

# COE BOOTH

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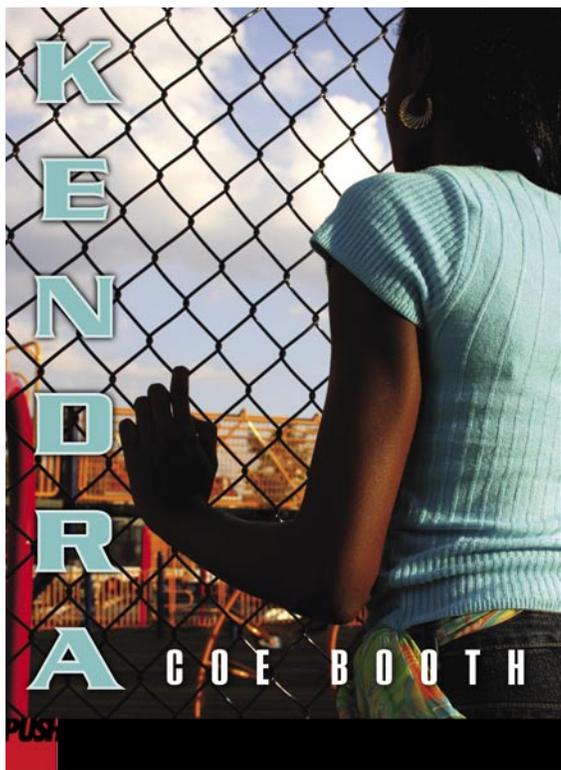
Speaking of her critically acclaimed first novel *Tyrell*, Coe Booth says, "I wanted to give readers a realistic portrayal of what it's like to grow up in hard circumstances, especially when you have only yourself to count on."

Born and raised in the Bronx, Coe Booth has been writing since she was in second grade. "Of course, back then my novels were just loose-leaf paper stapled together," says Coe, "but the stories were mine and I was proud of them." While she was in college, Coe held many jobs, among them teaching creative writing and

video production to children and teens. "My favorite job at that time was teaching memoir writing to senior citizens," she states. "I loved hearing all about their lives: growing up in the Bronx back in the 30s and 40s, their first loves, and all about how they had to fight to overcome racial discrimination back then. They had real powerful stories to write about."

After she graduated from college, Coe started working with teenagers and families in crisis. "A lot of the teens I worked with were homeless, involved with gangs, or addicted to drugs," she says. "Some were victims of child abuse and neglect. It was a tough job, but I was always impressed by the teens' survival skills."

About her latest title *Kendra*, Coe says, "I wanted to write about the complicated choices one teenager makes—and the lengths she goes to just to feel wanted."



## Kendra

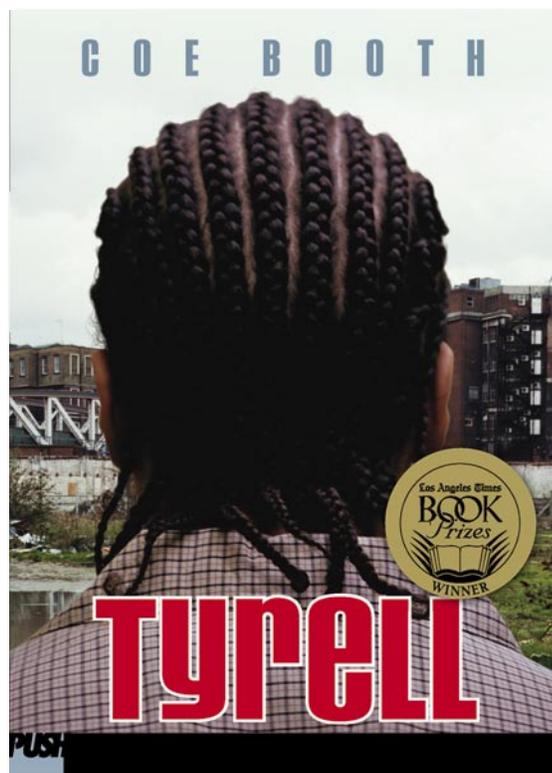
Kendra's mom was only fourteen when she had Kendra. Then she left Kendra with Kendra's grandmother and finished school—all the way to earning a PhD from Princeton University. Now Kendra's fourteen, and her grandmother wants her mother to be a part of her life—especially when Kendra starts getting into trouble with boys.

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## Tyrell

**Los Angeles Times Book Award for Young Adult Fiction**  
**ALA Best Book for Young Adults**  
**ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Readers**  
**New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age**

- ★ "Heartbreakingly realistic." —*Booklist*, starred review
- ★ "This is a thrilling, fast-paced novel whose strong plot and array of vivid, well-developed characters take readers on an unforgettable journey." —*School Library Journal*, starred review
- ★ "The author so convincingly grounds her story in Tyrell's tough-talking but vulnerable voice that we are won over to his side." —*Horn Book*, starred review
- ★ "Booth keeps the story focused...and keeps the plot developments realistic." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review



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