



The Tree House

Shay Lynam

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Hailey is an average twenty-year-old college student, living an average life. Or so she thought. When a past she never knew existed is brought to light, the reality she thought she knew is shattered and Hailey is left alone to pick up the pieces. Who could know this world holds such evil? Who is this strange, obscure boy that seems to know more than he is saying?

And what can one girl do when a fight to stay alive becomes a fight to avenge and protect the ones she loves?

The Tree House Details

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Author : Shay Lynam

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From Reader Review The Tree House for online ebook

Annemarie Nye harkcom says

I totally agree with other reviewers when they say they felt like they were watching a movie in their head and almost forgot they were reading it and not actually living it. This book grabbed me and sucked me in from the very beginning. This writer is going to do amazing things and I am very excited to read her next book.

Shelby says

I received a copy of this book from the author via International YA Book Club for Girls in exchange for an honest review

After I finished this book I struggled trying to figure out how I felt about it. I had planned throughout my reading of it to give it 3 stars. In the end I chose to give it 4. The beginning was a bit weird for me. Hailey's house is broken into. Her parents either killed or abducted. She escapes and flees her hometown thinking that she will find safety in the big city of Seattle. Along the way she runs into Jack. Upon meeting for the first time they are extremely snarky to each other which I thought was strange. While talking in a diner the men who ransack her house show up. Again. And again. And again. The snarkiness and the constant action in the beginning of the book made me a little wary to continue. I was however, pleasantly surprised. About a 1/4 of the way into the book the author seemed to hit her stride. The relationships and bonds formed in this book are a joy to experience. I really enjoyed the twists and turns and surprises that the author treats you to towards the end. And speaking of the ending....wow! For me the ending was definitely worth the extra star which turned this review from a 3 star to a 4 star. As I said, in the beginning I wasn't really into this book and felt like I was only reading it because I promised a review. However, I found that I actually really liked it. I look forward to continuing the journey with Jack, and Hailey, and Ben. Great first novel for this author. Looking forward to what comes next!

Alissa says

This book was action packed from start to finish, with lovely hints of romance woven into its interesting storyline. If you want a book that keeps you engaged throughout, this is the book for you. Check it out!

Trina Black says

This book was amazing from the first sentence to the very end! It was definitely a page turner and kept me at the edge of my seat. I can't wait for the next installment of The Tree House saga! Keep it coming!

Rashelle Roggenkamp douglas says

I absolutely loved this book! It was a refreshing story that not only kept my interest, but definitely kept me

wanting more. The characters were interesting and the twists and turns were fantastic! I had a difficult time putting it down and, even with this book finished, am still looking forward to more!

Samantha says

I could not put this book down, there is something exciting on every page! This is a great book for absolutely everyone! I loved how developed the characters were, it was like watching a movie in my head. :-)

Shay Lynam says

Here's The Tree House book trailer for anyone that wants to see it.

Daniela says

There are some truly unique gems in the self-publishing industry, and The Tree House is definitely one of them. I had a hard time putting this one down, and right now, I'm having a hard time putting this review together to fully express my feelings for this book. I am head over heels in love with it. It was.... wow. I fully expected something predictable, something I always come across, something I would easily get bored with, but there was none of that. This book hit home-run about tens time.

At first, the start of the book was 'eh, it's okay'. Hailey's home is broken into and her parents yell at her to run, so she does. The story instantly picks up speed. Hailey is chased by two men in suits, who are pointing guns at her head. She ends up being saved by this No-Name stranger with lovely eyes. And at that exact point where Hailey meets No-Name, I thought the book would fall into the usual romantic cliché. She met her handsome Prince Charming and they rode off into the sunset. Woohoo. Are we done now?

I was wrong. TOTALLY wrong. So take it from me: Do NOT judge this book by the first ten pages. It gets good. Really good.

I was expecting a Disney 'they lived happily ever after' with some random singing and nice choreography and a whole lot of kissing. Well, I got the kissing part, but this pure blood, sweat, and tears all over the place. Definitely not Disney's style. This had the gripping suspense of the best action movies I've seen (and that's saying something). The book takes over a time span of about two weeks and a lot of things happen during these two weeks. It moves lightning quick, but Shay Lynam definitely knows how to pace herself.

Hailey is 100% human and so is everyone else (just thought I'd point that out), they were just not supposed live through their birth. So Eli Scott created a special chip to keep these types of children alive. It was brilliant, the miracle of all miracles and it was going to sell for millions, until the chip started to malfunction and all these children (now adults) began to die horrible deaths. He didn't want people suing him so what did he do? He contracted a couple of killers and sent them out to get rid of the evidence. Luckily for Hailey, Jack (who I will now call 'The Maelstrom of Emotions') finds her and... well, Hailey sort of forces him to help her. She's a tough girl like that.

""You sound like an impatient child on a car ride," Jack chuckled from a few steps behind me. That was the last straw. I whipped around grabbing him by the front of his shirt and pushed him hard up against the wall. "That's it!" A look of sheer astonishment broke out across Jack's face as I leaned in close so

our noses were almost touching. "You will tell me what is going on," I spat staring hard into his eyes. " - location 695 of 4722 of Kindle

Hailey is a fierce and utterly unpredictable girl. She cries a lot, but under the circumstance, who wouldn't? So many terrible things happen to her. Gosh, I don't even know how she kept going. Shay Lynam had no mercy on her, she was constantly facing some sort of obstacle whether it was a gunman or Jack or her own brother. I do admire her, not only because of her emotional strength, but because she remained levelheaded even when she had all the reasons not to.

Jack (The Maelstrom of Emotions) was... a maelstrom of emotions. He could make me giddy, depressed, and ready to shoot his head off all in one. He had this bipolar thing going on (or maybe it's an all guy thing) where he acted like he hated Hailey when he was actually crushing on her. To put it short, he could get under anyone's skin. He wasn't a 'swoon-worthy' guy, he was just inevitable and captivating. The sort of guy you know is bad but you just can't look away from.

Their relationship was complicated. It was perfect really. They were both angry and hurt and they needed someone to look after them even if they didn't know it.

Story-wise, people die in this book. I know that sounds like a stupid observation, but I really got to know the characters and I actually felt connected to them. I cared about them. And then...

Overall, I LOVED The Tree House. There were a lot of grammatical and spelling errors, but I soon found myself flying past those. The story was fast and furious and I was in for a lot of surprises.

Do I recommend it? Oh. Yeah.

Cranky - The Book Curmudgeon says

**** 4.5 Cranky Stars ****

The Tree House, YA-contemporary, starts at a break neck pace and never quits. We meet Hailey, the main female protagonist, facing off with gunmen for reasons unknown.

Fleeing, she's in danger. Her family is in danger. Her brother is missing and everything she knew about her life is a myth.

Answers and potential safety lie in Seattle at the eponymous Tree House. There starts Hailey's journey of discovery of herself, her personal history, and a group of people that share a similar fate.

Along the way, Hayley encounters Jack. He's brash, battle-hardened, and a reluctant hero, who has secrets of his own.

There is a lot to like about this book: the pace that never gives up, the characters (main, secondary, and fleeting), the way mysteries and secrets unfold. I sat down and read this book from start to finish in one night.

The one criticism I have is I found the science a bit questionable. I do not think this undermines the story, nor makes it any less compelling, but I thought it might have worked well in a more futuristic setting than contemporary.

The Tree House ends with questions remaining and I have already downloaded the next work, The Trial, to read in the series.

Recommended!

Chris says

The Tree House is not what it seems. Hailey, the young woman the story centers around, is also not what she seems. The story starts out with a bang, as she has to go on the run in Seattle after gunmen come after her. Without giving away too much of the plot, I'll say that I really enjoyed the scientific twists and turns as well as the thriller aspect of this book. The length was just about right for telling the story completely, but I do wish some of the secondary characters had been fleshed out a bit more. All in all, Ms Lynam has written a really interesting tale that will keep your interest!

I received a gift copy of this work in exchange for my fair and honest review

Lori Pedersen says

This story was so well developed that it grabbed me from the get go! I had a hard time remembering that I was reading the story and not living it! So excited to read more from this author!

Dvora says

This book was exciting from the first page until the last!! I really had a hard time putting it down! It is original, different, and the writing is spectacular! Shay had my attention the whole time. I loved every character she brought into the story. The twists were great and made the story even more exciting, sometimes painful. The romance was beautiful, just the right amount.

I can't wait to read more from this author.

Connie Brenden-getman says

I am an avid reader...I download a lot of books this was definitely one of I could not put down until it was finished. It was done and I couldn't wait until I found out more. First time author with so much potential.

Isis says

3.5 Stars rounded up to 4 Stars for Sheer Creativity

Hailey is an average twenty-year-old college student, living an average life. Or so she thought. When a past she never knew existed is brought to light, the reality she thought she knew is shattered and she is left alone to pick up the pieces. Who could know this world holds such evil? Who is this strange, obscure boy who seems to know more than he is saying?

And what can one girl do when a fight to stay alive turns into a fight to avenge and protect the ones she loves?

This is a fast paced, action packed book, yet well balanced with the emotional aspects necessary to make you invested in the lives and wealth fare of the characters. In a world that looks very much like the one we currently inhabit, just a few twists have the potential to cause a cataclysmic future event horizon for the entire human species. This story is effective because it could easily happen, be happening, or have already happened if you are willing to stretch your mind and grab onto some strange form of conspiracy theory.

The characters are all different, and yet on many levels share so much, having been reduced to the core of themselves just to struggle to live, and fight, another day. While we get to know Hailey and Jack, as the two lead characters, there are a few others that played crucial roles. The fact that they weren't nearly as fully developed was frustrating, as their stories were sure to have been interesting, and would likely have served the larger story quite well. What could have been a richer tapestry was somehow muted by denying these comrade in arms their time to shine as well.

Clearly not everyone can be the focal point of the story, yet when there are so few characters to begin with it seems wasteful not to take full advantage of the potential arrayed before us. All that being said, I did enjoy this story a good bit. It was quick, some of the characters have wonderfully acerbic wit, and the plot was creative and entertaining. I guess because I enjoyed the characters as much as I did I felt cheated by not learning more of their stories. Additionally I was confused by the intense focus on Hailey in the beginning, almost as if she was the linchpin of some master plan that she was completely unaware of. And in some ways I suppose that she was, just not in the ways the author had set me up to expect. The jury is still out on my final reaction to that particular portion of the story.

I will say that this is a very fast read, easily a one-sitting read, thanks to the non-stop tone set from the very beginning of the story. It is filled with rich characters, some of whom should have been more fully realized for my tastes. But then who am I too say which characters were leads and which were understudies? Oh yeah, I'm the one reading the story. My only other issue came down to things that were unexplained, such as where certain characters got their training from at such a young age, and how a notorious fugitive's credit

cards could repeatedly be used for supplies and other items without leading the bad guys straight back to the fugitive(s). But if those are my main take-away irritants, I still put the book into the win column.

Curran says

“One second, I’m sitting in my room working on a paper for my Psychology class and in the next second, I’ve crammed myself into the crawl space behind my bed hearing the scared screams of my parents downstairs.”

From the opening sentence of THE TREE HOUSE by Shay Lynam, I was hooked. The author has created a very unique and captivating dystopian tale, which I think readers young and old will enjoy. The story focuses on the adventures of a twenty-year old college students whose life is jolted through tragedy. With the help of other survivors at a safe house called the Tree House, she begins to confront mysteries from her past and combat the evil ones trying to hunt and capture her.

One of the strengths of this novel is the pacing. The story had a great balance between action and emotional elements. I never felt like there was a dull moment or like the story dragged on. I finished it in only a couple days. It was much like a rollercoaster ride with some unpredictable twists. The environments were vividly described, with just the right amount of details. Lynam’s passion for her material was obvious in her writing, and there was urgency in the pages. I also feel the overall message of this tale is very relevant to current social issues. There were some really interesting ideas in this book.

Another strength to THE TREE HOUSE was the lead character Hailey. She was captivating and multi-faceted. She felt like a real person -- which is really the highest praise I can give about a fictional person. At times, I felt like I was really inside her head and heart. She had many different layers. I think the author did an excellent job conveying this character’s emotions through descriptive actions, rather than just saying someone was angry or sad. I enjoyed the interjection of humor in some of the moments of great tension. These small touches by the author made those scenes and characters seem that much more real.

With all this good, I did have some gripes with the novel. Outside of Hailey, I didn’t think the other characters were fully developed enough. Unfortunately, the one that was – Jack – I wish there was less of. As much as I tried to give Jack a chance (due to his tormented past), I ultimately just found him really annoying and to be too much of a “jerk”. Now, I’m not saying every character should be super likeable. However, a large part of The Tree House evolves around the budding relationship between Hailey and Jack. I had trouble buying into this aspect of the story, and it felt odd when Hailey became smitten with the male lead. To me, this romantic angle felt forced rather than happening organically. This detracted from my enjoyment of an otherwise excellent tale. Perhaps you will feel differently about Jack. You should definitely read the book for yourself and make your own judgments!

My last gripe would be that the Pharmaceutical antagonists, lead by the infamous Eli, weren’t as imposing as I would have wished. After the first riveting and harrowing scene, at times, the bad guys - including the henchmen - seemed to be too easily outsmarted and outgunned. After the midway point, I didn’t feel like the bad guys were enough of a threat. I wondered how the group of ragtag survivors at the Tree House could be better prepared than such a “powerful” organization?

With all that said, I really enjoyed THE TREE HOUSE. It all leads to a really powerful ending that kept taking me by surprise with twist after twist. I was left eager for more to Hailey’s tale. The message behind the characters’ travails also resonated with me and made me think about what is really going on or could be

going on in our world today.

Overall, this is an excellent beginning to the trilogy.
