

It only takes one click...

When Dan Ellison was thirteen, he did something so bad, a kid committed suicide. He served time, moved a bunch of times and even changed his name, but the kid's revenge-obsessed dad keeps finding him.

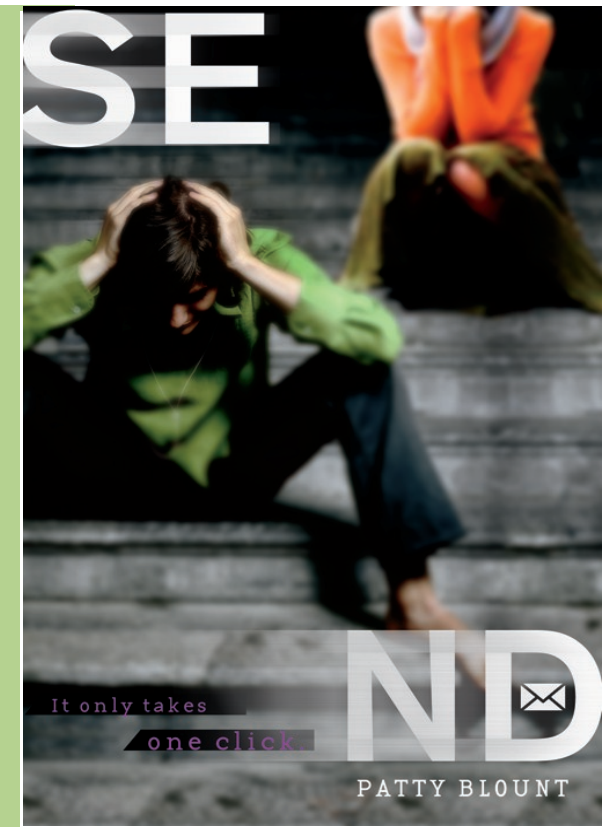
When he breaks up a fight on his first day at a new school, Dan learns there are other things more important than his secrets... things like protecting Brandon, a boy who's the target of everyone's jokes... and Julie, a girl with secrets of her own... secrets that could not only reveal Dan's, they could even get him killed.

About Patty Blount

Native New Yorker Patty Blount is a technical writer by day and YA author by night. When her oldest son dared her to write a book he could actually read, she wrote *Penalty Killer* in an ice rink during his hockey practices. It was never published, but so many seventh-graders used it for their book reports, the teacher eventually requested a copy. It was later returned, covered in red correction marks.

Powered by a serious chocolate obsession, Patty's family and coworkers now bribe her with treats when they need favors. Patty is always looking for her next Great Idea. Her debut novel, *Send* (August, 2012, Sourcebooks, Inc.) was born after two key incidents in her life. The first was when she learned her son, once the victim of sixth grade bullies, had apparently become a bully in seventh grade. The second was when her boss asked, "How can we use social networking?" The result was *Send*, a story about a former bully learning to cope with the guilt caused by his thoughtless click of the send key. In 2011, a short version of *Send* finished in the top ten of the 79th Annual Writers' Digest Writing Competition.

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Discussion Guide

For Students,
Educators, and
Parents

Patty Blount



"It only takes one click."

Starting Again... Again

A punch to the jaw wasn't how I imagined starting my first day at another new school, but fate had a warped a sense of humor.

As a big jock pinned a skinny nerd to the dusty hood of a Civic, I wondered how I, a guy famous for causing a tragedy, was now the only person around to prevent one. I scanned the parking lot, but it was deserted except for the two guys locked in a tense clinch and me. If I'd left a minute later or gotten stuck at one more traffic light, I could have been just another kid on the cafeteria line, hearing the buzz, "Hey, did you hear about the fight in the parking lot this morning?" Instead, I was the skinny kid's only hope.

Can you say "ironic?" an annoying voice asked in my mind. Suppose you plan to swoop in and save this kid or something.

On a rising tide of panic, I realized I had no other choice. The skinny kid looked ready to pee his pants.

The voice in my head snorted, You're an idiot.

I rolled my eyes but didn't bother saying anything out loud. Engaging the voice in conversation only amped up its determination to annoy the crap out of me.

You have two options, the voice said. Do something or do nothing.

Yeah. Thanks for that probing insight. With a loud sigh, I cursed my luck and the God who took such perverted delight in twisting it.

SEND Discussion Guide

Bullying is a serious problem that deserves serious discussion. I hope the questions in this Guide inspire your commitment to ending the bullying epidemic.

Questions For You >>>

1. SEND opens with Dan facing a difficult choice - risk calling attention to himself to protect a stranger or walk away. What would you do in Dan's situation?
2. Can you describe a time in your life when you felt like you were unfairly judged? What skills did you use to cope?
3. Technology – and its dangers – is one of SEND's major themes. Consider the role of technology in your life. How does it help? How does it hurt?
4. Another important theme in SEND is forgiveness. Is it possible for someone you love to do something truly bad and still be forgiven? Why or why not?
5. When someone is being bullied, who is more at fault – the bully, or the observers who watch but do nothing?
6. Consider a time when someone called you a name. How did it affect you? Several times throughout the story, Dan says he feels like he's been branded. Compare your experience to Dan's. How do the various names he uses to describe himself affect him?

Questions About Send >>>

1. The character of Kenny plays an important role in Dan's story. Why do you think Kenny exists? Do you think Dan loves Kenny?
2. Throughout the story, Dan acts to protect others. First, he protects Brandon from getting beaten up. Later, he aids an injured baby. Why do you think Dan does nothing to protect Kenny from Jack Murphy at the end of the story?
3. Laws are only now being written to address cyber-bullying. Because no law existed for what Dan did, he was found guilty of distributing child pornography, sentenced to time in juvenile detention, and forced to register as a sex offender. Do you think his sentence was a fair and appropriate response to his crime? What would you have done if you were Dan's judge? How would you rewrite laws to address cyber-bullying?
4. Discuss the role Dan's family – Mom, Dad, and Pop – play in this story. How have they influenced Dan's decisions? How do they support him?
5. Discuss the old saying "Forgive and forget." Do you believe the key people in Dan's life truly forgave him? Whose forgiveness does Dan need the most?
6. Dan says often that he 'killed' Liam Murphy but his therapist suggests that Liam was deeply troubled and Dan's internet picture added to his burden. What do you think led to Liam's suicide? Could it have been prevented?
7. Do you think Dan and Julie reunite after the book ended? Would it be possible for them to leave the past in the past?



For more information >>>

www.StompOutBullying.org

www.bullyfite.wordpress.com

<http://antibullyingblog.blogspot.com/>

www.itgetsbetter.org/

www.bullystoppers.com/

End.It.Now.Project

www.stopcyberbullying.org/

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