

Bluford Series



Diving Deep into the Bluford Series: A Comprehensive Guide

Are you ready to explore a world of gripping teen drama, compelling characters, and social issues cleverly woven into captivating narratives? Then you've come to the right place! This comprehensive guide delves into the captivating world of the Bluford Series, offering a detailed look at its history, themes, key characters, and lasting impact on young adult literature. We'll explore why this series continues to resonate with readers, and provide you with everything you need to know before embarking on your own Bluford adventure.

A Glimpse into Bluford High: Understanding the Series' Setting and Premise

The Bluford Series, created by author Sharon M. Draper, isn't just a collection of teen novels; it's a vibrant tapestry portraying the complexities of adolescence within a specific urban high school setting. Each book in the series focuses on different characters and storylines, yet they all share a common thread: the challenges faced by students at Bluford High, a diverse and often turbulent environment. The series successfully tackles difficult topics with sensitivity and nuance, making it both engaging and thought-provoking. It's a world where friendships are forged and broken, secrets are revealed, and the consequences of choices reverberate throughout the community.

Key Themes Explored in the Bluford Series

The Bluford Series tackles a wide range of relevant and resonant themes that resonate deeply with young readers. These include:

1. Identity and Self-Discovery: Many of the stories center on characters grappling with their identities, exploring questions of race, class, and personal values in the face of societal pressures. Readers witness the characters' journeys of self-discovery and the challenges they overcome in finding their place in the world.

2. Family Dynamics and Relationships: Family plays a crucial role in many of the novels. The series explores the complexities of family relationships, including strained parent-child bonds, sibling rivalry, and the importance of familial support during challenging times.

3. Social Issues and Inequality: The Bluford Series doesn't shy away from tackling difficult social issues. Themes of racism, poverty, violence, and peer pressure are interwoven into the narratives, offering realistic portrayals of the challenges faced by many young people.

4. Consequences of Choices: The series emphasizes the importance of making responsible choices and facing the consequences of one's actions. Characters often learn valuable lessons through their mistakes, demonstrating the importance of personal accountability and growth.

Notable Characters That Define the Bluford Experience

The enduring appeal of the Bluford Series lies partly in its memorable characters. Each novel introduces new protagonists while occasionally revisiting familiar faces, creating a sense of community and shared experiences. These characters are flawed, relatable, and dynamic, making their journeys all the more compelling. While each book stands alone, the recurring settings and overlapping narratives create a rich and interconnected world.

The Enduring Legacy and Impact of the Bluford Series

The Bluford Series has had a significant impact on young adult literature. Its unflinching portrayal of real-world issues and its diverse cast of characters have resonated with readers for years. The series has sparked important conversations about race, class, and identity, making it a valuable tool for promoting empathy and understanding among young people. Its success lies in its ability to blend entertainment with social commentary, making it both engaging and impactful.

Conclusion

The Bluford Series is more than just a collection of teen novels; it's a journey into the lives of diverse young people navigating the complexities of adolescence and the challenges of their community. Through compelling characters, realistic settings, and important social commentary, this series continues to captivate readers and inspire discussions about crucial social issues. Whether you're a seasoned reader or just beginning your literary journey, the Bluford Series offers a powerful and rewarding experience.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How many books are in the Bluford Series? The exact number varies depending on how you categorize the series and spin-offs, but there are a significant number of novels, providing many hours of engaging reading.
2. Are the books suitable for all age groups? While the series is targeted towards young adults, some books tackle mature themes that might be better suited for older teens. Parental guidance may be advisable for some readers.
3. Where can I find the Bluford Series? The books are widely available at most bookstores, both online and in physical locations. You can also find them at libraries.
4. Are the books connected? While each book tells a standalone story, there are recurring characters and settings, creating a sense of interconnectedness across the series.
5. What makes the Bluford Series stand out from other young adult novels? The series' strength lies in its realistic portrayal of urban life, its diverse characters, and its willingness to tackle difficult social issues with sensitivity and nuance. This combination makes it a unique and impactful reading experience.

bluford series: The Fallen Paul Langan, 2012 Martin Luna struggles to rebuild his life after the death of his little brother and finds himself getting in trouble in school and at home.

bluford series: Schooled Paul Langan, 2009 Lionel Shephard dreams of joining the NBA, but while his father disapproves of his plans, his teachers are threatening to fail him--unaware of his poor reading abilities--and Lionel needs to decide how far he is willing to go for his dreams.

bluford series: Blood is Thicker Paul Langan, D. M. Blackwell, 2004 Hakeem and Savon are

cousins who do not get along at first but work things out.

bluford series: Lost and Found Anne E. Schraff, 2002-01-01 The first novel in the Bluford Series.

bluford series: A Matter of Trust Anne E. Schraff, 2001-12-01 This book centers on Darcy's growing conflict with her old friend, Brisana Meeks. Amid jealousy and competition, Darcy fights for her relationship with Hakeem Randall and struggles with her fears over her own family's future.

bluford series: Promises to Keep Paul Langan, 2013 No one likes Tyray Hobbs. Once a feared bully, he's become an outcast. At Bluford High, his peers taunt him for how he treated them. At home, his parents punish him for the trouble he's caused. Unable to escape his reputation or his past, Tyray is desperate. And when an unlikely friendship develops, he clings to it like a lifeline. Now that connection is threatened, and Tyray faces his toughest decision yet. Will his next move lead him to ruin or redemption—or both?

bluford series: The Chosen Karen Langhorne Folan, Paul Langan, 2020-11-03 Cooper, I'm sorry, Darcy said quickly, trying to control the damage. I didn't mean that. This has nothing to do with you or this party. I just-- Girl, you better leave or things are gonna get ugly in here real quick, Tarah warned. Cooper stepped in between the girls then. Tarah, you don't wanna do this. Please... Darcy Wills feels the pressure. Her best friend, Tarah Carson has grown distant and hostile since the start of the school year. And a medical crisis in Darcy's family has stress boiling over at home. When surprising news forces Darcy to look at the future beyond Bluford High, she realizes huge decisions are looming. Unsure what to do but unable to avoid what's coming, Darcy has no easy options. Her choices will cut both ways. Some doors will open, but others may close forever.

bluford series: The Gun Paul Langan, 2002 Tyray Hobbs wants revenge. Weeks ago he was one of the most feared students in Bluford High. But then Darrell Mercer publicly humiliated him, and Tyray lost his reputation. To get it back, he must take down Darrell. But how? With a broken hand, a troubled family, and no friends in sight, Tyray's options are limited. And when the kids he once bullied start threatening him his world completely unravels. Desperate to settle the score and regain respect, Tyray see only ones solution to his problems-- a gun.

bluford series: Breaking Point Karyn Langhorne Folan, Paul Langan, 2011 Vicky Fallon can't take it. Her father has lost his job. Her parents are constantly fighting, and her troubled little brother is out of control. Once an honor student, Vicky is quickly falling behind in her classes at Bluford High. Now her teachers, friends, and new boyfriend, Martin Luna, want answers. Pressured from all sides, Vicky knows something is about to snap. But the explosion that hits her home is worse than anything she could image.--Book back cover.

bluford series: Summer of Secrets Paul Langan, 2004 When a frightening ordeal turns her life upside down, Darcy reaches out to her friends for help, but discovers that one of them has an even bigger secret.

bluford series: Shattered Paul Langan, 2006-06 Teenager Darcy Wills must deal with painful secrets from her past in order to save her family and her friendships.

bluford series: Pretty Ugly Karyn Langhorne Folan, 2011 Jamee Wills never expected Vanessa Pierce and her friends to go this far. The trouble begins at cheerleading practice when Vanessa starts teasing Angel McAllister, a shy new girl at Bluford High. When the insults turn nasty, Jamee tries to stop them. She wins Angel's friendship but makes many enemies. Now Jamee is a target, and someone is texting lies and pictures of her all over school. Unwilling to tell her family or snitch on her fellow cheerleaders, Jamee is cornered. Will her next move solve her problems- or make them worse?--From back cover.

bluford series: Until We Meet Again Anne E. Schraff, Anne Schraff, 2002 This story continues the tale of the Wills family. Darcy learns that Hakeem, her first boyfriend, is moving out of the state. Then her grandmother's health declines and a mysterious new person comes into her life.

bluford series: Brothers in Arms Paul Langan, Ben Alirez, 2004 Martin Luna, a new student at Bluford High, is at the center of this story. Haunted by the tragic death of his little brother, Martin seeks one thing: revenge. But his mother wants more for her only remaining child. Will Martin listen

to her, or will he allow anger to control him?--Publisher description.

bluford series: *The Bully* Jan Needle, 1995-02-23 'Unbidden, Simon saw a face before his eyes, a girl's face with blonde hair. Unbidden, his teeth clamped shut, ground against each other. She was the target.' Simple, lumpy Simon Mason. Of course he's a bully and a liar, even his mother thinks so. And he's picking on that nice Anna Royle, her brother and Rebekka. Or is he? Has Simon been found guilty, sentenced and condemned without a proper hearing? Simon's teacher is determined to find out just who's bullying who. Hostilities reach a head when bully and victim meet for a final confrontation. Will the truth come out in time? Or have too many lies been told?

bluford series: *Someone to Love Me* Anne E. Schraff, Anne Schraff, 2007 Cindy's violent boyfriend adds to her troubles with her mother and at school.

bluford series: *Bluford Series 20-Book Boxed Set* Paul Langan, Townsend Press, D. M. Blackwell, 2013 Hakeem has a hard time adjusting when, due to his father's sickness, Hakeem and his family must move in with his uncle in distant Detroit, especially when he has to share his room with his moody cousin Savon.

bluford series: *Secrets in the Shadows* Anne E. Schraff, Paul Langan, 2002 When Roylin Bailey falls in love with a new girl in his history class, he finds that his life starts to fall apart.

bluford series: *The Test* Peggy Kern, 2011 Liselle Mason is in trouble. For weeks, she ignored the changes in her body and tried to forget her brief relationship with Oscar Price, her moody classmate at Bluford High. But when Liselle's clothes stop fitting, and her brother notices her growing belly, she panics. A pregnancy test confirms her biggest fears. Unwilling to admit the truth, Liselle suddenly faces a world with no easy answers. Where will she turn? Who will she tell? What will she do?--From back cover.

bluford series: *Search for Safety* John Langan, 2006-06 Ben McKee desperately tries to find a way to get himself and his mother out of an abusive situation after his mom marries Larry Taylor.

bluford series: *Survivor* Paul Langan, 2013 Tarah Carson has hidden the secret for years. No one--not her mother, her friends at Bluford High, or even her boyfriend, Cooper Hodden--knows what her uncle did to her years ago. Tarah hoped to keep it that way. But an upcoming reunion is forcing Tarah's past into the present. --Back cover.

bluford series: *Girls Like Me* Tanya Savory, 2015 Angel McAllister's worst nightmare has come true. Sharice Bell, her best friend, has discovered Angel's most intimate secret. Now gossip is spreading through school like wildfire, and classmates are turning on her. Can Angel somehow bury the secret and hide the truth? Or will she face it--and the world-changing consequences?--Page 4 of cover.

bluford series: *Teacher's Guide to the Bluford Series* Eliza A. Comodromos, Ruth A. Rouff, 2013 Contains writing skills handouts and activities to use with 5 novels in the Bluford series. The novels focus on the lives of a group of urban high school students and their families.

bluford series: *The Petition* Anne Schraff, 2008-04 Ismael decides not to sign a petition against a teacher and weighs a clean conscience against peer pressure.

bluford series: *After Tupac & D Foster* Jacqueline Woodson, 2008-01-10 A Newbery Honor Book Jacqueline Woodson is the 2018-2019 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature The day D Foster enters Neeka and her best friend's lives, the world opens up for them. D comes from a world vastly different from their safe Queens neighborhood, and through her, the girls see another side of life that includes loss, foster families and an amount of freedom that makes the girls envious. Although all of them are crazy about Tupac Shakur's rap music, D is the one who truly understands the place where he's coming from, and through knowing D, Tupac's lyrics become more personal for all of them. The girls are thirteen when D's mom swoops in to reclaim D—and as magically as she appeared, she now disappears from their lives. Tupac is gone, too, after another shooting; this time fatal. As the narrator looks back, she sees lives suspended in time, and realizes that even all-too-brief connections can touch deeply.

bluford series: *Sellout* Ebony Wilkins, 2010-08-01 It is a summer that will change everything . . . NaTasha has a wonderful life in affluent Park Adams. She fits in, she has friends, and she's a

member of the all-white ballet troupe. Being nearly the only African American in her school doesn't bother NaTasha. But it bothers Tilly, NaTasha's spitfire grandmother from Harlem, who decides NaTasha needs to get back to her roots or her granddaughter is in danger of losing herself completely. Tilly whisks NaTasha away to a world where all of a sudden nothing in NaTasha's life makes any sense: Harlem and Comfort Zone in the Bronx, a crisis center where (cont'd)

bluford series: *See No Evil* Anne Schraff, 2012-01-01 Written for young adults, the Urban Underground series confronts issues that are of great importance to teens, such as friendship, loyalty, drugs, gangs, abuse, urban blight, bullies, and self-esteem to name a few. More than entertainment, these books can be a powerful learning and coping tool when a struggling reader connects with credible characters and a compelling storyline. The highly readable style and mature topics will appeal to young adult readers of both sexes and encourage them to finish each eBook. Harriet Tubman HS Series - On the brink of her freshman year at Tubman High, something clicked in Chelsea's mind. Shadrach rescued animals. And in a way, he saved kids by teaching them respect. Now she and her friends were rescuers by volunteering at the shelter. Jaris was a rescuer too. He was trying to save Sereeta's mom. And, maybe Maurice would have to rescue Athena from getting into trouble.

bluford series: *Saint Iggy* Kelly L. Going, 2006 The second novel from a Printz Honor winner. Iggy leaves public housing behind to make something of his life. It's not easy for Iggy--he's just 16, has no skills, and his only friend is mixed up with the dealer who got Iggy's mom hooked.

bluford series: Payback Jonnie Jacobs, 2015 Marta Crawford is away on business when she stops at the hotel bar after a particularly difficult day. There she meets the charming Todd Wilson and, much to her dismay, wakes up the next morning in his bed. Filled with remorse and regret, she tells Todd she's made a terrible mistake and puts her reckless behavior behind her. But Todd isn't willing to let go. He follows her, worms his way into all corners of her life, befriends her husband and her business partner and seduces her teenage daughter, Jamie. Is there any way Marta can get him out of her life?

bluford series: Goat Song; a Novel of Ancient Greece Frank Yerby, 1979

bluford series: Alone John Langan, Tanya Savory, 2021-11-01 There is no refuge for fourteen-year-old Michael Tatem. A childhood injury has made him a target at Bluford High. And deeper wounds at home have left him shy, isolated, and friendless. But an unexpected connection at school gives Michael a glimpse at a new life. Can he embrace it and forge a new path for himself? Or will his attempt backfire, leaving him more vulnerable and alone than ever?

bluford series: The Bully Paul Langan, 2002 After Darrell Mercer and his mother move from Philadelphia to California in the middle of the school year, the ninth-grader quickly becomes a target for the freshman class bully, Tyray Hobbs.

bluford series: We Will Tell Our Own Story Adebayo C. Akomolafe, Molefi Kete Asante, Augustine Nwoye, 2017-05 This superb book will be a landmark in African studies because the scholars who have undertaken the task of telling their own social sciences, humanities, and literary narratives have displayed a sharp and penetrating engagement with history, politics and culture in such a powerful manner that one cannot read these chapters without claiming them to be the gold standard in contemporary thinking. AARON SMITH, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY We Will Tell Our Own Story is instructive to scholars and general readers as a method of confronting the manifold problems of misinterpretation and false presentations about African people. I find this work to be extraordinary in conception and execution. SWAHILI SMT, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF BAHIA, BRAZIL We Will Tell Our Own Story joins a growing number of Afrocentric books that are already revolutionizing the way Africans view themselves and their academics. The creation of a cadre of scholars devoted to truth, rigor, ancestrality, and values is a mark of a mature civilization; these authors are the necessary foundation for further growth.

bluford series: Don't Bring Home a White Boy Karyn Langhorne Folan, 2010-02-02 Folan encourages readers to look beyond common generalizations and stereotypes about race and gender in interracial relationships. In *Don't Bring Home a White Boy*, writer Karyn Langhorne Folan

debunks the myths and common preconceptions about interracial relationships: Is a black woman who dates white men a traitor to her race? And is America's history of black oppression a factor? Drawing on real-life testimonials, she boldly tackles this difficult subject with warmth, humor, and understanding, as she explores stereotypes of black female sexuality and white male perspectives on black female beauty. Folan goes beyond statistics and offers firsthand insights on her own interracial relationship and attempts to tap into a woman's desire to have all that they deserve instead of restricting themselves, simply because they want a "good black man." Frank, authoritative, and universally relevant, her message to women is to look beyond skin color, accept themselves for who they are, and seek a man who truly loves them, regardless of race.

bluford series: *Janet McDonald* Catherine Ross-Stroud, 2008-11-24 Much has been written about the state of Black adolescence—often from a sociological point of view situating Black teens in an at-risk category. However, through her characters, young adult author Janet McDonald (1954-2007) presents the wide range of adolescent life. McDonald especially presents to readers the multifarious views of society in relation to the self-efficacious drive of urban teens to rise above their circumstances by any means necessary. Janet McDonald: The Original Project Girl is a bio-critical study of McDonald and her work as it relates to the contributions she has made to the genre of teen fiction. It explains McDonald's profoundly realistic fiction, which holds wide appeal for teens in search of answers to the coming of age mystery. Catherine Ross-Stroud, in her study of McDonald's works and interviews with the author, has put together a comprehensive resource that will be a useful research tool.

bluford series: *Emblaze* Jessica Shirvington, 2013-09-03 When Violet Eden loses the key to the gates of Hell she is forced to make a choice that carries apocalyptic consequences When you're hanging off the edge of a volcano, how do you make the most important decision of your life? For Violet Eden the decisions between right and wrong are getting harder and harder. Because apparently being a half-angel Grigori doesn't always make you right. Where is the good in having to choose between the life of her best friend and saving humanity? How does she balance a soul-crushing need for her Grigori partner, Lincoln, and the desire to keep him safe at all costs? And what if the darkest exiled angel of all, Phoenix, isn't as bad as she thought? Both sides—Angels vs. Exiles—are racing to decipher an ancient scripture that would allow anyone banished to the Underworld to return. And at the very center: Violet. She only has one chance to make the right choice... The Embrace Series: Embrace (Book 1) Entice (Book 2) Emblaze (Book 3) Endless (Book 4) Empower (Book 5) Praise for the Embrace Series: A delicious romantic triangle. —USA Today One of the best YA novels we've seen in a while. Get ready for a confident, kick-butt, well-defined heroine. —RT Book Reviews Strong, compelling and wonderfully flawed, Violet is the kind of heroine that will keep readers enthralled and rooting for her until the final page is turned. —Kirkus Reviews

bluford series: *Once Upon a Time in a Different World* Neal A. Lester, 2010-06-21 This book offers a history and analysis of African American children's literature from its beginnings to the present. Chapters explore issues surrounding race and representation, from the race and gender politics of African American hair to the absence of the N-word in children's books.

bluford series: *No Way Out* Peggy Kern, Afraid of being taken from his grandmother and placed in a foster home, Harold Davis, a Bluford High freshman, begins to work for the neighborhood drug dealer, Londell James, but Harold's choice leads him to world more dangerous than he could have imagined.

bluford series: *ROBIN HOOD* PAUL CRESWICK, .GRANDMA'S TREASURES, 2015-02-28 Chronicles the life and adventures of Robin Hood, who, with his band of followers, lived in Sherwood Forest as an outlaw dedicated to fight against tyranny.

bluford series: *Soil Survey of Bond County, Illinois* , 1983

The Bluford Series

For readers, the Bluford Series offers a universe full of complex, relatable characters immersed in gripping storylines. With free audiobooks for students, new books in the works, and an active ...

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Darrell and his mother move to the Bluford area in the middle of the school year. Physically smaller than his peers, Darrell quickly becomes a target for Tyray Hobbs, the freshman class ...

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This story is about Cindy Gibson, a Bluford freshman who first appears in Lost and Found. Cindy struggles with a stormy relationship with her mother, ongoing trouble at school, a dangerous ...

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Far from Bluford High, Hakeem quickly finds himself in a world of trouble, and his family is at the center of it. To complicate matters, a new girl hopes to make him forget Darcy forever.

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