



## Run, Riot

*Nikesh Shukla*

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## **Run, Riot** Nikesh Shukla

A powerful novel about young people standing up for themselves and their community, from the editor/author of *The Good Immigrant*.

When teenagers Hari and Jamal film an unarmed youth from their estate being beaten by police, they find themselves hunted by the very people who should be protecting them. But as they go on the run with Hari's twin sister, Taran, and Jamal's girlfriend, Anna, the four friends discover that the truth behind the shooting goes so much deeper, with terrible personal consequences for them all.

A hard-hitting YA crime thriller dealing with timely themes of youth helplessness, gentrification and police brutality.

## **Run, Riot** Details

Date : Published June 14th 2018 by Hodder Children's Books

ISBN : 9781444940688

Author : Nikesh Shukla

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## From Reader Review Run, Riot for online ebook

### Megan ♠? ??? ♠? Michaels says

I wanted to absolutely love this, the pages did fly by, I liked Taran and it is such an important topic and concept. The writing was decent, the only let downs were I felt all the adult characters were flat and the same, and the children only distinguishable by catchphrases rather than personality. I did like this though so a good, quick, exciting, topical YA (I would say middle grade??) book!

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### Kelly says

This is a powerful story of community and using your voice. I adored Taran, Hari, Anna, Jamal and their fight for what is right. This story has moments that induce sadness, fear, anger and hope. Whilst reading this I couldn't help but get excited for all the young people who will read this book and just GET it. This is the kind of life that is massively under represented in UKYA and I'm so glad this book exists for those young people. The UK's answer to *THUG*.

*A big thank you to NetGalley, Hodder Children's Books and Nikesh Shukla for my eARC in exchange for a fair and honest review.*

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### Siobhan says

Run, Riot is a fast-paced and tense YA novel about community, gentrification, and fighting to expose the system. Taran and her twin brother Hari live in Firestone House, a tower block near the centre of the city. It wasn't where they would've chosen to live, but they have friends there and a life. When Hari gets caught up in police violence, the twins and their friends Jamal and Anna find themselves on the run in their own home, in a race to uncover what is really happening to Firestone House and how far the corruption really goes.

The novel is structured predominantly around one night with some flashbacks, which gives it an electrifying atmosphere as the reader is drawn into the world of Firestone House and the frantic anger and fear of the main characters. Shukla has created a gripping bunch of characters, particularly Taran who is chasing her dream of being an MC whilst her brother dreams of leaving the area for the potential jobs of London.

Run, Riot is for fans of books like *The Hate U Give* who would like a novel set in England, exposing racism, gentrification, and police brutality closer to home for British readers. It is also for anyone who is looking for a carefully-paced YA novel with characters who feel alive and varied, whilst also angry and learning how to effectively fight for themselves and their community.

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### Jessica {Litnoob} says

A book outside of the United States that tackles both gentrification and police brutality? I didn't even imagine I could come across something like this, it feels like such a personal problem here nobody else could possibly be suffering the same way as us right? But this book managed to tackle the subject and felt like it was happening in my neighborhood not 3000 miles away.

We see the lives of poor people, immigrants, working class families just trying to make it while the people with power stack the deck against them. A fast paced single evening adventure for Justice that feels so real it's like it was ripped from the headlines. If you come from a block like this read this, and if you come from anywhere else in the world also give it a go. It's compelling and deep and it brings this place alive for you. Really I wish I could give it more than five stars.

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### **Karen Barber says**

What do you do when the people who've vowed to serve and protect you are the ones causing trouble? Sadly, the teens we follow through the course of this novel are forced to find out.

Thanks to NetGalley for granting me access to this prior to publication.

It's an explosive read, with a growing sense of injustice and anger that builds to an unforgettable climax. I'd like to say we were truly in the realms of something that could never happen, but know that's not the case. We follow Taran and her twin through a momentous evening. It begins with the death of a local man at the hands of the police. Asking someone to document what happened and not intervene suggests he knew what was coming - and as we work out the extent to which the corruption has spread the sense of injustice was palpable.

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### **Megan (YABookers) says**

**Disclaimer:** I received this free from the publisher via NetGalley.

Hari and Jamal witness and film a murder of an unarmed man from their estate. A murder committed by police. Soon, they find themselves running and being hunted by the very people who are supposed to be protecting them. They soon discover, along with Taran and Anna, that there is something much bigger happening in their estate.

'He pushes past so many people in the block whose lives intersect with his own, who live above, below, next door, and in the pockets of everyone else in the building. His friends, they complain all the time about where they live, but are the quickest to defend it if anyone from outside says anything similar. Constantly love-hating this place. We don't even appreciate how connected we are, Jamal thinks. We're residents of a block, existing side by side like it's not a strange thing that we're all shoved into this space together.'

Run, Riot is an important book about police brutality and gentrification. It takes places in real time over one night which makes it a tense and fast-paced read. It is about young people fighting for what is right and standing up for themselves and their community. It's a tough and brutal read about corruption and greed in society but a very important and relevant book.

It takes place in a tower block and I really loved this and the sense of community it shows. Shukla has managed to create a fantastic group of characters with some great dynamics which you can't help but care about. At the heart of this, it's about community, friendship, and family and I really liked that. To say that Run, Riot takes place over a night Nikesh Shukla managed to create some really well rounded and complex characters which is really impressive.

Overall, Run, Riot is a fantastic book about incredibly important topics. It tackles injustice, racism, gentrification, police brutality, and corruption. It is also a book so desperately needed in UKYA and one that I highly recommend. I will definitely be looking out for more from Nikesh Shukla!

### **MBF says**

I really enjoyed this book. I thought that the plot was very unique and interesting

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### **Georgia says**

Here is my review of this wonderful book! <http://georgiasbookishthoughts.com/20...>

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### **Stella says**

This is a powerful, page-turning, through-provoking YA novel involving teenagers, gentrification and corruption. So absorbing it made me miss my stop TWICE (so probably best read at home and not while using public transport!)

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### **Annie says**

A fast paced, action packed thriller of a story that I believe to be The U.K's answer to "The Hate U Give" (THUG). A story that explores social injustice at the hands of corruption, a story that turns the lives of 4 teens upside down when they become privy of too much information and the decision they need to make - stay silent and go on the run or take a stand and have justice prevail.. I thoroughly enjoyed the story, dialogue and the characters we followed and I also liked the story's structure as it was following a time line (as in time of day) rather than chapters so it really brought the story to life for me. I hope this story is adapted to film, I believe it would be well received by the YA reader community.. special thanks to Date A Book YA/Hachette Publishers for sending me a review copy of this book.

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### **Trisha says**

Tough read exploring corruption and greed. But also inspiring young people to take the lead in exposing these types of social injustice.

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### **Katy Noyes says**

3.5 stars

Meatspace was brilliant, an on-the-money look at a social-media-obsessed world. Shukla here turns to the YA audience and a selection of other hot topics: gangs, violence, corruption.

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Twins Taran and Hari live in a rundown estate, after their Dad's chemo and unfairly rising rents out-priced them from a nicer area. They've settled there, made friends. In a THUG-like (Angie Thomas) scenario though, things come crashing down very quickly.

The tragic setup that they film sets up a community-spanning set of events that endangers their group of friends as they try to work out why things are happening and if they can work things out for themselves.

While I liked the overall scenario and aim of the book, I didn't really get a feel for the protagonists, and the key scene that sets off the plot didn't make sense to me - it seemed unrealistic that it would take place as it did (I don't want to specify to avoid spoilers). Characters also seem to recover from the shock/grief of it quite quickly as well, and the character involved, I felt, never got a chance to explain why he let it happen.

It may have detracted from the novel, listening to this on audiobook. I might have felt more flow reading this on paper/e-reader, rather than disjointedly over several days in the car via Audible. I also didn't feel the narrator conveyed the voices I expected in my mind for these young people in this particular setting.

The hidden story (again, no spoilers) was one I wasn't sure teenage readers would care too much about, they are more likely to be interested in the relationship between youth and the police, gangs and related crimes, family and loyalty. I lost interest in listening a few times and had to backtrack.

I'd say this will have an audience. I just don't think I'm 'it'.

With thanks to Nudge Books for providing a sample Audible copy.

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### **Read3r'z Re-Vu says**

I found this to be a fast paced, action packed thriller of a story that I believe to be The U.K's answer to "The Hate U Give" (THUG). A story that explores social injustice at the hands of corruption, and rogue police. A story that turns the lives of 4 teens upside down when they become privy to too much information and the decision they need to make - either stay silent and go on the run or take a stand and have justice prevail. I thoroughly enjoyed this story, the dialogue between the characters and I even came to care for the characters we followed. The book's structure was also well done as it was following a time line (as in time of day) rather than chapters so it really brought the story to life for me. To be honest, I really hope this story is adapted to film as I believe it would be well received by the YA reader community. I recommend this book to readers of YA who enjoy suspense, action and is interested in reading stories that explore deep themes such as social injustice and community.

Special thanks to Date A Book YA (Hachette) Publishers for sending me a review copy of this book.

- Annie

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### **Helen Swinyard says**

I read this in two days. If you know me, you will know how impressed I must have been. I was totally gripped. Nikesh has much to say and does it with integrity, magic storytelling, authentic voices and big morals. Bravo, sir. I hope you get many more ratings of this book than there are currently (I'm only 77th). I will definitely be getting lots of my school pupils to read this soon!

## zaheerah says

\* I received an ARC of this book from the publisher through NetGalley. This in no way affected my opinion of the book.

After Taran's twin brother witnesses a murder, it suddenly becomes a giant game of cat and mouse in their tower block. Them vs the police. Them vs everyone else. Hari and her friends soon learn there's something else happening in the estate, something that will uproot from everything they knew.

Run, Riot tackles some pretty important topics. Racism, police brutality, corruption and gentrification. It has the makings of being a very compelling book. It was fascinating to read this fast-paced story as these group of kids face these moments of injustice from the very people who are meant to protect them. One death leads to the breakdown of an entire community and exposes a trail of corruption that goes further than anyone expected. I really enjoy how the narrative played out, a minute by minute account of events, over a twenty-four-hour time lapse, with moments of flashbacks. I could definitely see this on TV.

I'm actually struggling to put into words what I didn't like about this book. I just didn't connect with the characters nor plot. It just felt bland, and many moments were just so dull to read. It's not as adrenaline-fuelled you would think it would be. Which was a real shame because I actually enjoy its concept and plot, but I was actually really disappointed in its execution. The plot was gripping, its characters genuinely fascinating to read about but the whole book just didn't work for me. Which really frustrated me because I was enjoying this and I wanted it to be better, but it wasn't.

Overall, an interesting read about a group of teens standing up and speaking up for what they believe in. Personally, I think my dislike of this is just from my own personal reading experience/taste, but I still think it's a book that a lot of people will enjoy, hopefully much more than I did.

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