



Young Slasher

S. Elliot Brandis

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Have you ever wanted to kill somebody?

Sorry, that's a blunt question. It might make you uncomfortable. If it does—if your stomach knots or your skin prickles—then your answer is yes. You probably don't want to admit it. I get that. But it doesn't change the fact that deep down you're a killer.

Like me.

My name is Mia Sanguine. I'm a 17-year-old girl, living in Australia. I go to school, play percussion in the orchestra, and study when I have to. I like horror movies, comic books, and punk music. Oh, and yeah, a group of teenagers has ruined my life.

So I'm going to kill them.

But don't get me wrong—I'm not talking about some Columbine-styled rubbish. No offense, but this isn't the United States. All I need is a mask, an outfit, and a pair of knives. You see, I'm going to become a slasher movie villain. Like Jason, Mike, or Ghostface. In real life. Not because it's right. But because of what I am.

A YOUNG SLASHER.

Young Slasher Details

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Author : S. Elliot Brandis

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From Reader Review Young Slasher for online ebook

Gary Wrenn says

Read it twice in a row

Loved every sick moment of this book and you better believe I played every song on Apple Music as I learned about them. I hope this guy reads my books someday cause he truly is an inspiration.

Debbie says

This has been on my e-reader for a while, and I'm not even sure why I originally got it. Anyway, I finally read it. It's dark, violent, full of teen angst, and has bit of gore. It doesn't even have any typos but it does have one word misuse ("trending" instead of "tending"). And there's a logistical problem: a teen's phone is taken away but she has it later (is it new one?).

I didn't want to like it, but I did. Highly recommended for horror readers.

Lee says

Young Slasher, I'm not sure how I feel about this book, I mean it was a good gore filled romp and it only took me a day to read it, will I read it again, probably not, will it stand the test of time, probably not, was it a good fast paced easy read definitely.

The pop culture references, most people seem to have really enjoyed them, and for the most part I did as well, there were some though that really felt like they had been shoehorned in and didn't really work or seemed a bit silly. I loved some of the more obscure horror film references, it was nice to see I Spit on Your Grave get a shout out (although she does say that the remake was the better film which is verging on blasphemy)

The whole premise of her becoming a real life slasher movie villain is great, I just wish that the book could have took a step back maybe, it would have been nice to see it play out over a period of time, think Freddie Kruger menacing people to the point that they can't function in their day to day lives, think Michael Myers stalking people from a distance, this is basically Jason Vorhees wired to the moon on speed and killing people 100mph (not that that is necessarily a bad thing, as I said earlier it makes for a faces paced easy read)

The ending was a bit bizarre as well, I can see what the author was trying but I don't think it was needed, the book would have been fine without it, yeah it was a cool little twist at the end but it would have also left the reader with something to ponder over had it not been included.

On a side note I actually read this on my Kindle, I think that is the first time I've plugged it in and charged it up in about 2 years, ah well I suppose it has saved me some space on my bookcase.

All in all a good book that never managed to be brilliant.

Appologies if this is a bit of a shitty review but I've been staring at my Kindle for the last 5 hours solid and

my eyes (and brain) are pretty frazzled.

nora m malotte says

Young Slasher

I read this on a whim..I didn't even think I would finish it. However it grabs you. You put yourself in Mia's place. She has struggled all her life and has been disrespected by everyone except Casey. Now he is gone and she feels she MUST avenge him. Is the story true or has she just made it up ?READ THIS TAKE AND DECIDE FOR YOURSELF! I RECOMMEND!!

Michael Hicks says

Young Slasher, the latest from S. Elliot Brandis, is a slasher horror story that owes an awful lot to comic books, particularly Mark Millar's Kick-Ass and uber-scribe Grant Morrison. This is a story that wears its influences proudly on its sleeve and name-drops them with regularity, not necessarily to be cute to show off a measure of pop culture awareness, but because these are the things that shape and inform our titular killer, who goes by the very comic book-ish name of Mia Sanguine.

Mia is a real-life movie slasher for the twenty-first century. Inspired by comic books and horror movies, her psychopathy even comes with its own Spotify playlist so that she can kill with a punk soundtrack. Her origin story is rooted in modern-day Big Topics of our time, as her and her best friend are ridiculed and bullied by their high school peers. Mia was a late transfer to a private school filled with spoiled, rotten rich kids and her taste in fashion and music made her an outcast. Her friend Casey is struggling to define his sexuality and is routinely harassed by his bigoted, homophobic classmates. And so, they hatch a plot, inspired quite knowingly by Kick-Ass. They want to become real-life horror movie killers.

And although I stated above that this is a horror story, that's not entirely correct. It has all the benchmarks of a horror narrative – that sleek, cool looking cover; a terrific bit of the old ultraviolence; a fantastic slasher villain with an impressive array of cutlery and scorn – but Young Slasher is more accurately a fun work of metafiction. As Mia might say, this book is “meta as fuck!” and the meta narrative run multiple layers deep, reaching quite a bit beyond merely the fictional, fourth-wall breaking killer that fans of Deadpool will recognize.

Aside from being an interesting thought experiment and clever literary construct, this book would not work without a reason to care beyond picking out points of reference and trying to figure out what's real and what's not. That's where the characters come in. Mia is simply a fun girl to hang out with for the couple hundred-some pages that she exists in. She's brutal, but also empathetic, and, perhaps troublingly, somebody I could relate to.

As a victim of bullying during my own school years (being the only kid with a gnarly scar running the length of my chest from open heart surgery and unable to engage in the more rough-and-tumble aspects of gym class made me both an outcast and, since I couldn't run, easy pickings. When I eventually found comfort in junk food and became overweight, I was then the fat, scarred outcast), I found myself fully sympathetic to Mia and Casey. I could understand their urge to find primal satisfaction in waging war against their tormentors, even if, even at my lowest, I wouldn't have gone so far as to take an axe to somebody's head (although I'll admit to fancying some pretty dark daydreams about how to handle the idiot jock who liked to

leave an empty seat between us so he could kick that empty desk over the seatback of my chair and into my spine over and over and over during high school Geometry).

Mia and Casey may want to be villains, but, like most fictional anarchists, there's a certain measure of joyful escapism to be had in their exploits. It's fun to watch them turn the tables on their bullies, even as they go far beyond the pale in their brutality, taking a beeline right away from justice and straight on to revenge.

[Note: I received an advance copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.]

James Kent says

Rooting for the Slasher

This is truly a great read....the kind that you don't want to put down, and that has you rooting for the hero/villain. It also has enough twists and turns that have you asking yourself if this is a true story. And kind of hoping that it is!

Jennifer Litscher says

Really fun read. Yes, it's a book about murder but it is deliciously dark and contains great pop culture references. "Kanye West is what happens when you tell average children they're special." Only 4 stars because there is a very clunky switch near the end where we are no longer reading in first person as Mia, but now as the author. The story would have stood just fine on its own without this. I look forward to reading more by Elliott!

John says

Fun and satisfying. Not too gory, though.

Brittany Kantack says

If you can't appreciate guts, gore, horror, profanity, and killer music- this book is not for you.

This is hands down one of the best books I have ever read. Now when I say that, you have to understand a couple things about me. I grew up a punk ass kid in high school, was picked on and bullied frequently for being a "freak". I have always been really into horror and know a ridiculous amount of pointless facts about serial killers {Jeffrey Dahmer is my fav}. I went through a goth, punk, metal, scene phase. With the back story aside, this book is NOT for everyone. I don't think a regular ol' book reader would appreciate the genius of this book. The bands name dropped in this book alone would confuse a regular person. BUT if you are a weirdo like me, this book will excite the fuck out of you. Everything about this book was AMAZINGGGG. The references to horror movies, serial killers, amazing music. I felt as if I had wrote this book myself. The "twist" ending was fantastic. I highly recommend this to anyone who relates with anything I have said. I borrowed this with the Kindle Lending Library program. The book is so fantastic that I feel

guilty for reading it for free so I am immediately going out and purchasing it.

Matthew Hellscream says

I really enjoyed Young Slasher, but I am the type who invariably ends up on government watch-lists based on my browsing history.

This book is downright nasty, and makes me worry about S. Elliott Brandis' state of mind. He delights in torturing his characters, delivering many of them to utterly repugnant, stomach-churning deaths.

Our main character, Mia Sanguine, is a 17 year old outcast, bullied and tormented by a group of snobby rich kids dedicated to making her life a living hell. When her world is changed forever by the acts of these horrid teenagers, she decides that there is only one logical conclusion. Mia must become a real life horror movie slasher and ride the crimson tide of vengeance against those that wronged her.

Self-aware and genre-savvy, Young Slasher both embraces and plays with genre tropes, while delivering plenty of fresh meat for the grinder. It's always a breath of fresh air to read a horror novel set in Australia, and Young Slasher has a distinctly South-East Queensland feel.

With a thought-provoking, gear-shifting ending that could make or break your enjoyment of the story, Young Slasher is destined to leave a bloody trail of mangled corpses in its wake.

I give this book a Hell Yeah.

Disclaimer: I received an ARC copy of Young Slasher from the author in exchange for an honest review.

mike frazier says

Disappointed reader

Im having trouble understanding the intended audience of this book. I found it annoying that this would come off as a suggestion for me to read. This book is either very well written if I could understand the audience it's meant for but I found the main character annoying , couldn't see the point of all the annoying music references, especially when I can't relate to them as I reading . This book would make a better screenplay than novel. Note to author , the worst ending ever. At least keep it short. I skimmed through most of it only to get the gist of it and be done .

Philip says

Young Slasher hooked me from the opening page. The story of Mia Sanguine's journey from ordinary teenager to mask wearing killer hurtles toward its inevitable finale, but there are plenty of twists and turns along the way. I found myself desperate to get back to the book so that I could read more. It's impossible to talk about the ending without spoiling it. I will say that I loved it, and it fitted the book perfectly.

The writing is sharper than Freddy Krueger's knives with some deft nods to pop culture, Mia is a compelling

narrator and the underlying motives for her actions are portrayed skillfully and all too believably.

Make no mistake, this is a horror novel but the violence and gore is offset by a keen wit and strong characters. Highly recommended.

I received an advance copy of this book for review. And then I bought it anyway.

Shadow Girl says

rtc

Tiff says

Ok so. Spoilers ahead. You've been warned.

I really liked this book. Until Casey started his diatribe about being dead.

Until it didn't end where it should have.

Until the author put himself in the book and used "multiverse" conversations with the main character to justify it.

He could have had Sarah, or even Beth take his place. Mia could have given them her book. They could have gone to see the evidence. I didn't need 6 extra chapters of the adventures of Elliot in the multiverse.

If you stop where she gets arrested, it's a great book.

It should have stopped there.

PJ Lea says

Mia is unapologetic about her decisions and I really liked that about her. I really identified with her too (maybe that says something about me).

The book has been written in such a way that it could truly be a real person talking about what they did, the fact that the author writes about his own experience with Mia drives the illusion home.

If it is wrong to wish that Mia's story had a slightly different outcome then I am happy to be in the wrong.

If you hadn't guessed already I enjoyed this book immensely, even the vividly gory parts.

This was an ARC, my opinions are my own.
