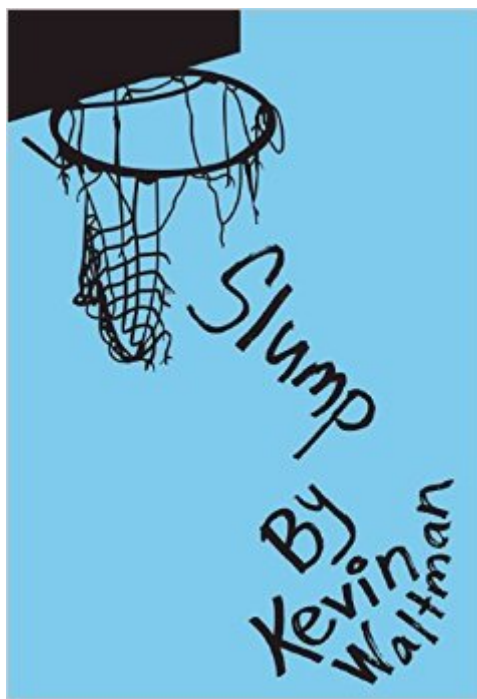


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# Slump (D-Bow High School Hoops)



## Synopsis

"Waltman's series opener [Next] (first of a planned four) features plenty of basketball action fueled by hoops slang that will set basketball-mad readers right onto the court. . . . The author avoids slam-dunk answers, leaving readers poised for the next book. Like Derrick, this series is off to a promising high school career."#151;Kirkus Reviews Things were supposed to change for sophomore year. Things were supposed to be#151;I don't know#151;easier somehow. At least with Jasmine. Instead it's more of a struggle than ever. At least last year when she was with Nick Starks I knew where I stood. Derrick Bowen's sophomore year is a grind. He's been looking forward to the basketball season all summer, but his girlfriend Jasmine leaves him for putting too much focus on basketball. The promise his Marion East basketball team showed at the end of last season isn't materializing. And the sweet jumper D-Bow worked on all summer just isn't falling. When Derrick's father is severely injured in a car crash, Derrick is faced with a new reality where basketball can't be his only priority. Kevin Waltman teaches creative writing at the University of Alabama. He lives in Coker, Alabama, with his family. Slump is the second book in his D-Bow High School Hoops series.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Slump is the second book in this series of books by Kevin Waltman. In this story, Derrick is returning to school at Marion East. He is still in a deep relationship with his girlfriend, Jasmine. While awaiting the beginning of basketball season, he hopes that his team will be successful. Worst case scenario,

a key player gets injured and the chemistry between the team is not as it should be, and that just happens. On the other hand, Bowen is handling personal issues of his own. Derrick's best friend of many years has begun to give more time and attention towards his girlfriend, then towards Derrick. Also, his relationship with Jasmine is on the line due to complications with basketball and sexual activity. In addition, Derrick's father had been in a nearly fatal accident, which resulted in rehabilitation. Since the accident, the family's financial situation is not doing so well. Earlier in the year, Derrick was given the opportunity to go to a private high school, where his dad would be given a job. He declined the offer and chose to stay at Marion East. Now, he is beginning to regret his decision. Although, he reminds himself that at the end of it all, with hard work, determination, and excellence, he can overcome these obstacles. Kevin Waltman truly did a great job on this novel. The characters perfectly portray how today's high school students act and make choices. I hope to see another book to continue this series!

Slump is the second book in a series by author Kevin Waltman. Here is a brief synopsis of the first book. In Indiana, basketball is the next thing to religion. Especially for inner-city black kids like Derrick Bowen. He's a 6'3" freshman, lightning quick, and he can slam the rock. He wants to start at point guard for Marion High, but senior Nick Starks has that nailed down. Besides, the coach is old school. He thinks D-Bow needs to work on his game, his shot, and his attitude. That means bench time. And that's when Hamilton Academy, the elite school in the suburbs, comes sniffing around. They want D-Bow for the next three years. His mom wants no part of that. But his father needs a job, and Uncle Kid, who is a bitter ex-star at Marion High, has his own plans. Yeah, there's a pretty girl and a best friend in the mix. Plus plenty of basketball action and suspense just like high school boys like to read. In this sequel Derrick Bowen is back in school and still has his girl Jasmine. Currently he is waiting for the basketball season to start up. This season the hope is that the team will be good and the coach is making sure of it. He is making the team practice hard. Unfortunately, a player gets injured and the team is having trouble connecting and working together. Derrick's personal situation isn't doing so great either. His best friend isn't really there for him and his relationship with Jasmine is on edge due to issues regarding sex. On top of that, his father was in an accident and needs rehabilitation. Of course, this makes his family's financial situation more stressful. Derrick regrets not having taken the offer to go to a private school where his father could have had a job. But at the end of the day, Derrick knows that with hard work and keeping a positive attitude he can overcome. Author Kevin Waltman has done a great job adding intrigue and realism. The characters definitely fit into the theme of what high school

students may or may not do. The relationships regarding sex are intense and perhaps this is a book for young adults over the age of 18. Parents and teachers will have to decide if this is a book for their kids. If they do, then this is an opportunity to open up dialogue regarding school, sports and sex.

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