***Split*  by Swati Avasthi**

High school senior Jace shows up unannounced at his brother’s apartment 19 hours and 4 states away from his parent’s home with a busted up face and split lip. His brother’s girlfriend has only one thing to say “Christian, did your father start hitting Jace before or after you left?

His brother lets Jace stay, for now, and he is grateful but Jace hasn’t told him everything. Jace feels he can’t tell his brother everything. Jace’s brother’s girlfriend tries to help. Then, one day, she gives him some statistics on “Spousal Abuse” along with some “Resources for Domestic Violence Victims.” He never realized how much he hated statistics until that moment; that all the times his judge father came after them can be reduced to fat black numbers and percentages on a page. Wait, he sees that what he did to his ex-girlfriend is represented here too, in a special break-out section called:“Teen Abuse.” He sees that he has a number too. He sees that he is four times more likely to become a screw-up like his father and to hit his own girlfriend because of where he comes from. His brother’s girlfriend doesn’t know the whole truth either. She doesn’t know about what happened between Jace and his ex-girlfriend; about the warrant for his arrest.

Look Split up in the thesaurus and it will say: tear, rip, divide, separate, crack, gash, break.

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*~Booktalk by Amy Wander*