

# RETRIBUTION: TERMINATE

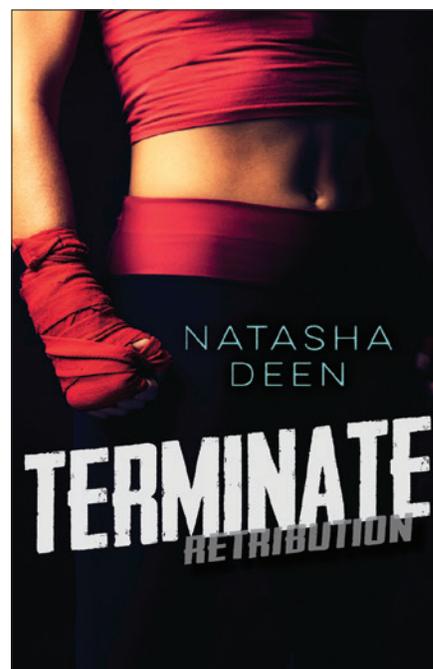
NATASHA DEEN

Reading Level: 4.2

Fiction Ages 12+

Themes: social justice, underground fighting, vigilantism, independence, poverty, female protagonist

978-1-4598-1463-9 PB



## SUMMARY

*Terminate* is the sequel to *Burned*, one of three novels in the Retribution series. The other titles in the series are *Exposed*, written by Judith Graves, and *Unleashed*, written by Sigmund Brouwer. *Infiltrate*, the sequel to *Exposed*, will be published in Fall 2017, and *Escalate*, the sequel to *Unleashed*, will be published in Spring 2018.

## RETRIBUTION: TERMINATE

Jo learns that she, along with the other teens who helped her bring down the cop responsible for the death of her entire family, is becoming known on the street as a person who makes sure justice is done. When the battered bodies of homeless teens start filling the city's morgue, Jo and her team begin investigating and are pulled into the deadly world of underground fighting.

## PREREADING ACTIVITY

Have a discussion regarding the idea of loyalty. Ask students to think about the following questions:

- How do you define loyalty? Is loyalty the same when it's a friendship as when it's loyalty to one's self or one's country?
- What are some examples of being loyal?
- Do you think there are times when loyalty is not a good thing?



**CONNECTING TO THE WORLD**

In *Terminate*, vulnerable youth take big risks for the chance at a better life. They are not alone. Every year, individuals and families make decisions—from illegal immigration to running drugs in exchange for entry into a new country—all in hopes of having a better life. What are some ways people, gangs and organizations take advantage of a person's desperation to find a new life (i.e., human smuggling, sweat shops)?

OR

Do students feel that first world nations and global organizations such as the United Nations are doing enough to help the refugees? Do students feel there can be more pressure put on the offending countries to adhere to basic human rights for their citizens?

**CONNECTING TO THE TEXT***Character*

One of Jo's defining characteristics is her sense of loyalty to the people around her. Find examples and explain how in some moments her loyalty is a good thing, and how in other moments, her loyalty puts her life at risk.

*Plot*

In chapter 1, Clem warns Jo, "Watch that heart of yours, kid. It'll be your downfall." How accurate is this statement?

*Setting*

Jo has lived on her own, and has had to survive by her wits. What do you think she means when she says, "I respected the homeless network, but I couldn't trust its discretion. In this world, trust could get you killed" (ch. 1).

**CONNECTING TO STUDENTS: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. For her safety and the safety of her team, Jo must leave behind people she cares about. How difficult do you think it is for her to make these decisions?
2. Sometimes the decisions Jo makes don't have the outcomes she hopes. Can you think of some examples?
3. One of the themes in *Terminate* is deception. What are some instances of this?
4. Jo feels responsible for Amanda, and when she goes missing, Jo is compelled to find her. Should friends stick beside each other, no matter what?
5. Despite their outward hostility, Jo and Jace care for each other, and value their friendship. Can you think of a scene that showcases their true feelings for each other?
6. What are some of the techniques Jo uses to con her way into Jimmy Dushku's apartment in chapter 10?



7. For the kids who've been held by the gang as fighting toys, their life after being rescued won't be easy. What are some long-term effects of being held captive and being forced to fight, and how do you think this experience will affect the kids once they're free?
8. There are instances in this novel where the adults make assumptions about Jo and her team, because they are under eighteen. How does the team and Jo in particular use this oversight to their advantage?

### **AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY**

**Natasha Deen** moved to Canada as a child to escape the racial and political violence of Guyana, in South America. Her books include *Burned* from Orca's Retribution series, *Sleight of Hand* and *Across the Floor*. Natasha lives in Edmonton, Alberta, with her family. For more information, visit [www.natashadeen.com](http://www.natashadeen.com).

RETRIBUTION: TERMINATE

