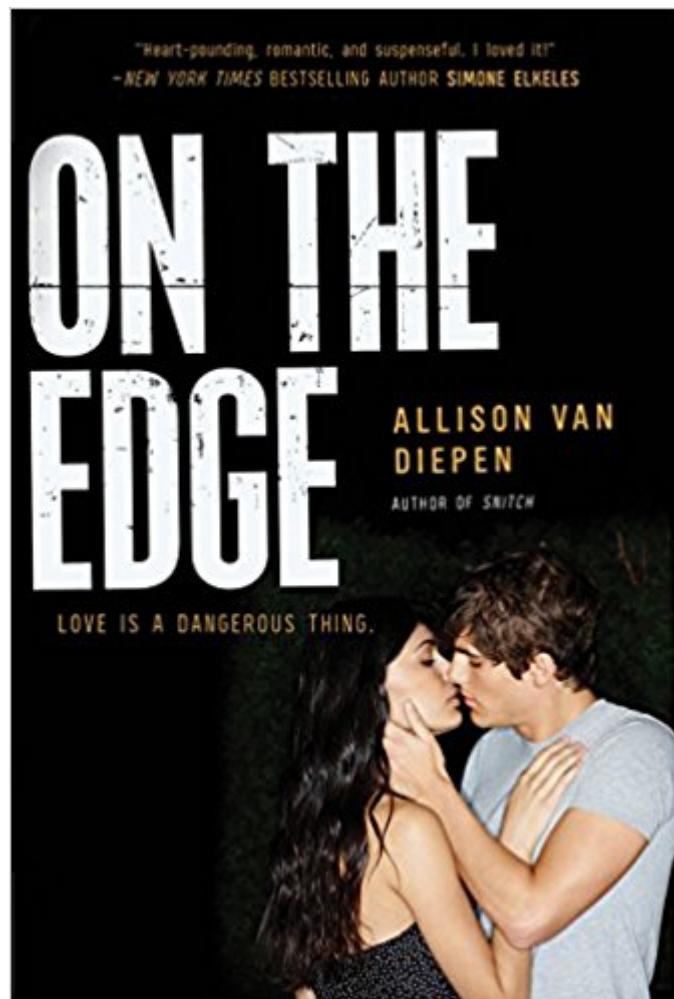


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On The Edge



Synopsis

From Allison van Diepen, author of Light of Day, Snitch, and Street Pharm, comes a sexy, dangerous novel—perfect for fans of Simone Elkeles and Paul Griffin—about a teen who witnesses a murder and gets caught up in the seedy world of Miami's gangs. Maddie Diaz never should have taken that shortcut through the park. If she hadn't, she wouldn't have seen two members of the Reyes gang attacking a homeless man. Now, as the only witness, she knows there's a target on her back. But when the Reyes jump her on the street, Maddie is protected by a second gang and their secretive leader, Lobo, who is determined to take down the Reyes himself. Lobo is mysterious and passionate, and Maddie begins to fall for him. But when they live this close to the edge, can their love survive?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up—College-bound Maddie finds herself in the middle of a dangerous gang war after witnessing the murder of a homeless man. With a target on her back, she is unexpectedly defended by an underground gang and in the midst of it all begins to fall for their mysterious leader, Lobo. As their relationship heats up so does the danger, and Maddie becomes an essential piece to bringing down a gang-run human trafficking ring. While the relationship between Maddie and Lobo is the focus of the story, the thriller-type subplot set in the Miami underbelly steals the show. The sometimes violent, always gripping action of a vigilante underground gang rescuing trafficked girls keeps the pace moving and the tone from becoming saccharine. The menace of this dark world is a nice foil to the unexpectedly sweet development of young love, and adds a desperation and sense

of urgency to their romance. The friendship between Maddie and her friends is especially multifaceted, and readers will appreciate the honest examination of the complex emotions of friendship as they learn to allow their relationship to evolve while facing big life changes. While the hyper-gritty street life may be over-the-top and border on unrealistic, the struggle of the characters to do right at all costs will resonate with teen readers. •Sarah Townsend, Norfolk Public Library, VA --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

“Heart-pounding, romantic and suspenseful. I loved it!” (NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author Simone Elkeles) “The well-drawn characters and setting make the novel stand out. The romance is equal parts sweet and hot and leads to a satisfying conclusion. Ideal for readers who prefer a high romance-to-thrills ratio.” (Kirkus Reviews) “The Miami underbelly sets thriller subplot steals the show.” (School Library Journal)

One thing you should probably know about me, I’m a huge sucker for books that involve gangs, the mafia, bad boys and probably everything that is related to these three. Honestly, lock me in a room full of books that fit into the categories above, I probably wouldn’t object. On The Edge didn’t fail to amaze me. I had so many great expectations from this book, mainly because I decided to skip the reviews of this book on Goodreads (because no matter what the review said, it could probably affect me) and also because hey, it has a gang and a mysterious gang leader and a passionate love story in it. I want to talk about the writing before getting to the plot though. I’m not going to write a super long paragraph, just talking about its writing, I only want to say that it was really easy to read the book. Maybe it’s kind of related to the plot, I don’t know but you really are able to finish this book in one sitting. I was a bit worried that there were going to be too many names and details to remember and that they would become confusing and hard to remember at one point, but that wasn’t the case at all. Like I said, I’m pretty sure most people would be able to finish this in one sitting without having problems. I liked how the author gave place to a guy who was being judged because of his tattoos and past in the story. Obviously, to be careful around the gangs and all they need to judge people and act upon that judgement (because you can never be too careful, even I do that) but it was still nice to read about that, it gave the story more perspective in a way. Excluding the one about who Lobo was correctly, my guesses about many things were not correct and I like being surprised while

reading so yes, I gave the book a plus for not being predictable. LOBO. L O B O . O H M Y G O D. ASFALKFHA. He was arrggghhhhhhhh, so arghhhh that I even lost the ability to form proper sentences. I don't even know what to say about him! I also loved how the book talked about important issues like woman trafficking and drugs-mostly woman trafficking though. I liked how there was a group of people, solely trying to get rid of the people associated with this. Besides, people talked about woman trafficking, too and they were aware of this problem. To conclude, I can say that On The Edge is a perfect book for the ones who like anything with gangs and bad boys, with just the perfect amount of action and romance. For the first time ever, I'm feeling the "I'm jealous of people who are reading my favorite book for the first time. I wish I could do that." sentence on an emotional basis.

For the full version of this review as well as other reviews and features, go to sleepsontables.com. Back in September(ish) 2014 when I still did Waiting on Wednesday posts on the almost weekly, I did a Waiting on Wednesday post on On the Edge. I had never read any books by Allison van Diepen but this cover caught my eye on Goodreads and I read the description and was hooked. I had this image of like a YA Fast & Furious type of genre book, which was something I hadn't read before. More than a year goes by and I completely forget about this book, but I'm happy to report that I finally read it! And this was an Alex book. On the Edge follows Maddie Diaz who witnesses some Reyes gang members murder a homeless man. Maddie all of a sudden has a target on her back and ends up getting saved by Lobo, the leader of a secret gang that's been at war with the Reyes. Maddie feels like she knows Lobo, like she might have met him before. Maddie and Lobo live such different lives, but are both so inspired by their willingness and determination to help people in need. When they fall for each other, can it survive? Maddie is a great character. First and foremost because she is an aspiring journalist. So after the murder of the homeless man, she hunts down his real family and writes an honest and touching article about the life that he lived. She did this because the media only named the deceased as "a homeless man" so she took it upon herself to correct them, to make everyone recognize that it wasn't just a homeless man, but a man who had family and hopes and dreams. Maddie also has this amazing spirit that's so easy to relate to. She's the girl you want to be best friends with. One kind of downside to On the Edge is that it has a slight hint of insta-love, which is usually a big pet peeve of mine. You know what though? I didn't even really mind it

that much because the relationship was just so intriguing. I found myself invested in it and all for it despite the hint of insta-love, which was surprising to me. The intensity of this book is off the charts. I read it in one sitting. I was worried that it might read a little cheesy when it came to the gangs but it didn't. We see how Maddie lives, in an area where gangs can be a huge problem. She has to worry about them at school, at work, even at home. From the moment she gets a target on her back, I was hooked because everything picked up a notch. Then Lobo saves her from retaliation and it becomes about this mysterious guy who Maddie feels a connection to. She works to find out who he is and when she does she learns what Lobo stands for and why he stands for it, after getting dragged back into another larger scale fight. Another strong point of *On the Edge* is its diversity inclusion. Just the inclusion of gangs alone is something that you don't see often in YA books, but factor in how a very large percentage of the characters are understood to be Latino and this is almost a book in its own class. It gives the reader a look at a different way of life that we don't often see portrayed in books, especially YA books. I talked about how I liked the kind of person that Maddie was but Allison also did a very good job of giving us a feeling of who Lobo is. We get this detailed backstory about his life and what caused him to take up arms and become Lobo. There are amazing things that he and his gang do to counteract the drugs, violence, and human trafficking. In this way, I really loved that not only did we get a sneak peek into a lifestyle we may never experience, but Allison did a fantastic job of giving us as much detail as possible in scenery and character profiles to paint us a large-scale picture.

Favorite Quote: "We're all works in progress, Diaz. We're all broken and bleeding and trying to fix ourselves up into something human." -56% through eBookReview in Review: I really liked *On the Edge*. For me it was one of those guilty pleasure Alex reads, wherein it's not something that I'd normally pick up but I happen to and end up reading it all in one sitting. It's fast-paced and will keep you on the edge of your seat. (Haha, punny.) It gives you a swoony romance but it also gives you real life and meaning. I'd say if you're a fan of contemporary romances but are looking to try something that's a little out of your comfort zone of Sarah Dessen reads, then give *On the Edge* a try.

Ever since this book first appeared on Goodreads I've been intrigued by it, I would even say this was one of my most anticipated books of the year, so when I received a copy for review I was ecstatic, the concept is what initially drew me in, I find that I quite enjoy books that feature gangs and girls who fall for gang members, it also helps when it's compared to Simone Elkeles who's

Perfect Chemistry series I adore. One night while walking through the park after a party Maddie witnesses two gang members from the Reyes attacking a homeless man who subsequently dies, reporting the crime to the police Maddie knows that the Reyes will be after her for payback, when she ends up getting jumped she is saved from further injury when Lobo the head of the Destinos and his gang save her and offer her their protection, Maddie is drawn to Lobo but since his face is always covered whenever she sees him she never knows what he looks like. Torn between her attraction to Lobo and also Ortiz the hot guy who works at her local corner store, her choice is made for her when Lobo stays away to keep her safe, with all out war coming to a head between three gangs tension is brewing and retribution is coming. This book once picked up is hard to put down it's a quick read, and while I did guess Lobo's true identity as soon as he appeared in the book it didn't take anything away from the story once it was revealed, full of action and fast paced this book will keep you enthralled the whole way through.

Realism, grit and romance abound in this fast paced urban romance by Allison van Diepen. With strong, believable characters who are trying to do right in impossible situations, teens (and adults!) will find this impossible to put down.

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