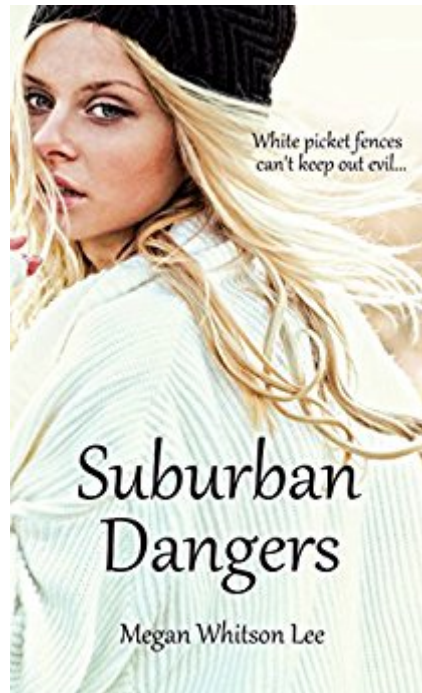




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# Suburban Dangers



## Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Kaki Jones is a straight-A student, runs on the cross country track team and exemplifies the all-around great teenager. Her younger brother Brandon is the opposite. He parties, fights at school, has photos of naked girls on his cell phone and is in trouble with the police. But Kaki is the one who harbors a dark secret. Her life has changed ever since she met the cool girl, Sydney Diaz. Now Kaki is a sophomore by day and a commodity sold at the hands of gang members by night. She is now controlled by threats of violence against those she loves. This is the story of what happens when parents look the other way, when a stranger offers more affection than a father and when God's deliverance is the only answer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Megan Lee tackles a heart breaking storyline with beautiful writing, grace, authenticity, and a powerful showing of God's redemptive grace. This YA novel rotates between Kaki, a teen enticed

into sex trafficking and drugs through a gang member boyfriend, and Kaki's dad--Tyler--a man struggling with life who loses sight of his teenage daughter's need for guidance and supervision. The topics are real and ugly, but life isn't always pretty and this book tackles dysfunctional families, sin, and the seedier side of life with the light of truth. I had my eyes opened to what is happening in my community not just in the headlines of national news. Kudos to Lee for shining light on this subject in an intimate and compelling way.

Another awesome book from Megan Whitson Lee! This book was one I couldn't put down. The subject matter is one that every parent, aunt, uncle, grandparent, brother or sister should be aware of. Knowing that such dangers are lurking inside the schools we send our children to is so frightening. I am thankful that, as a teacher, Ms. Lee can relay first-hand knowledge to make us all aware that we cannot let our guard down for one minute concerning the children we are responsible for. The story flows very quickly through the storms that one family encounters as a "blended" family. It shows the cracks that kids can fall through when parents are more interested in their own wants and desires than the needs of their children. Spiritual guidance is shown to be the answer for this family. Truly another great work of Christian fiction from this author! Can't wait for the next one!

Megan Whitson Lee has written a book that should be on the "must read" list for all teens, boys and girls, as well as their parents and grandparents. *Suburban Dangers* horrified and disgusted me, even though I've known and am familiar with human trafficking issues worldwide. But the book brings this horrible issue into a small town which parents think is safe and the tragedy that human trafficking creates. The author pulls no punches nor does she try to gloss over the enemies attracting and attacking our kids. Enemies no teen should be made to live among but they are there, stalking, tempting, and capturing their prey. And your child may be next on their hit list no matter where you live! *Suburban Dangers* uncovers the reality of the issue by delving into the sicknesses dwelling inside our homes and the willful trampling and tossing away of our Christian heritage and we are so consumed by our lives that we do not see what is around us. My heart was torn apart because I know, while this book is fiction, it is sadly a part of our lives and we must be vigilant in protecting the future generations. Without God we are nothing and we can do nothing I hope this book will open the eyes of everyone who reads it. This book is difficult to read because it forces us to look into our heart and realize that the children in this country are being targeted. We don't live in the USA that I grew up in. These predators are vicious and many of their victims die or wish they

were dead. Five Stars for Ms. Lee! You will have to read the book to see how it ends. It is a real eye opener and if you are looking for a feel good read this book is not for you. I shed more than a handful of tears while reading it. I received an advanced copy of this book. There was no requirement to leave a positive review. The review is 100% my own opinion.

I'm pretty torn about how to review this book - on the one hand, as a fiction work, I'm not entirely sure I can overlook some plot problems I felt like existed, especially at the end, as well as some occasional generic punctuation and grammar things that I find hard to ignore.... But on the other hand, the book probably accomplished its purpose because I finished the book in utter disbelief that this kind of thing was happening in schools and began doing research as to how much truth there was to the story. Unfortunately, quite a bit.... I know that sex trafficking is a very real problem not just internationally but in the U.S. (Actually, the city where I live is ranked as one of the top problem areas for this industry.), but the recruiting methods blew my mind. Schools and students as recruitment tools? I felt sick when I read this and confirmed it with some research. On that end, the book is probably worth a read for the awareness it can bring to this incredibly sad and tragic industry that destroys so many lives, and for the awareness it can bring parents, teachers, teens and concerned citizens in general to how easy it can be to fall into a trap (On that note, I was pretty ticked off on several occasions during the book: I was angry at the male figures in the book who were using these women for their gain, mad at the people in the main character's life who were oblivious to her victimization, and honestly, a little mad at the main character falling for some of the lines, I must admit, even though I know she's a victim.). But it did have a pretty slow, confusing start that had me tempted to put the book down and walk away from it. (I should say here that I did have a review copy of it, and perhaps a summary on the back cover - which this didn't have - would've helped to explain some things to me and avoided some of that confusion... though I'm not entirely sure that the confusion from all the switches in points of view and character would've been lessened by an explanation on the cover anyway.) Slight spoiler alert - As far as plot and character development, I felt like things wrapped up a little too nicely. Bigger spoiler alert - I mean, really, even the stepmother has a change of heart? Obviously at this point in the book, there has been so much damage done and so much hurt has happened that it's not going to be an instant recovery for ANYONE involved (and I think I would've liked to see more acknowledgement of that fact, even if readers CAN assume that's the case), but even with that thought in the back of my head, I feel like the story had too many nice, neat little bows on the package, and I'm just not buying a full recovery here. And on that same token, really, the family wouldn't move after all this?! What about gang

repercussions and revenge that would likely be taken out on them? It seems unrealistic that moving wasn't even a thought in here because I can tell you straight up that I would've been outta there - or at least considered it - and there are few parents I know who wouldn't have also been. Yeah, yeah, I'm sure I'd want to bring awareness to the situation and help prevent this from happening to others... but pretty sure I'd want to do that from a different city than where it happened to me....And speaking of unrealistic, it really bothered me (Wait, did I say bothered? Let's go with ticked me off and saddened me...) that one of the women in the book who struggles with infertility is suddenly fine because of... a puppy. Yes, a puppy: "Nothing'll take your mind off your woes like puppies. I don't even think about babies anymore. God used Trixie and these puppies to completely divert my attention to a different type of mothering...." Seriously?!? Come on! This is a total slap in the face to anyone who's struggled with not only infertility but disappointment with God for anything, as if somehow their faith is weaker because a puppy or kitty or a great job or... hasn't somehow lessened the pain of loss for them....But aside from a pretty slow and confusing start, mechanical errors, some questionable character and plot developments, I actually appreciate the fact that that book highlighted a very real problem and aroused my interest in it. At first I thought a fiction medium for such a tragic problem was a little sacrilege, but as I read it, I think the author did accomplish her purpose of gaining interest and exposure for this area, at least.

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