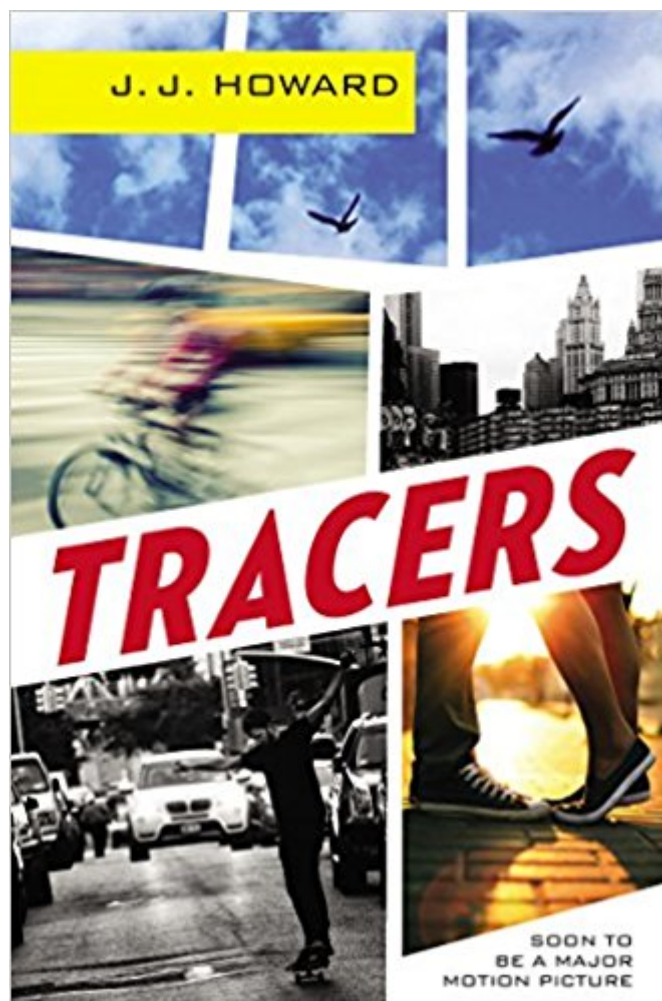


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# Tracers



## Synopsis

In the vein of great box-office blockbusters, the high-stakes romance here sizzles within this page-turning thriller that will leave readers feeling like they are flying through the streets of New York. Cam has come to accept the rhythm of his life as a bike messenger: racing up and down the streets of New York City from one run to the next. With no family to rely on and a mountain of debts, at least it's an honest way to help pay off his dangerous debtors. But for Cam, his whole world comes crashing down on him one day when he runs into a beautiful stranger. After falling out of the sky and wiping out Cam and his bike, she disappears before he can find out anything about her. When he starts to see her around town, he quickly realizes that she is part of an underground group of teens who have turned NYC into their own parkour playground—running, jumping, seemingly flying through the city like it's an obstacle course. But Cam becomes fascinated with the sport—and the beautiful stranger, Nikki. He falls in with the group, and they offer him the chance to make some extra money. But when the stakes become life or death, Cam is torn between following his heart and sacrificing everything to pay off his debts.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

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Contemporary #6479 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up—Cam has had it rough. His lowlife, ex-con father was stabbed to death in prison and his mother died after a long and virulent illness. Now he's working as a New York City bike

messenger, trying to settle his debt to Chinese gangsters who are threatening violence to anyone close to him. One day beautiful Nikki literally drops on him, causing him to wreck his bike. Nikki is part of a gang dedicated to parkour, or tracing, the art of moving rapidly through an urban environment, dodging obstacles with grace and strength. In pursuit of secretive Nikki, Cam is eventually drawn into the gang and finds they are also dedicated to crime, carrying out missions, including armed robbery, on behalf of the mysterious Miller. The story is highly predictable and rich with conventions and stereotypes. The central romance is an agonizing on-again/off-again. As Nikki says, "Just it's complicated, is the thing." On the plus side, the action scenes are well plotted and the richly evoked environment—abandoned buildings, a parking structure, the Chinatown underworld—is unusual, more like a Hong Kong action film than a typical YA novel. Despite Cam's dedication to parkour after meeting Nikki and the sometimes lavish descriptions of his training, the activity ceases to be a plot element for much of novel. Sexual descriptions are brief and subtly conveyed. Violence is frequent, but never overdone. A light read for older action lovers.

—Bob Hassett, Luther Jackson Middle School, Falls Church, VA

JJ Howard (www.jjhowardbooks.com) grew up in York, Pennsylvania, obsessed with music, movies, television, and pop culture. She graduated from Dickinson College with a BA in English and Tiffin University with an MH in Humanities. She currently lives in Florida. Follow her on Twitter: @jjhowardbooks

The reader can actually SEE the action as you read! The characters are clearly defined, the action moves quickly and the book keeps you guessing until the very end! Nice work, J.J Howard!

excellent book - kept moving and really interesting to learn about parkour. Looking forward to the movie (but the book is usually better)

Phenomenal. This is a real page turner, the action starts from the first page. Would love to see this possibly become a series on the lives of the characters and where they went with their lives. Must Read.

Awesome book. I randomly picked it up at the library a while ago and recently found out they made it into a movie.

Such a page turner!! Very entertaining! Howard is a fantastic writer!!!!

Tracers read like an action movie--fast paced, with tons of action, and a thrilling romance. Cam is a bike messenger, the fastest in his group, with a mountain of debts and a ton of baggage. He's a loner, who meets a beautiful stranger, well is wiped out by one. She knocks him off his feet and on his behind. What I really liked about Tracers was how easy it read. It was go from page one and pretty much never let up. Although you don't really get to know all the characters, the ones you're given depth about, grab you. Cam seems like an ordinary kid, with extraordinary troubles but for whatever reason I felt for him. I was able to connect with his character. Nikki, the silent yet somehow sassy love interest, was a solid character. She didn't have many moments in the book but you felt her presence, just as strong as Cam did. Cam's immediate obsession with Nikki threw me a little but the author was able to make it all come together, in a way that was both enjoyable and realistic. I can totally see how this book was made into the movie because it certainly reads like one --complete with Chinese gangs, gritty streets, fast moves, and a romance that you find yourself rooting for. You won't be knocked off your feet but you'll be thoroughly entertained. There's enough of everything for any kind of reader. I'd recommend it!

Amazing book! One of the best authors of our generation. A MUST READ! J.J. is full of energy and an amazing writer! READ THIS BOOK!

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