



## Stained (Cutting Edge)

*Joanne Hichens*

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## **Stained (Cutting Edge)** Joanne Hichens

In a poor district on the outskirts of Cape Town, Grace lives with her adoptive mother, Martha. Of mixed race, Grace dreams about what her unknown, natural mother might be like, fantasizes about finding her, and is plagued by an intense sense of dislocation. Rebelling against her adoptive mother's smothering influence, Grace turns to close friend Shardonny and her sister, Crystal. In contrast, Crystal is a teenage mum and has had to drop out of school, bitter that her future has been decided by one mistake. Tired of being the responsible example, Grace hits the nightclubs with the younger, mixed-up, pop-idols crazy Shardonny. All the while, though, she keeps a protective eye on Crystal. Is the baby, Ricardo, the reason Crystal suffers black moods and anger? Or is there a deeper problem? In the wake of searing tragedy, Grace finally comes to understand the qualities that make a caring and decent mother. *Stained* is a real page-turner. Gritty, honest, and hard-hitting, it is packed with drama and emotion from one page to the next. Prior to being developed for the Cutting Edge series, it was short-listed for the Sanlam Award for Youth Literature in South Africa. Cutting Edge is a highly contemporary fiction series for young adults. The series features fast-paced quick reads. Each book focuses on difficult topics and situations that many teenagers will have experienced first-hand or through friends. Cutting Edge is ideal for readers aged 14+ with a reading age of 12+.

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