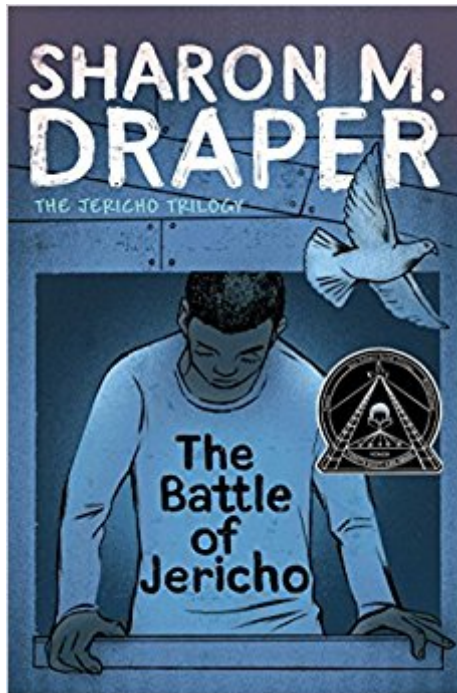




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# The Battle Of Jericho (The Jericho Trilogy)



## Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Jericho is awaiting initiation to the Warriors of Distinction, the oldest and most exclusive club in school—but how high a price will he have to pay to belong? Find out in this first novel in Sharon M. Draper's Jericho Trilogy. When Jericho is invited to pledge for the Warriors of Distinction, he thinks his life can't get any better. As the most exclusive club in school, the Warriors give the best parties, go out with the hottest girls, and great grades are a given. When Arielle, one of the finest girls in his class, starts coming on to him once the pledge announcements are made, Jericho is determined to do anything to become a member. But as the initiation week becomes progressively harrowing, Jericho is forced to make choices he's not entirely comfortable with. And one member seems to have it in for the sole female pledge in the group—a pledge who will stop at nothing to show she can handle the pressure. But when is she being pushed too far, and when should Jericho and his friends step in and risk losing their places in the pledging process? As Jericho becomes increasingly uneasy, his cousin Joshua breezes through the initiation, never thinking of the consequences, even when the fine line between fun and games, and life and death is crossed.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 7-10-When an elite club, The Warriors of Distinction, invites Jericho and his cousin Josh to pledge, the teens look forward to wearing the black silk jacket, going to great parties, and receiving the admiring glances of the other students at their Ohio high school. Even the girl Jericho has a crush on begins to show an interest in him. The initiation process begins rather tamely with the new pledges helping with the Christmas toy drive, but as it progresses, Jericho becomes increasingly uncomfortable with what they are asked to do and the way they treat Dana, the first-ever female pledge. Adopting the group's "All of us or none of us" creed, the 15 inductees decide to continue. In an intense climax, pledging goes tragically wrong and the repercussions are felt throughout the community. Draper has captured the essence of teens caught up in peer pressure who must ultimately live with the results of their actions. Her characters are deeply human and the strong plot mirrors the difficult choices that young people must make as they try to reconcile their need for acceptance with their inner values. Mostly, though, this title is a compelling read that drives home important lessons about making choices. Janet Hilbun, formerly at Sam Houston Middle School, Garland, TX Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Gr. 7-10. The Warriors of Distinction has been the school's most exclusive club for 50 years, so when 16-year-old Jericho is asked to pledge, he's excited--and intimidated. He is also disappointed after he realizes that he'll have to give up a music competition because he can't miss a night of the initiation week. When the ceremony turns cruel--with the one girl pledge being singled out for abuse--Jericho begins to have second thoughts. Then the affair turns deadly. There are several problems here. To her credit, Draper offers a story that is profanity free, but this makes the dialogue less credible. It's difficult to imagine teens not using swear words in some of these situations, and the slang used instead often makes conversations sound stilted. The plot is also chock-full, making it hard to focus on everything that's going on, even though Jericho helps center the story. Draper does portray a timely scenario, however, with middle-class African American kids (and others) put into a situation that many young people face: the wish for inclusion butting up against the knowledge of right and wrong. Ilene Cooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

This was required summer reading for the 12 yo I care for. He made a plan to read 30 pages per day to be finished in time for the start of school. The day after the first night of reading, he said he

enjoyed it so much he read extra. He loves reading to begin with, but the fact that he volunteered the info is high praise!

Jericho Prescott thinks to be a part of the Warriors of Distinction, a high school club, will somehow improve his life. The thought of wearing the black silk jacket he'll receive once he undergoes the "Bonding of the Brotherhood", being noticed by his peers, and getting the attention of a particular girl seem to be more important to him than anything. Against his better judgment, he endures humiliation, mind games & numerous indignities to become a Warrior of Distinction. He wants to belong to the best group in the school so badly, in fact, that he gives up a chance to live his dream of studying the trumpet at Julliard, one of the world's premier performing arts schools. Sadly, it takes a tragic accident to open his eyes to the fact that everything that glitters isn't gold. As I read what went on during the so-called Bonding of the Brotherhood (hazing, in actuality), it really bothered me. But what bothered me most was how these alarming events were taking place, and the parents of these young people had no idea what their teens were going through. This story drives home the importance of parents keeping track of their children's lives.

omg. I walked in Jericho's sluts through out this whole book. I mean I never cry or get teary eyed when I read books but it brought me to tears. Jericho is a brave and strong young man. This is a heartfelt book for teenagers and young adult. I recommend this book to be read. thanks! (:

This is the story of a group of friends who try to pledge for an esteemed high school club. It explores how the teens enact what is demanded even as they question the reasoning underlying the acts. The characters are well delineated. The book is insightful. I highly recommend this well written novel.

Excellent book.

The book is good as a whole for the teenage audience. Josh's death was sudden and very sad. I dislike the club they were pledging for and I'm mad Jericho did not go to the competition in chance of getting a scholarship to a wonderful college that forces on an individual talent.

Sharon Draper is an awesome writer. It never turns out to be what you think it will be. My students love her too

I love this book. It is sad but it really makes you think. This is one of the best books I have read. I am definitely going to keep reading the series. I wonder what is going to happen in the next two. What is going to happen to November and Jericho? What will Dana and Kofi do? I don't know but I am going to find out

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