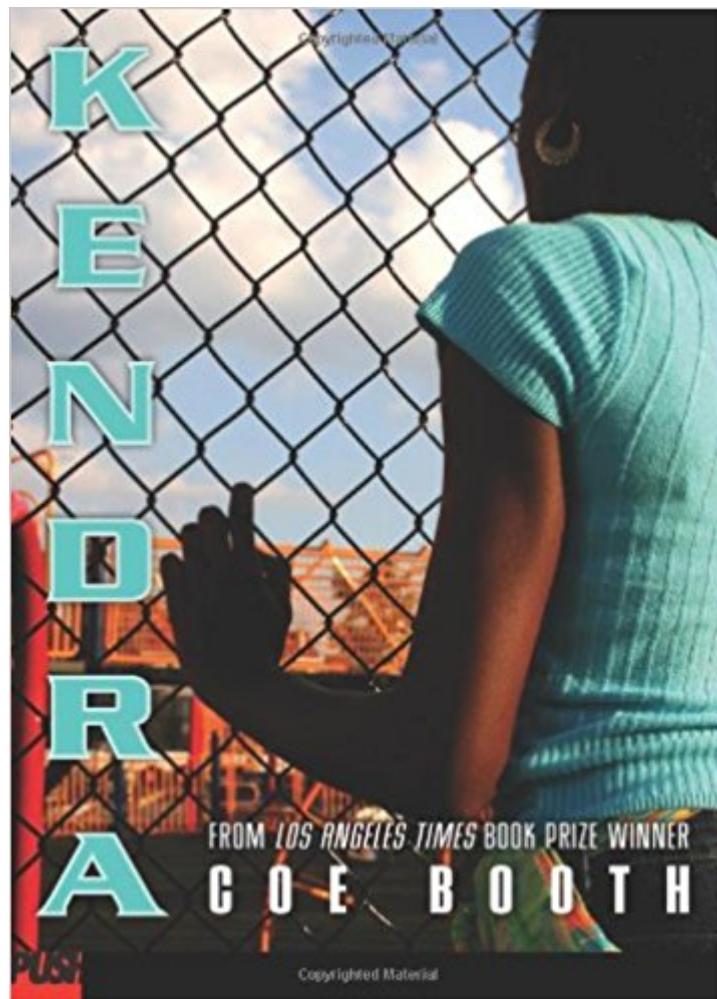


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# Kendra



## **Synopsis**

The acclaimed author of TYRELL returns to PUSH with a striking novel about a mother and daughter who are only fourteen years apart, but need to learn to understand each other before it's too late. Kendra's mom, Renee, had her when she was only 14 years old. Renee and her mom made a deal -- Renee could get an education, and Kendra would live with her grandmother. But now Renee's out of grad school and Kendra's in high school ... and getting into some trouble herself. Kendra's grandmother lays down the law: It's time for Renee to take care of her daughter. Kendra wants this badly -- even though Renee keeps disappointing her. Being a mother isn't easy, but being a daughter can be just as hard. Now it's up to Kendra and Renee to make it work.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Starred Review. Grade 9 Up. Growing up with her grandmother in Bronxwood, 14-year-old Kendra Williamson is waiting for Renée, her 28-year-old mom, to finish school so they can get their own place. Kendra can't help but feel abandoned when her mother gets her PhD at Princeton and then moves to a studio apartment in Harlem, once again leaving her daughter behind. When her grandmother's restrictive rules, her crush's physical attention, and her friend's self-absorption become overwhelming, Kendra gets her chance to live with her mother and learn whether Renée can be a true parent. Booth has a talent for emotional honesty. When Kendra confronts her mother about her previous choices and learns that, if she could change the past, she would not keep Kendra, the feelings of abandonment and betrayal radiate from the page. The convoluted but

redeeming friendship between Kendra and her best friend and aunt, Adonna, resonates with heartbreak and honesty. Teens will appreciate Kendra's internal justification monologues, especially in relation to her Nana; Booth balances that self-examination with street fights to further engage her audience. Adults act as fully realized characters, serving as disciplinarians and mentors, not moralizing preachers. Kendra's quick acquiescence to anal sex seems to be too fast, though this and all other sex scenes are neither graphic nor gratuitous. From Bronx blocks to Harlem hangouts, Booth delivers dynamic characters and an engaging story. •Chris Shoemaker, New York Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Fans of Tyrell (2006) will welcome another tale about a Bronx teen facing big challenges. Fifteen-year-old Kendra has been raised by her grandmother, Nana, while her 29-year-old mother has been away earning university degrees. Now that her mother's PhD is complete, Kendra is hoping that the family will finally reunite, but her mom chooses to get a studio apartment without her daughter. Kendra's longing for love leads her too quickly into a physical relationship with hot Nashawn. Kendra doesn't want sex, in part because Nana threatens to have her physically checked to confirm her virginity, but Nashawn suggests oral and anal sex as alternatives to traditional intercourse. Kendra agrees, and she is guilt ridden over the acts (which are frankly discussed) as well as confused by the passion she feels. Her father, who is in a dead-end job as a snack-food truck driver, rounds out the strong secondary characters. Kendra's talent at architectural drawing and set design will attract artistic teens, while her realistic daily problems with friends, family, and boys will appeal to a wide audience. Grades 10-12. --Cindy Dobrez --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Kendra Williamson is fourteen years old and she attends North Bronx High School for Arts and Communications. She loves to draw houses and floor plans; a skill that will lead to a promising career in the future. She's not focusing a whole lot on future plans, though. The main thing that's on her mind, what she wants more than anything, is to spend more time with her mother, Renee. Kendra lives with her Nana, Valerie. Renee, who gave birth to Kendra in ninth grade, missed ten years of her daughter's life while she finished high school, then college and then grad school. Now she's graduating from Princeton with a PhD and Kendra believes she will finally have a "real" mother. A mother who will be around for more than just minutes at a time and will care about the

things she cares about. A mother who will want her. But, sadly, once Renee is back in the Bronx the neglect continues so, desperate for attention, Kendra makes a choice that surprises even her. A choice she regrets, but repeats even though she feels so bad about herself after the first time. I felt so bad for Kendra. The girl goes out there and makes choices she probably wouldn't have made if somebody would have taken the time to talk to her and, most of all, truly love her. Her mother obviously loved herself more than she loved her daughter. Renee was only concerned about what she wanted and didn't give Kendra a second thought. I was so glad Kendra's Nana cared enough about her granddaughter to raise her. Valerie loved Kendra the best way she knew how, but her way was a bit controlling and smothering. And Kendra's dad, Kenny? Well, it seemed he was still trying to find his own way in the world. The author was not playin' when she penned this novel. Teenagers are way more mature, way more knowledgeable these days and Coe Booth did not hold back when she wrote about the sexual experiences of her young characters. The things fourteen year old Kendra did really shocked and disgusted me. I was saddened by her choices, and disappointed to find out that some of today's young people are making the same choices. There is one thing I learned from reading this book that I did not care to know, and there was quite a bit of profanity to overlook, but this was a good story. And, like I mentioned before, Coe Booth was not playin'! So, if you can handle the truth about the choices "some" young people are making when it comes to sex, then you might want to read this book.

ok let me explain my title, i ordered this book thinking it was about kendra wilkinson u know the chick from the girls next door, so i was a little taken aback when i started reading it and realised it wasnt. i was sorely tempted to send it back and demand a refund but something in my mind said "just read it its not like u have a lot of options with books u havent read" so i continued to read and i think by the 2nd chapter i was hooked and got so bad that i started reading it at work which by the way is not allowed but i just couldnt put it down. i was disappointed when it finished i was hoping there was more to it but maybe Coe Booth will write a sequel lol or the male main characters side of the story.

I was blown away by Booth's earlier book, Tyrell. It was flawless. I couldn't wait to read Kendra. I loved Kendra as well. The feelings of abandonment that Kendra felt from her mother were tangible, and I love the portrayal of the relationships between characters, just like Tyrell. **HOWEVER**, I'll be honest. I think the ending was a huge let-down. I don't think that it sends young readers a good message that Kendra ended up with Nashawn, who through the entire novel was portrayed as a

predatory character who used Kendra for oral and anal sex and gave her alcohol. How did he change into this great guy by the end of the book??? I'm just not buyin' it. This is not to say that I would not recommend Kendra--I would. I just wish that everything had not been tied into such a neat little bow and ended the way it did.

First of all this book was prepotreously great considering the cause and consuming effect, it described the love for someone who was there companion in every way but my all from looks from the inside and this heart warmly wasn't just another learn from your mistakes and don't do it again book tv was a twist that I was not expecting and that's what made me read more

I wanted to love this novel, I really did, but to me it fell short of her other novels, Tyrell and Bronxwood. \*\*\*Slight Spoiler Alert\*\*\*I found Kendra somewhat annoying and found myself taking the side of her best friend instead. I would still recommend this book, however, Tyrell and Bronxwood are better reads. Note to author: Please write another novel continuing Tyrell's story. I loved those novels.

This is a really good book for adolescents and adults. Gives a glimpse into some of the family/personal issues adolescents battle with on a daily basis. Coe Booth did an excellent job of portraying Kendra's inner and outer struggles.

I read the book along with my son so we could discuss it together to help him prepare for school. I was not expecting type of book to be assigned to a young teen but it was detailed enough that I could understand how the character felt.

Love it. Very good read.

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