



Stalking Sapphire

Mia Thompson

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Despite the illusion Sapphire Dubois presents to the rest of the world, she is not just your stereotypical 22-year old Beverly Hills heiress; she hunts serial killers. While her fellow heirs spend their nights with trending celebs and drugs at the hottest club, Sapphire secretly spends hers luring, capturing, and anonymously handing over So-Cal's most wanted killers to the police — just your average Tuesday night.

What Sapphire doesn't know is that one of her adversaries is watching her every move, aware of both her true identity and her unconventional hobby. Needless to say, he doesn't approve. Used to being the one who redefines the definition of predator and prey, Sapphire's world abruptly shatters when a gruesome 'gift' arrives for her at the Beverly Hills Country Club. With her involuntary crush, handsome Detective Aston Ridder, close on her tail, Sapphire now has to rethink her routine strategy and figure out how to capture a killer who already knows she's coming.

Stalking Sapphire Details

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Author : Mia Thompson

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From Reader Review Stalking Sapphire for online ebook

Brandi says

A netgalley copy was provided free by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Ahhh what a disappointment!!

I was so intrigued by the description of this book. A 22-year old heiress hunting serial killers in her free time instead of out with her high class "friends". What is not to love about this?

Answer: almost everything.... :(

I found it really hard to connect to the characters in this book.

Sapphire doesn't have a job, isn't going to college and basically complains and hates everyone and everything. If catching serial killers is what she enjoys doing, why wouldn't she try to go to school for her hobby, become a cop, and help out society? Doesn't make sense to me.

She hates that she has to pretend to live this "normal", high class lifestyle. Why? MOVE. LEAVE. There are serial killers everywhere! But then she wouldn't be living with mommy.

I thought she would be this strong, intelligent character but in the end she just disappointed me. Her background doesn't make her a strong woman in my eyes. This made it a lot harder to connect to her.

Then insert Aston. He's just an ass.

I didn't feel their chemistry and it got to the point where I just didn't care about their love.

I would have rather the romantic side been left out and this novel been about an actually strong, intelligent woman and what she does on the side. Leave the guy and the 'romance' out of it. Her story, had it been executed better, is much more interesting.

? Sammy ?? says

****ARC courtesy of Diversion Books via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review****

Unfortunately, this was my first DNF :(

WARNING: Minor spoilers in this review

When I first read the book blurb for Stalking Sapphire, I was intrigued. It is the story about Sapphire, a rich, twenty something, socialite that has a very unique hobby. She hunts, captures, and turns known serial killers into the police. She is basically a vigilante as the police only become involved after she captures the killers and then directs the police to their location. Sapphire works very hard to ensure that no one suspects that she is the person behind catching all the serial killers. In order to hide her identity, she creates a persona based on what society expects from her: a wealthy, dumb, socialite.

What I liked

*Overall, I thought this was a well written story. I thought the murder/mystery plot was well developed and

kept me guessing as to who is stalking Sapphire.

What Ruined the Book for Me

*Pretty much EVERY SINGLE CHARACTER!

While Sapphire seemed to be a strong and intelligent heroine, I didn't understand her reasoning at all. For example, she pretty much hates everyone in her life. She thinks that she is surrounded by wealthy, idiotic, self centered people but feels that she has to associate with them to keep up the appearance that she lives a normal life so no one suspects that she's the killer catcher. She's over 20 years old, lives with her mother, doesn't go to college, and doesn't have a job. To me, it would make more sense that she went to college, made some real friends, and eventually got a job in law enforcement since she likes to solve crimes. That would still give her the appearance of living a normal life while also making her happy as a person. And that lifestyle would be more low key than hanging out with people who are constantly in the media or are well known by the general public.

Another thing I disliked about Sapphire is that she is SUPER SELFISH! For example: She was basically raised by her nanny/housekeeper Julia and they have a very close relationship. During the book, Julia announces that her boyfriend proposed and Sapphire threw a hissy fit because she didn't want Julia to move on and make a new life with her husband and future children and leave her behind. That reasoning is totally immature! Just because Julia gets married doesn't mean she will stop being there for Sapphire!

I guess I just couldn't connect with this character because I didn't understand her reasoning for pretty much everything.

The other main character, Aston, who I think is supposed to be a love interest for Sapphire, also annoyed me. A few words to describe Aston: womanizer, alcoholic, arrogant, rude, and just plain stupid sometimes... and none of these characteristics are even close to the hot, bad boy types that I love in other books. He speaks without thinking all the time. I couldn't believe how rude and disrespectful he was toward his bosses! In real life, if anyone acted the way Aston did, they would have been fired on the spot. I guess there just wasn't anything I liked about Aston.. not one redeeming quality :(

Overall, I just couldn't get into the plot because I did not connect with the characters at all. I figured I would cut my losses at 57% and start a new book since I was basically to the point where reading this book became a chore for me.

Manashwi Karki says

Stalking Sapphire starts quite well, promising its reader an intriguing thriller, but leafing through the pages, one sure becomes disappointed.

The whole point of *keeping-the-wall-between-real-you-and-apparent-you* becomes very far fetched and sometimes gets irritating.

Aston, portrayed as Sapphire(*our protagonist*)'s love interest, is hollow - if you ask me. The chemistry between them is very unconvincing.

She is a '*serial catcher*', but readers don't get to know how she does it. They are just expected to understand

it. we're like

'Yes, she does it. It doesn't matter how, but she does it'.

And when she starts to pick up just some random person as a 'suspect' without any proof - just on the basis of her suspicions and crazy ideas, blood starts boiling.

The writer seriously needs to consider a lot of things before writing a thriller. Readers don't want to be confused, they want to be dazed and thrilled, you see.

What i liked

- I think the plot was somehow nice, interesting and could be turned into a really good thriller novel.

- A little humor about stupid millionaire teenagers - I don't think anyone actually buys it, but it is interesting nonetheless.

-The grasp on readers. Even though I didn't want to finish the book, I couldn't stop myself from continuing it
- 'just a page', 'a little more'.

And yeah, I did guess the baddie before I read the suspense-breaking chapter. >

But then again, I am glad that I did finish the book, and I am expecting more from the writer because I'm sure she has it in her and can do a lot better than this.

Could have been better!

Cora Tea Party Princess says

This was fantastic.

Stalking Sapphire is full of mystery and suspense and WOW at those twists. I thought I had everything thought out and then my mind was blown by the whodunnit twist.

The writing is strong, the plot unravels at a delicious pace, gripping yet slow and subtle.

Sapphire is a great character - you know and understand her motives right from the start. She's confused and tense. Aston grew on me, I wasn't sure about him at first. I think he perhaps grew the most as a character.

This is New Adult as it should be written - yeah, there's a little teensy tiny bit of sex, but it's not overkill. It's not even graphically described (THANK YOU!). This story is Sapphire and her transition from young adult to adult. She has to sort out her own life, get her priorities right, and catch that killer!

I cannot wait for the next one. Especially with that extra twist at the end. Can I have it now, please?

ETA: Almost two years on and I'm still thinking about this book. It's that good. Definitely time for a re-read!

I received a copy of this for free via NetGalley for review purposes.

Lisa says

Thanks to Netgalley for letting me review this book.

This book reminded me a little about all the female vampire slayer books that have come out in recent years minus the vampires and insert creepy religious whackos.

Sapphire is out hunting serial killers, little does she know that one is hunting her too. Enter a cop named Aston who is sent by the police along with some other cops to guard Sapphire after someone sends a finger in a box to her.

Sapphire has a very interesting and nasty mother (ick) and a best friend who is vapid, shallow, and the heiress to the Kraft fortune. Chrissy Kraft. They keep it interesting and lighthearted, they are the humor in the book.

Well needless to say Sapphire and the man after her eventually meet and duke it out. I was surprised at who it was, I had two or three guesses that were wrong. I can see how this could easily be turned into a long series. I wish the romance/relationship between Aston and Sapphire was more fleshed out but maybe that's to come in later books? If so, I look forward to it. And, I get the feeling the guy at the end of the book is her father. Now THAT will be a showdown...

Shambhawi P. says

If I would have to sum this book up in two words it would either be "Wasted Potential" or "Dumb Cops".

This was supposed to be a light fluffy read with humor and a dash of suspense to keep me on the edge. And also sizzling chemistry between the two leading protags. That too.

Chemistry wise this book was in negative scales. I did not feel even a spark between Aston and Sapphire.

Mystery wise it was okay - fairly predictable but well drawn out. Sapphire was a cool character though I think the Beverly Hills cliché seemed a bit overdone. I hope we will get a better look at her back story as well as her skills - which were hopelessly lacking in this book - in the sequel (because there will be a sequel, right?). As for Aston I had serious problem figuring him out. His character seemed fluctuating and contradictory to himself most of the times. Where Sapphire stands for him, his job, his everything seemed messy and unclear.

It was not so good but not despicably bad. I am actually looking forward to reading the sequel - as a series this a whole lot of potential which it could not build up in the first book. Only if the cops get themselves to smart up.

This ebook was provided to me by the publishers via NetGalley in exchange of an honest review.

Jamie Rose says

This was a kindle freebie and while I have learned not to expect much in terms of editing and proofreading, it still annoys me when there are obvious typos...There are a few really well written paragraphs and a couple of witty comebacks.

This is listed as romantic suspense. I saw no real evidence to support either of those claims.

The plot is both juvenile and chaotic, everything seems rushed and not developed or really thought out well.

Sapphire is a Beverly Hills kid - she claims to be 'different' but is basically a spoiled selfish brat - who has a secret hobby of catching serial killers then leaving them for the police to find - she calls the police from a registered Iphone with a tracking app - yet they have *no idea who the mysterious 'Serial Catcher' is...*

Sapphire's mother, step-father and best friend I'm almost sure are plagiarized from one of the Jackie Collins Hollywood series - names changed to avoid a lawsuit and all that...I have no idea of what the point of Sapphire's rich boyfriend is, unless this is setting something up for the next book, because of course - it's a series.

Aston - nobody in Beverly Hills seems able to understand how to pronounce this. Despite Beverly Hills being awash with Aston Martins. I think the writer was going for the brilliant, handsome, flawed rogue cop type and what she gave me was a frankly vile individual with no redeeming features

Deanna says

While her friends are out clubbing and partying 22-year-old Sapphire Dubois is doing something quite different.... she is hunting serial killers. However, one of the people she is hunting is actually hunting her. He knows she's coming for him and he wants to get Sapphire and put an end to her activities.

I liked Sapphire, she was an interesting character. You understand what her motivations are right away. However, there were times she was quite selfish but that could be due to the fact that she was still young. At first I didn't much care for Aston but he grew on me a little bit as time went on.

I thought the plot was good and flowed well. However, there were a few contradictions that were a bit annoying as well as some racial stereotyping that at times made me cringe. But I was still intrigued as to who was stalking Sapphire and I kept reading.

This novel was full of suspense and kept me wondering. I really thought I had it all figured out but I was thrown off by the twists. I was kept guessing as to who it was that was stalking Sapphire. Although it didn't pull me in as much as I had hoped it would, it was still a good interesting read. To see how Sapphire transitions into an adult and tries to get her life on track...all while trying to catch a killer...

I received a copy of this for free via NetGalley in exchange for my honest review .

Sarah's library says

**** I received this book in exchange for an honest review. ****

“Bite the heads off first,” she said. “That way they don’t suffer as much.”

It’s a great start to Mia Thompson’s debut that fits into a few genres. Stalking Sapphire is a book with a lot of bite, wrapped in a satirical pun fest with a smart talking lead and able bodied love interest running around in circles looking for each other.

At times I felt like I was reading a script for one of those humour detective shows like the Mysteries of Laura. Sapphire, our heroine with a sharp tongue and good right hook has an interesting hobby. She catches serial killers, of which there must be many in Beverley Hills as she’s caught eight in her short career so far. The police of course are interested in catching her and it all gets interesting when one of those killers set’s his sights on Sapphire. This is all accomplished while pretending to live the entitled life of the offspring of the rich and she does this with a self obsessed friend in tow.

When one of her prey pulls her closer into his web by tormented with stomach turning scenes that I won’t give away; It’s when this fine book develops multiple personality disorder. Our protagonist is a nasty piece of work and these scenes add a contrast to the often delightful Sapphire and her romp through Hollywood with her endearing detective following close behind. At times I wasn’t sure this incongruous coupling of funny and torture worked, but having sat back after closing the book, it does. Mia Thompson has managed to create something with sparkle amid what can be a bile rising genre. These scenes add depth and spice to what otherwise might have been a prosaic Cagney and Lacey.

As a devoted thriller reader, Mia Thompson’s book gives some light relieve before something darker comes my way. It was a bit like a sorbet to refresh the palette.

This is a great first novel. It’s a quick read, it doesn’t struggle to unfold and the red herrings fit in beautifully. The dialogue is a little faulty in places but this is the authors first novel. There are a few unnecessary characters, AKA best friend Chrissy, but all in all, I enjoyed it very much and will read the next in the series. The Epilogue makes it possible to move right into it.

Michelle Willms says

Stalking Sapphire by Mia Thompson

Sapphire Dubois is not your typical Beverly Hills resident. While other girls her age are out shopping or partying or just hangin’ out, Sapphire is busy creating traps and luring serial killers into them. In two years, she has managed to catch seven serial killers, leaving them waiting for the police to find as Sapphire disappears into the night. She prefers that no one knows about her nocturnal activities.

However, someone is now onto her game. Someone has turned the tables and is now stalking Sapphire.

Detective Aston Ridder is an experienced detective who has just been transferred to the Beverly Hills division. Unlike others who might have been in his situation, he is not happy with the transfer; there is not enough crime in his new division to suit him. Instead of busting drug dealers and murderers, he’s now discouraging shoplifters at upscale retail establishments. He received this fake promotion because he accidently backed off a building while apprehending a suspect and broke his leg. How much punishment did

one man deserve? He feels betrayed by the transfer and immediately requests a transfer to another division with more action.

Aston's and Sapphire's paths collide when first they meet at a fundraiser, and again when Aston gets assigned to investigate a series of crimes related to a kidnapping and mutilation that seem to be directed at Sapphire. Sparks fly.

Mia Thompson does a very nice job of creating plausible characters and keeping the action consistent throughout. Her writing style is smooth and polished, providing an engaging read. I began the novel and continuing reading until it was finished. That's the sign of a good mystery.

Whitley Birks says

A galley copy was provided free by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

I can't remember the last time I read such **a mean spirited, poorly characterized, stereotype-heavy, racist, and all around hateful book** as this one. This book hated every one of its characters. I don't mean I hated them, though that happened, too. I mean the book hated its own characters.

I'm serious, this book hates everyone. **It's a book about celebrity society that hates celebrities**, so it paints EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM as being vain, shallow, and verging on too stupid to live. There is no nuance here, people. Picture the most over the top, cartoonish portrayal of a valley-girl brat. Now magnify that amount of ridiculous by a thousand. You might – *might* – be near the level of contempt this book has for its own subject matter. Not only is every single rich person stupid and spoiled, there's not even any acknowledgement that there **could be** smart rich people lingering off-page. Nope, this book doesn't allow for that. ALL RICH BEVERLY HILLS PEOPLE ARE SCUM, it screams at you, relentlessly, in the vain hope of scoring some points.

Sheesh, I'm not a fan of the extreme gap between the wealthy and middle class, either, but at least put some nuance into things.

Oh, and **let's not forget the racism**. The Hispanic housekeeper can't speak proper English, and her accent is written out. The French shop owner has his accent phoneticized so badly that it's near impossible to understand what he's saying. The only Asian woman to show up keeps repeated the word "yes" to everything and appears to be unable to form complete sentences or even react to her environment.

As a bonus treat, we get **pretty extreme slut shaming** as well. Every woman in this book that we're not supposed to sympathize with is an overt horndog, and the book is not kind to them for it. Most women exist only to drool over Aston and show off what a hot piece of man-meat he is, and Aston gleefully objectifies and demonizes them in his own head, right before he sleeps with them and then forgets their names the next day.

Oh yeah, let's talk about Aston. **He's a complete shitbag**. I don't mean he's a bad boy or kind of rough and rude. No. He's the shittiest douchcanoe I've read about all year. He is a horrible human being. I wouldn't piss on him if he were on fire, that's how much I hate this guy. Not only is he horrible to everyone he meets, he's got to be the worst cop on the face of the planet. The reckless handling of his own firearm alone would

make me want to kneecap him, but that's just the start of his incompetence.

As for Sapphire? She's an idiot. **Her motivation is non-existent, her sleuthing skills are informed and never shown, she's selfish and self-righteous, she's a horrible friend, and she's kind of a moron.** Why did Sapphire start hunting serial killers? Who knows! Apparently it gives her a rush, but that's the best we get, which isn't nearly enough for something that takes this level of dedication and shitfuckery. She barely does any investigating in this book, and what she does do comes down to luck and assumptions, not skills. Throughout the book, she also continually refuses to go to the police, despite the fact that a girl's life is at stake and the police have more freedom, experience, and resources than she does. She claims that the police wouldn't solve it as fast as she could, but we never see any proof of her being so much better than the boys in blue.

"But Whitley," you ask. "Surely there was something good about the book? Nothing can be all bad!" Well, fine, the structure of the plot was good. It built up a decent mystery and the plotting and pacing went smoothly. But that was it. The **romantic chemistry was nonexistent, the writing was juvenile and full of ridiculous lapses in logic and stereotypes, and both main characters made me want to punch them in the face.** What little was good in this book got overshadowed by the mountain of horrible.

Jay says

aarrgh, god dammit!! you can't leave me like that!!
I really hope there'll be another book, coz I sure need one...

loved how different events made me forget various suspects until they were thrown back in my face & I'm like "it's him!! I forgot about you!"

Sapphire is a 22yo rich socialite who's living a double life, she has her fake life and then who she really is. day to day she's busy keeping up appearances, doing all the things her mother and society expect of her, but after dark she's a hunter of serial killers.

things take an unexpected turn when Sapphire receives the gift of a severed finger. now she has to find and catch a man who knows her secret.

now I've run out of book, and I'm left with a big string of questions that I'm hoping will be answered in a second book...

- how does her mother answer her question?
- what does she do about the engagement?
- what does Aston find out at the interrogation?
- what happens with Aston?
- & what on earth is gonna happen now this guys out of prison?!!

urgh!! I need more!!

** thanks to NetGalley & the publishers for this copy!

Joe says

I felt a little guilty reading this, as a 42-year-old married dad; this is definitely a book for young women. That said, I love Taylor Swift. So maybe I am just a creepy old dude. This book, like Sapphire herself, was a lot of fun. There's a lightness, a playfulness to the prose, despite some pretty dark subject matter. The success of a novel like this rests with how much you like the protagonist. She's breaking rules, and we either are willing to follow her or were not. I gladly followed Sapphire on her adventures of vengeance, and would do so again. The crime and love story nicely intersect, the Beverley Hills scenes resonate with cutting accuracy. I look forward to the next chapter in Mia Thompson's series.

Rose says

"Stalking Sapphire" is one of those novels that sound right up my alley: a blend of murder mystery/suspense, quirky humor, and romance. I liked the idea of a heroine effectively fighting against serial killers as well - the opening sounded promising enough considering she stands over a guy laughing and taunting him after having successfully tracked and baited him. But my interest in this novel wavered over several measures.

Sapphire and Aston (I kept spelling his name wrong in my updates on Goodreads, but it is with an "o" not an "e") were pretty much the only two characters I truly got to know in the heart of this story. Even then, I didn't really feel their purported chemistry. In the same way, there was an odd distance that kept me from enjoying this story more for a novel of its type. I think part of that was that the quiriness was forced even when Sapphire was supposed to be playing the part of a dull-witted, typical rich girl. There were several contradictions and assumptions made in the whole "lifestyles of the rich and famous" that were showcased here. Another thing that bothered me was the racial stereotyping. I cringed in several parts of this book on behalf of that, what with the Asian lady who kept saying "Yes!" among other measures. I just felt like it was forced in its hand versus being a natural presentation.

The story revolves around Sapphire being a woman who catches serial killers, but ends up being stalked by one. When packages of body parts start showing up in Sapphire's possession in public places, she has no choice but to turn to Aston, whom she had sex with at one point. I should note that there are parts of Sapphire and Aston that make them incredibly annoying (Sapphire's a little too impulsive, and Aston can be a jerk sometimes), but I was able to follow them fine through the narrative. The mystery of whom is stalking Sapphire and why kept me reading. I knew it would be on the basis of a religious fanatic gone bananas, but I didn't expect the villain to be who he was in the end, and that kept me reading, alongside hoping the victim of the serial killer's actions would make it out okay. It's an interesting read, though I'll admit it didn't pull me as much as I was hoping.

The ending's an interesting cliffhanger, probably lending to a follow-up book of sorts, if for the nature of the relationship it potentially reveals. Overall I think it was a decent read, but there were aspects about it that bothered me or didn't engage me as much as I would've liked, keeping me from enjoying it more.

Overall score: 2.5/5 stars

Note: I received this as an ARC from NetGalley, from the publisher Diversion Books.

Lucie Paris says

A thriller that takes place among the cream of Beverly Hills with characters so unpalatable that the reader falls under their spell.

Thus, Sapphire is a modern day heroine, who plays the superficial and brainless bimbo by day and who hunting serial killers by night.

Her double play isolate her as much as her lies make her cold, distant. Her complicated past with her family renders her emotionally unfit to trust and open up to others.

Yet, she is a stubborn and intelligent fighter working behind the scenes to lock up the crazies.

To feel normal, she hangs around a self-centered best friend, very snobbish who's not always nice and a unfaithful boyfriend for who her status are "not rich enough". Acquaintances knowing nothing about her true self but who help to refine her persona.

The arrival of a detective, put in a closet after an injury, will complicate her life. With the grumpy, surly and stubborn Aston, Sapphire will have to be inventive to continue hunting serial killers. Moreover now that she is targeted herself by one who sent her macabre gifts.

Sapphire, intrigue as much as she bother.

On the one hand, she takes care of the people she loves while holding them at a distance. On the other, she is an avenger without costume, who is chasing serial killer openly.

Almost as if she is looking for troubles. And when the problems are showing up, she continues to taunt them. She accepts that people think the worst of her without bothering to defend herself.

Her lack of emotion are hiding a great sensitivity. She is an interesting character even if, the reader may find difficult to bond with her. Ditto for Aston, which despite his goudateries turns out to be a good man.

Despite the case being solved, the mysteries are far from being elucidated. I look forward to discover more about Sapphire ...

Lucie

<http://newbooksonmyself.blogspot.fr...>
