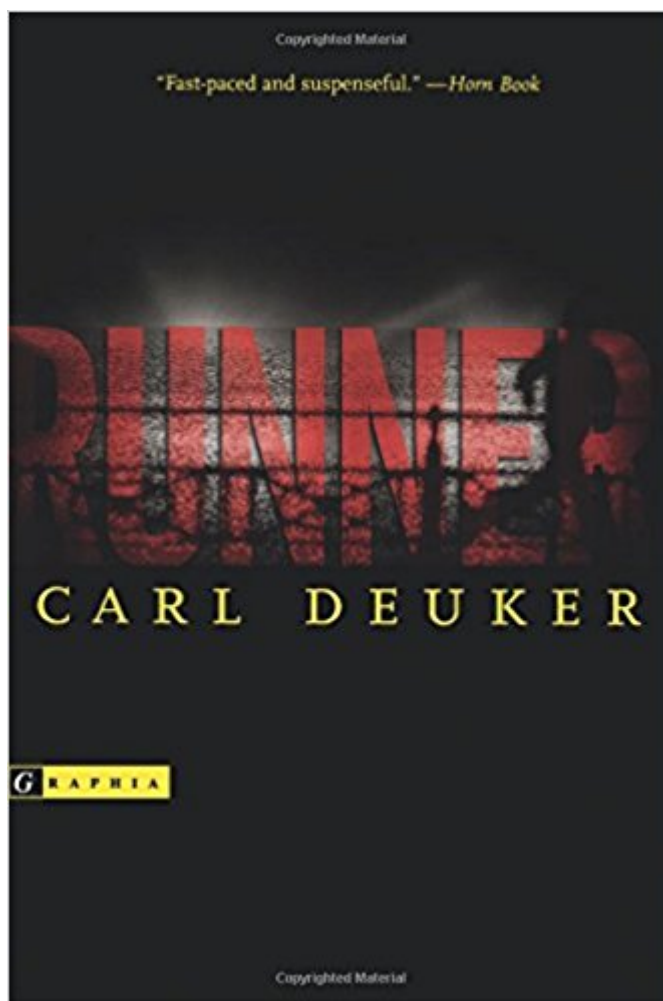


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# Runner



## Synopsis

When a new job falls his way, Chance jumps at the opportunity, becoming a runner who picks up strange packages on a daily route and delivers them to a shady man at the marina. Chase knows how much he will earnâ™t what he doesnâ™t know is how much he will pay. Suspenseful, fast-paced, and timely, this novel avoids easy answers as it examines issues of terrorism and patriotism, fear and courage, and lives of privilege and poverty. This paperback edition includes a Q and A with author Carl Deuker.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 670 (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (April 23, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618735054

ISBN-13: 978-0618735051

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 72 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #57,130 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Homelessness & Poverty](#) #43 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Parents](#) #57 in [Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Law & Crime](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Upâ™ “When his alcoholic Gulf War veteran father is fired from the first steady job he has held in years, Chance Taylor is understandably glum. He has no idea where they’ll get the money to pay the moorage fees for the run-down sailboat they call home. Since his parents’ divorce, Chance has tried to keep a low profile in school, and his only pleasure is running by himself along the Seattle waterfront. When a marina office employee offers to pay him \$250 a week to pick up occasional packages at a tree along his running route, Chance is deeply suspicious of what they may contain but desperate enough to accept this opportunity to pay the bills. As this new job gradually becomes more dangerous and more clearly illegal, Chance’s father is able to rise above

his personal problems to help extricate his son. In a gripping climax complete with SWAT teams swarming throughout the marina as Coast Guard patrol boats close in on terrorists, Chance is afforded a final glimpse of the heroic man his father once was. Writing in a fast-paced, action-packed, but at the same time reflective style, Deuker uses fewer sports scenes than in his previous novels, and instead uses running as a hook to entice readers into a perceptive coming-of-age novel. A subplot involving Chance's friendship with a wealthy female classmate whose father was a close high school friend of Chance's father is nicely integrated into this timely, compelling story.â "Ginny Gustin, Sonoma County Library System, Santa Rosa, CA Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Gr. 7-10. "My dad never hit me; never yelled at me. He was just a drunk." High-school senior Chance is a "ghost-walker" at school--barely talking, just passing, finding escape only in long, solitary, after-school runs. His hard-drinking father can't keep a job, and Chance worries how they will pay the mooring fees for their dilapidated, 30-foot sailboat home in Puget Sound. When a marina worker offers him a job picking up secret packages, Chance can't turn down the lucrative opportunity, even though he's sure it's illegal. But as a friendship with smart student Melissa grows, so does Chance's concern about his job and its possible links to local smuggling rings. Deuker drops plenty of hints about what's in the packages, but the tragic blockbuster ending may still be a surprise. The authenticity of Chance's first-person voice occasionally wavers, and the initial pacing of the story is sometimes awkward. But the sports and suspenseful action will easily draw readers, as will the gripping adventure's consideration of crime, class, ineffectual parents, and a teen's questions about his uncertain future. Gillian Engberg Copyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Runner was written in a thought-provoking way that not only had Chance battling with his own emotions, but me with my own as well. Carl Deuker presented many instances in which I had to grapple with taking the easy way out or strive to continue with the bare minimum. This book confronted and covered many topics such as drugs, terrorism, and trafficking. I suggest this book for teens twelve and up as it does take into consideration some more mature worldly topics. I think one reason that I enjoyed this book so much, was that I could relate. I can't say that I'm at rock bottom living in a household where the bills aren't being paid and everyday expenses aren't being met, but there were some aspects of Runner that I could really connect to. For example, as the title of the

book depicts, Chance runs. Every day he runs, and that is what got him started in this business in the first place. I love to run as well. I was able to relate to how Chance felt as he went on his daily runs and let the day's troubles just seep from his mind. Running was calming for him, as it is for me too. It would have been nice to see Chance's running scenes go into more detail, but maybe that's just the inner runner inside me speaking. I also enjoyed how Runner presented a very real and plausible situation. This book focused on topics like terrorism, drugs, and trafficking. Not only did this book make me think about these topics, but it also shed some light on them. What happened to Chance could be what is happening to a teen somewhere right now. They have nowhere else to go, but suddenly this opportunity comes out of nowhere to essentially make everything "better." Kids are sucked into this kind of world all the time, and it's something that people should be aware of. Runner definitely spread the message. It was interesting to see how the story initially took place in a small town on the coast of Washington, to see it grow in size to have an affect on the whole world. That was also something that prompted Chance to grow as he understood what a large scale this was really on. This had started out as a job to earn some money, and progressed to an event who's outcome could affect millions of lives. Chance really went through some self-discovery as he battled with this, and his own problems at family and school. This is a very fast-paced read, and at times that was a good thing, but in the long run (haha, no pun intended), I wish Runner had been a bit longer. It would have been nice to have gotten to know Chance and the other characters on a deeper level. Instead of relating to the characters, I felt like I was just watching from afar. I'm glad this was a stand-alone novel though, because I can't really imagine the story being drawn out to the length of two books. I can't wait to read more of Carl Deuker's sport novels that also confront the issues of teens! Overall, Runner was an action-packed read with real issues that any teen can relate to. Join Chance, as he wrestles with his emotions and thoughts on what choice to make in, Runner!-This is T.B. with Another Book Back on the Shelf...Until Next Time, Keep Reading!

It held my interest...but. The plot line was good....however I had problems with the "envelope". At one point I actually had to check previous pages to verify that the author actually wanted us to believe the main character was a teenager. Maybe I was reading a book for young adults and didn't know it. But I gave it 3 stars because it was well written

I haven't read this, it was purchased for my son for required school reading. I have been amazed! My son usually hates reading and I have to assign him a certain amount to finish each day- this time he reads past the required amount and is telling his friends about the story! I consider that a

success! Wonderful!

My 11 year old is an "old soul". He enjoyed this story, as he does all of Carl Deuker's novels. They are perfect for pre-adolescents / teens! If the story is babyish, my son won't read it. The Runner and Payback Time are not babyish at all, yet they stay within the boundaries of appropriateness that I want for my son.

my sons favorite author. great for 12- 13 year old. However some of the stories are violent and share information about drugs etc. My sons sees them as learning lessons

This book was supposed to be about a different story when I purchased it but still it ended up being a great read simple but something to entice the mind (age 22)

This book was for a school project. My child who doesn't like sports liked this book.

My son is in the 11th grade. He had 3 books that were required reading and this was one of them. I feel the choices were good ones, and here I could get them all in one place, as I did look at a couple of bookstores while I was browsing and they didn't have them. I hope to make this easier in the future, getting my son a kindle for Christmas (I hope.)

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