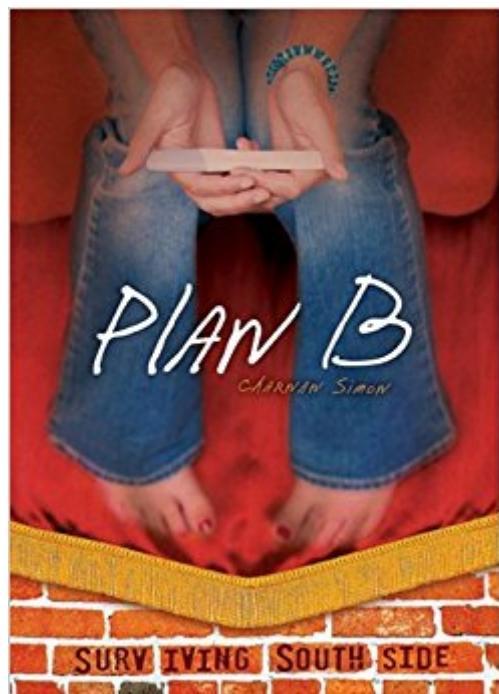


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# Plan B (Surviving Southside)



## **Synopsis**

Lucy has her life planned out: she'll graduate and then join her boyfriend, Luke, at college in Austin. She'll become a Spanish teacher, and they'll get married. Deciding there's no reason to wait, and despite trying to be careful, Lucy gets pregnant. Now, none of Lucy's options are part of her picture-perfect plan. Together, she and Luke will have to make the most difficult decision of their lives.

## **Book Information**

Series: Surviving Southside

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Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #586,010 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Pregnancy #206 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Drugs & Alcohol Abuse #802 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying

## **Customer Reviews**

My low level reader 8th graders like this series because they get to carry around a book with a cool cover (yes, they do judge the books by their covers) instead of another third grade level "baby book."

"This is intriguing to me because I work at a pharmacy and one of our drugs is called Plan B, and well I won't say what it's for you can look it up, but my mind set went straight to that as being what the story might be about so I guess I'll find out. "This was my first thought when I saw this as a book I could get from Netgalley. So of course I requested to read it, and now that I have I can say that on some level I guess that is what the book is about, but more than that. You could also gather from reading it that it might be about having to make choices in your life. Hints-the Plan A..Plan B sort of thing. (It also helps that the outline tells you it too. :) )I read this in a few hours because it is such a

small book. I liked the idea behind the book, but then again there's probably quite a few that are like it out there somewhere. (I'll have to do some research). It follows the MC Lucy in kind of a day to day life with her friends, mom, and boyfriend. After awhile it gets kind of repetitive. I mean how much school, work, home, boyfriend, and friends can you take? You eventually know that things are going to happen between certain characters, but until then..nothing really. The characters weren't to bad they seemed like they could be normal people, but they didn't have that something to make me feel connected to them. I did like Lucy's little obsession with making lists though it gave her some kind of quirk. Then there was her boyfriend he was pretty much as generic as they come. Why are they always popular and athletic? (Sorry) Then you had her friends Trez and Cate one who had an on/off again relationship and the other who didn't have one at all. Just your regular type friends, and for her to take awhile to tell them her secrets. I don't know I mean if they're your friends why hide it from them. It was a typical family too just her and her mother. (No father because he left while her mother was pregnant with her) Does it count that I liked a few of the characters names? They were different like-Trez (It makes me think of my sleeping med Trazadone. I call it Traz. Thought I'd add that tid-bit.) You know you haven't seen that kind of name before. The little girl's name that came for dance lessons Tierney. I thought was cute. I wasn't happy with the ending either because it did just that it ended leaving me with more questions as to what happened with the choices Lucy and Luke made then answers. How did they handle the situation? What were their friends thoughts? Parents thoughts? I guess I would have liked to know more after the incident happened. So for this one to actually stand out it needed something more. Plain and simple. When I read I like to have some detail. Like I said...answers to some questions would have helped me with closure to the story of Luke and Lucy. Now I'm going to be wondering. :( (Remember this is just my opinion what doesn't work for me may very well work for you. :) So give it a shot.

Plan B by Charnan Simon deals with a very difficult subject, teen pregnancy. It does so in a realistic manner. It's a quick read that gives the reader a glimpse into the challenges of finding out you are pregnant in high school. The main characters had a seemingly perfect high school love affair, that was greatly tested when Lucy finds out that love isn't as perfect as she thinks it is. She's always a planner, but this hiccup throws an awful blow to her future and her boyfriend's dreams. The story moves along pretty fast and you don't get to spend much time in their relationship before tragedy happens, but when it hits, you are able to see clearly the range of emotions Lucy experiences. I give this book a 3 out of 5 stars. A quick read that packs a punch of reality.

I am on the fence about this book. Yes it was short, a lot of people complained about that on their goodreads review, but that is not my issue. I think books can tell a beautiful story in less than 200 pages, but it is very rare. My problem with this book was how realistic it was. I liked Lucy, and even Luke. As characters, they portrayed lovesick teenagers very well. Simon made me remember that time of "first love." What I didn't completely believe was Luke's fast turn-around from reluctant dad to Mr Dependable. I wish she would have spent more time on the effects and the consequences of unprotected sex. I would have liked some more conversations between Lucy and Luke about how they felt, although I do think she did a good job expressing 'summarized emotions,' I would like to go deeper. I mean, the whole book has been spoiled by the summary, it was a predictable plot. And I love a good open-ended ending, but not when the story was just beginning. Overall, I think Simon did a good job expressing the consequences of unprotected sex, even with someone you love, and she did it without sounding preachy. I just wish there was more to the story. I think this is a good read for all teens though, because it shows anyone can make such a mistake. And it is one that lives you with forever, no matter what you may choose to do after.

\*Spoiler Alert\* I hate spoiling anything but when the book is only 108 pages, it was really hard not to. It was very well written. It honestly reminded me of the first two episodes of The Secret Life of the American Teenager. The dialogue is very specific, detailed and the most important decisions and thought processes are explained well. I think this story can be very usefully in explaining the many different thoughts and attitudes that come from 1) the pregnant girl as she finds out she's pregnant 2) the boyfriend/dad's thoughts 3) the parents of both 1&2 and of course the discussions and decisions that must be made from that point on by all of the above. How it changes your life and others. So \*spoiler alert\* (but that is ALL it covers). It is only 108 pages so we do not get to see what happens past these initial thoughts and decisions...and for this particular story things could have turned out way worse. This story perhaps shows the upside or more positive attitudes in this situation. I hope that books like these help show that communication is the key. Although I was anticipating more, I really enjoyed what I got. It was a fast read, but every informative, well written and should be included in all libraries.

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