have teens and adults alike captivated by the thoughts and feelings of this tortured young man. Readers will no doubt feel a mix of sympathy and horror as a few short weeks of Mick's life unfold on the pages of this well-crafted YA novel.
