



## Burning Blue

By Paul Griffin

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How far would you go for love, beauty, and jealousy?

When Nicole Castro, the most beautiful girl in her wealthy New Jersey high school, is splashed with acid on the left side of her perfect face, the whole world takes notice. But quiet loner Jay Nazarro does more than that--he decides to find out who did it. Jay understands how it feels to be treated like a freak, and he also has a secret: He's a brilliant hacker. But the deeper he digs, the more danger he's in--and the more he falls for Nicole. Too bad everyone is turning into a suspect, including Nicole herself.

Award-winning author Paul Griffin has written a high-stakes, soulful mystery about the meaning--and dangers--of love and beauty.

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## **Burning Blue** By Paul Griffin Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up-Griffin has upped the ante with this engrossing page-turner that will keep readers on the edge of their seats. He retains his penchant for characters who are broken and battered by the vicissitudes of life and who struggle to find meaning and happiness. However, no matter how tragic the situation, he injects a poignant humanity and hopefulness into the most desperate of circumstances. Readers meet Nicole Castro, who is beautiful, brilliant, and popular. Her life completely changes the day that her perfect face is deliberately marred by acid. Classmate Jay Nazarro is determined to discover the perpetrator of this heinous and violent attack. A computer geek, Jay has become a recluse due to the humiliation he suffered when he had a seizure in front of the entire student body. The two form a tenuous alliance, searching for motives and possible suspects. Alternating narratives, email messages, journal entries, and therapist notes chronicle Jay's investigation and the shocking unraveling of the truth. Jay's snarky bravado, biting commentary, and personal anxiety provide an excellent counterpoint to Nicole's piercing, heartbreakingly honest inner dialogue. These realistic portraits will resonate with readers, who will appreciate this story on many levels: as a psychological study, social commentary, a puzzling mystery, or tender romance. Allusions to Picasso's *Girl in Front of a Mirror* should send readers off to explore this contemporary art classic. Another stellar offering from this talented author.-Barbara M. Moon, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY ©(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

#### From Booklist

Hacker Jay Nazarro meets Nicole Castro in the school psychologist's office and is drawn to the mystery behind her bandaged face. Who would have reason to squirt battery acid on one of the school's most beautiful and well-liked girls? He secretly begins using his tech skills to uncover the answer and, in the process, finds many suspects. The story unfolds mostly through Jay's first-person narration, supplemented by Nicole's journal entries, online chats, e-mails, and other tidbits brought to light by Jay's hacking. Jay's embarrassing public seizure two years earlier earned him the nickname Spaceman by his less-than-empathetic classmates, prompting his counseling sessions and his homeschooling with an often-absent art-critic father. As he and Nicole become friends and dig deeper into the crime, the danger ramps up, as does the introspection and emotional tension. A connection to Picasso's *Girl before a Mirror* is nicely integrated into the plot, whereas Nicole's secret, hinted at in the title, is less so. Teens will burn through this smart mystery quickly. Grades 8-11, --Cindy Dobrez

#### Review

**\* Publishers Weekly (starred)** Finding beauty and value where most see ugliness and ruin runs through Griffin's novels, and he brings that theme into sharp focus in this chilling, of-the-moment mystery. After popular and gorgeous senior Nicole Castro is sprayed in the face with acid in the halls of her New Jersey high school, 16-year-old Jay Nazarro, a closeted hacker with epilepsy, is determined to uncover who is behind the attack. The bulk of the narrative follows Jay's investigation, as well as his developing relationship with Nicole, while interspersed entries from Nicole's diaries, her shrink's notes, and e-mails from the perpetrator add depth (yes, there are red herrings, but as Jay discovers, nearly every potential suspect has a secret). Jay is an accomplished hacker—he's not infallible, but he could hold his own in a Cory Doctorow novel—and tech-obsessed readers will love seeing him adapt cellphones, computers, and Web sites to his advantage. As always, Griffin (*Stay with Me*) fills his story with fascinating, distinctive characters whose interior and exterior struggles are closely entwined.

**\* VOYA (starred, 5/5 P, 5/5 Q)** Burning Blue has all of the elements of classic mystery writing: a criminal act, numerous suspects with motive, and red herrings. The modern setting and situations will make this mystery a hit with young adults. A dull moment does not exist in this fast-paced, modern mystery. -- Dianna Geers.

"BURNING BLUE is terrific. It challenges the notion of where beauty lies and reminds us what true friendship, loyalty, and love really mean. I gobbled up this page-turning mystery. Paul Griffin has a new fan." --**Jennifer Brown, author of HATE LIST**

**Junior Library Guild** 2012 official selection

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Joyce Adam:**

Here thing why that Burning Blue are different and trusted to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good however it depends in the content of computer which is the content is as delightful as food or not. Burning Blue giving you information deeper and different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no book that similar with Burning Blue. It gives you thrill looking at journey, its open up your eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is maybe can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your approach home by train. When you are having difficulties in bringing the branded book maybe the form of Burning Blue in e-book can be your alternative.

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#### **Johnnie Gonzales:**

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