



# THE SIN-EATER'S CONFESSION

## Description

People in Merit, Wisconsin, always said Jimmy was . . . you know. But people said all sorts of stupid stuff. Nobody really knew anything. Nobody really knew Jimmy.

I guess you could say I knew Jimmy as well as anyone (which was not very well). I knew what scared him. And I knew he had dreams—even if I didn't understand them. Even if he nearly ruined my life to pursue them.

Jimmy's dead now, and I definitely know that better than anyone. I know about blood and bone and how bodies decompose. I know about shadows and stones and hatchets. I know what a last cry for help sounds like. I know what blood looks like on my own hands.

What I don't know is if I can trust my own eyes. I don't know who threw the stone. Who swung the hatchet? Who are the shadows? What do the living owe the dead?

## Critical Acclaim

- Excellence in Graphic Literature Award YA Fiction, **Nominated, 2020**
- YALSA Great Graphic Novels for Teens, **Winner, 2020**
- Children's Book Committee at Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year, **Winner, 2020**
- Southwest Books of the Year, **Winner, 2019**

“Bick (*Drowning Instinct*) crafts a powerful tale of bigotry and murder in small-town Wisconsin....a potent examination of teenage emotions and reactions to peer and parental pressures, and to the evil that people are capable of.” —**starred, *Publishers Weekly***

“Bick’s compelling tale manages to be a blistering confessional and a page-turning whodunit (or maybe what-really-happened) all in one... Readers won’t be able to look away even if they find they don’t much like—or trust—Ben.” —**starred, *Kirkus Reviews***

“Bick has fashioned a disturbing novel that explores issues of personal identity, orientation, community values, and responsibility....This is a difficult book to read, both because of its unsettling content and because of its intense introspection; however, for the right reader the novel offers an engrossingly realistic entry into a young man’s coming of age.” —***Library Media Connection***

This gut-wrenching story is like watching a terrible accident in slow motion....Fans of Bick’s *Ashes* zombie trilogy will be surprised if they pick this up, but those who do will find ample food for thought and discussion.” —**VOYA**

Interest Level: Grades 9-12  
Reading Level: Grade 7  
Lexile: 730  
On Sale Date: Jan 1, 2014

### Available Formats:

Paperback

978-1-4677-3705-0 \$9.95

Multi-user eBook

978-1-4677-6821-4 \$31.99

"Bick proves again she is a writer to her core, never at a loss for things to say and uninterested in easy answers. Her handling of Ben's increasing paranoia and delusion is nimble, making this a violent, and very smart, take-no-prisoners experience." —***Booklist***

Reminiscent of Bick's *Drowning Instinct* (Carolrhoda Lab, 2012), the story is told in flashback, this time in diary-type letters....This novel should be in all YA collections, and would be interesting reading for members of GSA's." —***School Library Journal***

"A soldier serving in Afghanistan recounts the series of complicated events that led to the brutal killing of his estranged friend in their small Wisconsin town. Unable to explain what he saw that night or why he didn't help, Ben covered his tracks before investigating on his own. Ben's story is a tense and tragic exploration of intolerance and the elusiveness of truth." ***The Horn Book Guide***