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Also available on audio

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"Blink & Caution is a thrill ride to the end—suspenseful, heart-pounding, and with no mercy for the tenderhearted."

—Rita Williams-Garcia

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"Noir crime suspense that's terrifying and authentic, and also that rare thing: deeply, intensely moving. . . . Don't miss reading this one."

—Nancy Werlin

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BLINK & CAUTION

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Two street kids get tangled in a plot over their heads—and risk an unexpected connection—in this heart-pounding thriller by Tim Wynne-Jones.

ABOUT THE BOOK

A free meal is easy to get if you know where to look, and Blink has been on the streets long enough to know that leftover breakfast can always be found outside pricey hotel rooms. But he never expected to see a staged kidnapping or find himself on the run from the police. Enter Caution, who is fleeing both an awful boyfriend and a horrifying past. When she first spots Blink, he looks like an easy mark for cash. But the closer she gets, the more she sees, and soon the two troubled teenagers are entwined in the adventure of their lives.

Brilliantly written and breathlessly paced, this is a thrilling, tender novel about a pair of street kids who discover that they are fated for something much greater.

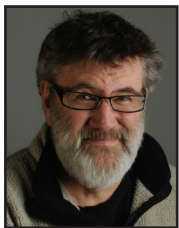


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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Blink and Caution are teenagers living on their own in Toronto. Where did each of them come from? How did each end up on the streets? What other choices did they have?
2. Who is Captain Panic? What role does he play in Blink's life? How does Blink try to control him? How do you try to manage your own fears?
3. Blink stumbles onto the phony kidnapping of Jack Niven, a wealthy mining executive. Why has Niven staged his own abduction? How does Blink—and later Caution—threaten his plans? In the end, does Niven get what he wanted?
4. What is Blink's real name? What is Caution's? How did they acquire their unusual nicknames? Why are they unwilling to tell most people their real names? Why are they so quick to reveal their real names to each other?
5. Caution's boyfriend is a drug dealer, a cheat, and a bully. Why does she call him a magician? What attracted him to her, and her to him? Why does she put up with him?
6. Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* is among the world's greatest novels. Is its appeal to Caution more than literary? Why does she treasure her copy of the book? In what ways does she identify with its heroine?
7. Blink despises his stepfather, but his feelings about his mother are more complicated. How does he think she failed him? How does he think she failed herself? What does Blink remember of his father? Why does he seek out his father's parents?
8. Take a closer look at the novel's narrative structure. In what way do the chapters focusing on Caution differ from those focusing on Blink? Who is the "you" being addressed in Blink's chapters? Who is narrating those chapters? Who is narrating Caution's?
9. Caution believes that she is a murderer, and Blink thinks she isn't. Which of them is right, and why?
10. Caution "can't quite put it into words, but Blink is a gift. A chance for . . . something—she's not sure what. But without him, there is nothing" (page 280). Do you agree? What makes Blink a gift to Caution? Does she have nothing without him? What about Blink? Where would he be without Caution?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Writing was just a pastime for Tim Wynne-Jones when he was starting out as a rock musician in the 1970s, but now that he has more thirty books to his credit, including such award winners as *The Uninvited* and *Rex Zero and the End*

of the World, it is safe to say that his sideline turned into a career. He also teaches at the Vermont College MFA Program in Writing for Children and Young Adults.

Tim Wynne-Jones has won the Governor General's Literary Award for children's literature twice and the Canadian Library Association Children's Book of the Year Award three times, and has been short-listed twice for the *Guardian* Children's Fiction Prize. His books have been published in fourteen languages.

Born in England and raised in Canada, Tim Wynne-Jones is the father of three grown children and lives with his wife on seventy-six acres in eastern Ontario.

About *Blink & Caution*, he says, "It's a thriller, and it's a love story—the first love story I've ever written, really. And it's also a story about following something that grabs you and holds you right to the end. It's about actively working to make something bad end—taking that first brave step toward changing your life. Where will it take you? Well, that's the story."



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