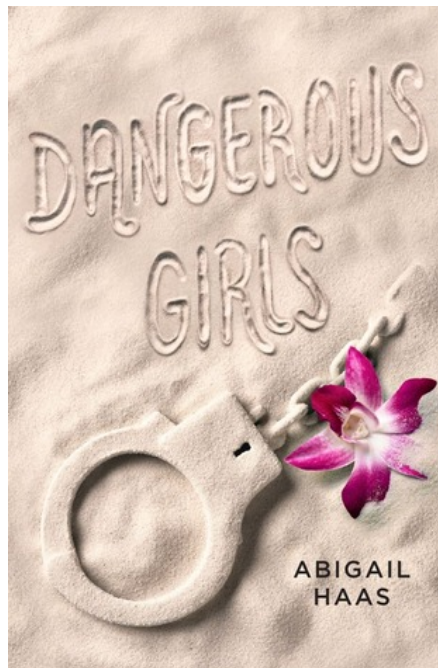




Dangerous Girls

Abigail Haas (Pseudonym) , Abby McDonald

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It's Spring Break of senior year. Anna, her boyfriend Tate, her best friend Elise, and a few other close friends are off on a debauchorous trip to Aruba that promises to be the time of their lives. But when Elise is found brutally murdered, Anna finds herself trapped in a country not her own, fighting against vile and contemptuous accusations.

As Anna sets out to find her friend's killer, she discovers hard truths about her friendships, the slippery nature of truth, and the ache of young love.

As she awaits the judge's decree, it becomes clear that everyone around her thinks she is not just guilty, but dangerous. When the truth comes out, it is more shocking than one could ever imagine...

Dangerous Girls Details

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Author : Abigail Haas (Pseudonym) , Abby McDonald

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Genre : Young Adult, Mystery, Contemporary, Thriller, Mystery Thriller



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From Reader Review Dangerous Girls for online ebook

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

~~Sometimes, David doesn't beat Goliath- not when they've got an army at their disposal.~~

~~If bad things happen to good people, then Anna Chevalier must be a very wonderful person for such terrible things (including the alleged murder of her best friend) to happen to her in just a flick of the finger. To endure betrayal, lies, and accusations and suffer for all these things unjustly seem a fate no better than death.~~

~~But Anna is such a strong character to go through all the worst things that could possibly happen to a harmless teenage girl who just wants to spend a fun vacation in Aruba with her boyfriend Tate, her best friend Elise and her other friends.~~

~~Through it all, the trials, the detention, the interrogations. Anna was calm and controlled. She didn't break down nor had any false hopes while I on the other hand was raging and angry at the people who blackmailed her, emotionally tortured and accused her, left her to fend for herself. It was I who cried for her for all the tears she held back. It was as if I was the one broken while Anna all this time remained intact. I salute her!~~

All these words I just said,
What a waste!

You are mean, Ms. Abigail Haas and so are you, Paige! Thanks for the rec.^^

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

Sex, drugs, lies & murder.

update note : 6 hours later and I'm still thinking about Dangerous Girls. I can't stop debating whether my rating should be a 3 or 4. Even though I had issues with the characters, this book's ending has me continuing to dwell on it, which must count for something. I need a person who's read this to discuss it with!

3.5 stars. I just finished this book and I feel physically ill. If you took shades of the Natalee Holloway and Amanda Knox cases and added in a few elements of *Brokedown Palace* and *Cruel Intentions*, you'd be somewhere in the ballpark of what's going on here, but still not close enough.

I fought a battle in my head over how to rate this book. I hated the characters, hated their actions, and hated the entire chain of events leading up to the reveal.

BUT. Giving credit where it's due - I couldn't stop reading. There was a lot of mind-f*cking going on here. And I'm pretty sure there were a few moments in the telling of this story which were a stroke of genius. It's

not uncommon to find books that mess with your head, and a good portion of them are shock value with no real merit. However, this particular tale had some real thought put into the entire chain of events. There was an instance in this book which reminded me exactly of a situation that I went through while on vacation with friends and I almost ran to the bathroom and threw up because it felt like a punch to the gut.

Once the chain of events was set in motion, I couldn't stop reading. Even though I thought some of the back-story was silly and fluffy, it was necessary to have it there in order to show the bond between the two girls - one alive and one now dead. As I continued reading, the tone switched from frivolous to dark. My stomach started doing flips when I realized something was going on in the background that I didn't like. From there, I had to know what was going to happen next.

In all honesty, I never understood why everyone was drawn to the Elise (the dead girl) in the first place. We all know girls who are the life of the party (or we happened to be that girl) and the character of Elise didn't strike me as all that note-worthy. Ah well, I guess that's why she's the dead one and we're following someone else's trial, haha.

It's hard to know who to recommend this book to. Fans of mind-f*ck books will definitely be first on the list. You know who you are. Go ahead, get your copy. Please do. Then come back and let me know your thoughts about that ending. THAT ending. Good lord, THAT ending. I suspected it could happen, then discounted my thoughts after something else happened, then realized I SHOULDN'T HAVE DISCOUNTED anything.

So what about the rest of you? Well, it depends. Are you in the mood for something different? Are you willing to go through a little bit of emotional turmoil in order to read something that's going to get you thinking? If so, then I'd think you might want to consider this.

Not a fan of whodunnits or relationship drama? Then you'll want to steer clear.

This book provided from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Em says

I've regretted every display of emotion I had throughout this book about two minutes after it was over, because I had barely taken into myself the knowledge that I've reached the last page before I realized that this book had a knife so deep in my side I didn't feel it until it twisted.

I still am not certain what emotion I most strongly associate with *Dangerous Girls* but that ending made me want to immediately disconnect from all social media and go herd sheep and sell berries and mushrooms and herbal salves on the side of some mountain road for a living.

So, what is this book about?

Dangerous Girls opens with a distressed 991 call heralding a dreadful crime before swiftly travelling back in time in order to start at the beginning, following the chain of events that each led to this tragic conclusion. Anna and her friends were on spring break in Aruba – spoiled, rich untouchable teens, seemingly immune to life's troubles. Only death couldn't be swiped away by a credit card and when one of them gets heinously murdered for unknown but likely unsavory reasons, Anna finds herself trapped in a foreign country where everyone, including her friends and family, are doubting her innocence and a detective seems to have settled into a deep-rooted single-mindedness to prove her guiltiness.

As the chilling investigation progresses, long-repressed secrets and rumors clamor for air, and day by day, the skeletons in the closet begin to tumble out. It becomes quickly apparent in a series of whiplash reversals and stunning reveals that these characters aren't what we thought they were: their whole personalities and motivations are crime scenes where evidence of their true selves has been hastily hidden – except that nothing really stays concealed forever.

Though *Dangerous Girls* is based on a relatively familiar premise, it takes the form of a thoroughbred thriller about the nature of identity and the terrible secrets that can survive and thrive in even the most intimate relationships. It's a structurally brilliant novel, moving back and forth across timelines to reveal each character's respective exhilaration and anguish but holding the ultimate revelations back until just the *right* time. The pacing is impeccable, with urgency increasing to an almost breathless point as Anna is faced with the possibility of being prosecuted for a crime she hasn't committed.

This is a craftily built procedural thriller that sports one hell of a twist. I can't say any more about the plot without giving away too much – anathema to us readers – but it is safe to say you will be left absolutely throttling your brain to try and figure out how the hell the story is going to end, right up to the book's final climactic scenes. Everything I thought I knew was upended and the story became something far stranger, and more *troubling*. This wallop of a surprise hit me clear out of the blue when I read the ending. I was the emotional equivalent of Steve Harrington from *Stranger Things* waking up from unconsciousness in the back of a car with four children, of which one is illegally driving the car.

Dangerous girls may begin as a whodunit, but by the last page, it will have you wondering whether there's any such thing as a *who* at all. And if you're anything like me, you'll find yourself in a bruised funk for a few days after, rapt and emotionally spent. Because **cool as this book is, it's twice as cruel.**

BLOG | TWITTER | INSTAGRAM | TUMBLR

Deanna says

Wow!!! That was one heck of a book....

Apparently I am really late in reading this. I can't believe I missed the hype (maybe that's a good thing?). I came across it a few weeks ago and it peaked my interest. I thought it sounded interesting but I was very surprised by how much I liked it.

I was hooked right from the start.

A group of friends are excited for their senior year Spring Break trip to Aruba. Anna and her best friend Elise are especially excited for the trip. Anna is also happy her boyfriend, Tate and a few other friends are coming along. A couple of days in and the group seems to be having a lot of fun drinking and partying in the clubs etc..

However, their trip is cut short when Elise is found brutally murdered and Anna along with Tate are the ones being blamed for her death. I was addicted and unable to put this book down as Anna tried to fight the charges and prove her innocence in a country far from home.

There seemed to be some similarities to some real life cases in this book. Amanda Knox and Natalee Holloway to name a couple, but in my opinion there was still a lot of originality to this story. I was very interested in the Knox and Holloway cases. I watched quite a bit of the media coverage and read some of the

books so that may one reason why I enjoyed this book so much. However, I really don't think that's the only reason.

Told from Anna's point of view, the story moves easily from past to present. We learn more about Anna and Elise's friendship and the relationship between Anna and Tate. Although it seems to focus primarily on the three of them, there are many other relationships and interactions with other people essential to the story.

The trial was like a circus. The prosecutor seemed to have it out for Anna from the start. I felt the tension and suspense as if I was in the courtroom watching it all unfold. As I read I remained uncertain about what happened and what was going to happen next...

I can't even imagine what it would be like to be fighting for my freedom in a foreign country. How terrified I would be. It boggles my mind. However, I would never ever have been allowed to travel as a teenager to a foreign country without my parents. I'm terrified of the thought of it coming up with my own daughter. Would I allow her to go? I would not want to hold her back from experiences that could enrich her life, but I don't know how I would feel about a trip like this or any other trip for that matter.

I thought the author conveyed Anna's anxiety and the turmoil she was going through very well. She doesn't understand how this could happen. How can everyone not see that she's innocent? Who killed Elise? Was Tate involved? She starts to doubt everyone as they start to doubt her.

"Wouldn't we all look guilty, if someone searched hard enough?"

This book was about much more than a student who was murdered on a spring break trip. Sex, love, jealousy, youth, guilt, innocence, and a whole lot more. Abigail Haas writes about relationships extremely well. Relationships between lovers as well as friends. The truth can be far from anything you would ever expect.

A fantastic and compelling read that I highly recommend!!!

Lola says

I can't believe it.

Have you ever read a story that you completely, absolutely loved but that *freaked you out* so much you're not even sure you can keep the book in your room anymore? This book is dangerous. It makes you feel joy, sadness, hope, betrayal and your heart will be on the edge at ever end of chapter. A massage would be perfect right now. Or lying on the beach...NO, not a beach. EVERYTHING but a beach, especially in a foreign country.

That's how I felt (and still feel) about this book the whole time I was reading it. I'm not sure I could ever read it again but my reading experience has been one of a kind and I actually want you to experience it as well. This book will impress you, one way or another, I am sure of it. Abigail Haas is one talented author.

I'll never forget this story. It probably will haunt me for some time, yes, but I will deal with it. It's a thriller and you certainly will feel it. I only started reading this genre recently (same thing for comics) but I assure

you that many other reads in that genre will follow.

When I look back, it's crazy how much I felt connected to our main character, Anna, who was accused of killing her best friend, Elise. Oh, how much I despised Elise. She's the kind of person that brings trouble everywhere she goes and steps. I know some people in real life like that and I even started thinking that maybe that's just how they are, not necessarily doing it on purpose. But, DAMN, that girl is asking for it.

You will probably realize that Elise is a very very similar character to Alison from the Pretty Little Liars series because 1) she manipulates people, 2) constantly flirts with guys, 3) has that attitude as if nothing can get to her. Plus, hey, she was murdered.

The pacing was fast and, with that story, it just grips you and doesn't let go until to HAVE to take a break because this is not a happy 'rainbows and sunshine' story and reading it in one sitting can be...*overwhelming*.

The writing? Perfect. I don't give five stars often but I found nothing in this book that could have been a weakness to it or that I didn't enjoy. Truth be told, I had doubts before starting this read. Was I going to enjoy it? What is it about anyway? Some people doing crazy stuff on Spring Break? Well, it's more than that. Spring Break is not even the reason why all of 'this'—meaning the crazy stuff—happened and I am eager for you to discover what the story contains. Its secrets.

There are also some (mild) similarities to the movie Spring Breakers which I enjoyed watching even though, when I look back, I realize that it had a very poor plot. This book is a masterpiece without a doubt and I am looking more than forward to reading Dangerous Boys.

Lia Bonnibel (pidgey) says

HOLY FREAKING JESUS ON A BICYCLE.

The actual review is here.

And, in case you're wondering, no, I don't feel any better, today.

"How much do you love me?"

Consider this book as a twisty mystery novel, consider it a YA psychological thriller, consider it what you want, but
don't
ever
underestimate
it.

I mean it. **Don't.**

Abigail Haas apparently likes to screw up with people's head. And, be careful, because she's *really good* at it.

To be honest, I jumped into this after a series of disappointing novels, and I didn't expect much from it.

I was looking for something light but that could also shake me a bit.
Oh boy, if only I'd known what I was getting myself into, I'd have armored and shielded myself.
Or my heart.
Or both.

Dangerous Girls is the papery confirmation that you should never judge a book by its cover. ~~I mean, feel free to disagree but it doesn't do it justice at all, in my opinion.~~

Did I like it? **I loved it.**

Did I regret reading it? **Not an inch.**

Did it make me feel things? **Yes, and they all rhyme with pain.**

I highly recommend it to all those people who are in for a challenge.

Not because this story is hard to get through, but because it will leave you empty and numb for days and days after you've finished it.

Not everyone can cope with that; but, if you feel like you are not afraid to let a book ruin your day ~~or week or month or year or life~~ please, give this a try, because, seriously, it will rocket speed your brain to the moon and...period. There's no turning back.

I forgot to mention that it will also make you question your whole friendship history. This book should come with a warning sign. And a therapist trimestral subscription.

In short, Elise and Anna are friends. The best of friends, the matchy-matchy, sharing clothes and sleeping over, kind of friends.

One day, while they're on vacation, Elise gets murdered and Anna gets accused of being the killer.

The journey inside her head begins, and so does this story.

I could go into details, on and on, about how this book also presents a substantial amount of subplots, or how it narrates about other characters, as well, because the author clearly doesn't want you to miss out on anything, but I'd be dwelling. And lying.

Dangerous girls revolves around a murder.

Wrong.

It revolves around a friendship.

Simple, you might say.

There's nothing simple about this novel.

We all have been there.

We all have had someone, during our teenage years, for which we would have hiked a mountain, for which we would have stolen a bag of chips at the store. Someone for which we would have killed, without having second thoughts.

Anna and Elise's relationship finds its roots in all of this. It baths in love, a love so torrid and deep, nobody else can understand. Nobody else is *allowed* to understand.

Not even their group of friends. Not even Tate (especially not Tate), Anna's boyfriend.

When you think about it properly, you'll realise it's not even an equation, it's never been one, because other people can only gravitate on the surface of these two best friends' bubble, and never on the inside. Never too close.

Elise and Anna become friends almost by chance, almost by destiny. There's something that pulls them together, even when they should be miles (*miles and miles*, because I'm still too much into this book) and virtual worlds apart, they can't help but collide, and melt together.

They wrap each other and themselves together in a blanket made of obsessive affection, of morbose domesticness. White lies, slow glances and sharp teeth become their favorite weapons.

“Elise and I fall into friendship like gravity.”

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, gravity is the force that attracts objects towards one another, especially the force that makes things fall to the ground.

Did you see that? That is what I like to call foreshadowing at its finest.

The story flows perfectly. I read it all in one sitting. I also might have stress eaten a whole pint of mint chocolate chip ice-cream, because of it, but that's not important.

What's important is that this book is not just decently hyped over, it's not just fabulously carried out; this book is pure evil disguised as pure good.

Abigail Haas's style is simple, but it has something to it that puts you in your place with a few sentences. I think it most of all teaches us that a writing style doesn't need to be pompous and polished to go straight to the heart.

AND THAT FUCKING ENDING.

I'm still shaking. Did you hear that noise? That was me, one day after, yelling into the void, because of this novel.

The writing digs deep and through Anna's mind. It mocks you, it takes you by your hand and shows you facts that you *need* to know, even when you'll feel like you don't want to. It gives you a version of a story you can't help but see as the truest one.

It introduces you to Anna and her unreliable narration. She's young, pathetic, jealous, mean, and real. So real you'll find yourself embracing her anxieties and doubts as your own.

The structure of the novel brings you back and forth into a spiral of past and present situations that are there to help you solve the mystery.

But, at the end of the day, the point here is not even about solving a mystery.

It's about friendship, and the things you'd be willing to do for it.

Jennifer Kyle says

An exciting teen mystery that grabs a reader from the very first page. A group of high school friends staying in Aruba on vacation find one of their group murdered. There is an investigation, arrest and a trial. All the while the author establishes the relationship between the deceased and the accused.

“Wouldn't we all look guilty, if someone searched hard enough.”

I found the story exciting as there is boyfriend and two strangers thrown into the mix. Money, power, law enforcement and the media play roles in the fate of the accused. The author throws in a twist that leaves a reader rethinking all the information presented from the first page in a different light.

Kristin (KC) - Traveling Sister says

5 Stars

A fantastic, twisty little read!

Ever since becoming utterly blown away by Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*, I've been on a psychological thriller kick, relentlessly searching for my next suspenseful, twisted, yet still plausible read.

I believe I have finally found that in ***Dangerous girls***. I think what makes books like this one, *Gone Girl*, and *We Were Liars* a bit more difficult to embrace for some readers is the fact that many of its characters aren't very likable. And I don't believe they're necessarily meant to be, but they each make one hell of a story.

There are a couple things you need to know right off the bat about this book: It is not a love story. Yes, there is a certain degree of romance entwined, but if you're searching for a butterfly-inducing, happily ever after escape, you will not find that here.

What you **will** find is a chilling plot saturated with lies, deceit, mystery, and murder. One that will lead you to question the merit of each character, even your narrator, as you wonder whether you are inside the mind of a cold-blooded killer, or just the wrongfully accused.

I, for one, devoured this read. I'm a total sucker for "whodunit" scenarios—and this one certainly kept me guessing.

A pinch of the plot: Anna and a group of friends head to Aruba for spring break, longing to let loose and have some fun without any adult supervision. But what's meant to be a fun, carefree trip quickly spirals into a nightmare surrounding a murder case that has pinned Anna as its prime suspect.

The story opens with the chilling transcript of a 911 emergency call, instantly setting the tone for the "dangerous" content ahead. The plot moves rather quickly and sort of flickers all over the place: backwards and forwards in time, and not exactly in a neat, orderly manner. But it worked **wonderfully**.

This "haphazard" sort of storytelling added more layers, and amped up the suspense, never allowing the reader to grow too comfortable in one particular setting. The details were delivered slowly, effectively enhancing my excitement—and many times, horror—as I read.

I loved the fact that these detailed transcripts, police reports, interviews, and formal documentation were included, as well as the vivid courtroom trials. I could **see** this story playing out before my eyes, and I'm certain it would make an excellent transition onto film.

"I'm not here anymore, I'm not anywhere—all I am is sheer, pure rage and fists and skin."

The writing...

THE WRITING.

So amazing and eloquently structured; powerful, and executed to perfection. Keep in mind that there is a juvenile feel to pieces of this story, but this is classified as a Young Adult and the characters stay true to that. The writing itself is top-notch, and completely blew me away.

However, as enraptured I became with this book, there was a *slight* disconnect for me, although not enough to drop my rating. PLEASE do NOT open this spoiler if you haven't read the book in its entirety...it will ruin the whole experience. (view spoiler)

If you are searching for a book that will get your heart pumping and your mind reeling, and don't happen to mind a few twisted, dark and disturbing scenarios, I'd highly recommend giving this fantastic book a read. I'm thrilled I didn't pass this one up!

Book Stats:

? **Genre/Category:** Mystery/Thriller/Young Adult

? **Characters:** Unique and very well defined.

? **Plot:** Surrounds a murder case. Suspenseful and mysterious.

? **Writing:** Brilliant

? **POV:** 1st Person: Heroine

? **Cliffhanger:** None. Standalone.

shady boots | #WatchPOSE says

Update (04/08/2018): More than three years later and I'm *still* so awed by this book. What I wouldn't give to erase my memory of it so I can read it for the first time again. Those of you who *haven't* read it actually WOULD be reading it for the first time, so you have no idea how lucky you are. I urge you to get this book into your hands immediately and get your mind fucked.

Initial Reaction: I'll write more coherent thoughts in a while. For now though holy fucking goddamn oh my son of a hackey sack mindfuck duck on a stick with pickles and rainbow jesus eating a two piece and a biscuit in space with drag queens wearing hydraulic tutus on crack what the hell just happened

Gathered Thoughts: Okay.

So I finished this book in school, after lunch, and spent the rest of the day in a trance-like state, staring into space, roaming the halls feeling like my feet weren't even fully grounded. I was sort of in a state of shock, really.

Out of all the possible outcomes and endings, I did not expect that at all. I should have. Now that I look back I realize that it was a lot more obvious than I first thought. That's always the case with murder mysteries though, isn't it? Keeps you on your toes, and when the reveal finally comes, you're knocked on your ass. And you're left with picking up the pieces of all those little details and clues that you left behind, cause your attention was focused on completely different truths.

Why is that, though? Why do we always discredit the most obvious outcomes when it comes to murder mysteries? I know I'm guilty of doing it all the time.

The whole time I read this book I felt Anna's pain, I wanted to scream and throw the book in anger at how unfairly she was being treated, how she was completely alone, how much the betrayal stung for her. It stung me too. I really, truly *felt* Anna, felt like I was in her shoes, cheered her on.

(view spoiler)

That ending was ~~insane-unbelievable-shriek-inducing~~ perfect. This book is perfect.

"How much do you love me?" the book asks.

And I don't think I have an answer.

Sana says

EDIT: Okay I really fucking hate myself a little for doing this **but I'm taking a star off bc I predicted something huge**. It was still such an amazing read for me and I want to thank Abigail Haas for giving me the biggest mindfuck of a thriller in my life.

Initial reaction: Shit mother fucking fuckballs ass bitch, I did not sign up for this. **Pls excuse me, I'm just slowly dying.**

What the fucking hell did I just read?

What the fuck is that?

What the fuck is this?

What the fuck is anything?

What the fuckity fuck is wrong with me?

Guess who wasn't expecting to be fucked so unexpectedly in the mother fucking brain?

Guess who fucking read this 400 and something mother fucking page book in one sitting?

Guess whose fucking brain cannot fucking function?

Guess who doesn't even know what her fucking life is anymore???

I cannot take this unbearable pain and high level of mindfuckery. This is fucking torture. I did not ask for this.

Pls send help I'm going to pass out and then wake up and then pass out again and then wake up and I don't even fucking know what the fuck I'm typing.

That's basically what this book does to you.

RTC when I can fucking think properly.

Will there be a review?

I don't fucking know, kids.

Um so like it's been 7463514263733211394975 years since I've read a thriller and that's really sad since

thrillers are my shit. (ALL THESE FANTASY BOOKS ARE TO BLAME FOR DISTRACTING ME)

Anyways, I'm finally reading this highly praised thriller.

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

Holy crap! This book was amazing. I picked it up yesterday because my son had confiscated my kindle and I wanted something to read. I never imagined I would get so wrapped up in a book so quickly.

Dangerous girls tells the story of a group of friends on vacation in Aruba when one of the girls is brutally murdered and another of the girls Anna is accused. The story evolves by going back through the girls friendship and the court case. I know how powerless you feel in a court case. The lawyers tell you to be quiet and act a certain way and you just feel so power less to help yourself. Your life is in the courts hands. This story just blows you away because a quote from the books says "Wouldn't we all look guilty, if someone searched hard enough?"

The ending came along and shook me to the core. Great writing!

Jennifer Masterson says

Loved it! I'm late for the party here on this book, but what I will say is if you like thrillers try this one even if you're not into YA fiction. I sometimes have trouble with YA books, but I didn't with this one. It read like any other thriller.

Highly recommend!

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

EVERY STAR.

“Why was I so happy? My friend was dead. I should be sad. Was I happy she was dead? Did I secretly hate her? Did I have something to do with it? Did I do it myself? I did it. I had to. Maybe he did it too. Together. A pact. A game. Something sexual, fucked-up. Drugs and alcohol. Kids today. Where were our parents? Aren’t they to blame? Did he pressure me? Did I force him? I was happy. Why was I so happy?”

Those are the questions Anna must ask herself while sitting in jail while she awaits being tried for murdering her best friend. What began as a Spring Break trip to paradise, ended with Elise being found stabbed to death and Anna, along with her boyfriend Tate, being accused of committing the crime.

Please let me apologize in advance for what you are about to read because I have a feeling it’s going to get super rambly and might be a big mess by the time I’m finished.

I liked this book. **A LOT**. I liked it so much I did the crazy, post-it note marking of moments I wanted to make sure I remembered . . .

(and then I went to my kid's baseball practice and all the other moms looked at me like I was a little "touched in the head" if you know what I mean). I have **NEVER** post-it noted a mystery/thriller because I liked it (but I have - quite often, in fact - post-it noted horrible parts of books in that genre).

Dangerous Girls grabs hold of you from Page 1 (seriously – Page 1 is a transcript of the 911 call reporting finding the dead body) and doesn't ever let go. It has **everything** that makes a thriller thrilling – including a "ripped from the headlines" type of plot and an "everybody is a suspect" driving force that will just *propel* you through the pages. I read this book in 2 ½ hours. I COULD. NOT. PUT. IT. DOWN. The dialogue-heavy writing style and frantic pace made my reading speed become superhuman. And if you thought Megan Abbott could write terrifying teenagers? Well, honey, you ain't seen **NOTHING** yet:

"Better to be a sneak, or a slut, or a narc, or a bully, than alone."

"We want, we take, we have. It's simple."

So, after you get past the whole "this kind of has an eerie resemblance to the Natalee Holloway thing" and find your mind turning to the best of the worst evil high school girls . . .

it grows ever *more* delectable. Oh, and even if you think you know who did it, Haas will continue to fill you with doubts and make you question just how sure you are about yourself up to the final page.

EDIT: It's been brought to my attention that the "YA" moniker might be a deterrent in keeping people from reading this book. Please note that this is definitely **not** your average young adult novel. The characters may be teens, but the story is all grown up.

P.S.: I'm sooooo stingy with my 5-Star ratings, and the fact that *Dangerous Girls* could have easily racked up a 6 or a 7 in the mystery/thriller category from me had me venture out to the author's website to see what she's all about (<http://abbymcdonald.com>). Well, first, she's adorable. I find an author who looks like *her* producing stories like *this* to be awesomely creepy. Second, and most important, as of July 15th of this year *Dangerous Girls* had only sold **450 copies** - a number so low that the author's next book (*Dangerous Boys*, natch) was rejected all over town, leaving her no choice but to self-publish. I've never gone to bat for an author before (Lord help me, Abigail Haas/Abby McDonald, if you turn out to be an asshole), but I'm telling you that if you are a fan of Megan Abbott, Gillian Flynn or books like *Defending Jacob* or *We Need To Talk About Kevin*, you seriously **NEED** to read this book. Buy it, get it from your library, whatever – just read it and spread the word. Good authors shouldn't be forced into self-publishing due to low sales/feedback.

Steph Sinclair says

This is one of the best YA novels I've read in a long time. I read the entire thing in one sitting... which is EXTREMELY rare for me.

Thoughts:

I loved it overall, but there's something about it that I can't put my finger on that didn't completely wow me. I think it was the final twist and how I expected to be shocked. But I'm thinking that's a fail on my part more than the book because Haas clearly gave me all the clues I needed from the beginning. She simply planted enough doubt to make me question if I was correct all the way till the end. The beauty in the novel lies in the way Haas wrote the flashbacks and how she played with the psychology behind friendship.

Very well-written. I remain impressed.

emma says

WOW, I LOVE WHEN BOOKS COPY REAL LIFE. Especially when it's totally uncredited! The murder case in this book just *is* the Amanda Knox case. Here are all the similarities I noted:

- white, pretty, Western female students living together in a foreign vacation spot
- one roommate/friend is murdered (Meredith, I think, in Amanda's case, and Elise in the book)
- the other roommate/friend is the prime suspect (Amanda versus our narrator, Anna - even the names are close!)
- the boyfriend of the suspect is also investigated
- the case becomes a total media circus
- the crime is sexualized by the media (both cases attempt to reveal a nonexistent sexual attraction the suspect felt toward the victim)
- photos are used as evidence (in particular, photos of the suspect and her boyfriend laughing and kissing hours after the discovery of the body, and photos that make the suspect look murderous and dark)
- there are bloodstains in the bathroom the suspect claims not to have noticed initially
- the suspect becomes, well, suspected due to shock making her behave as if nothing happened - which makes the media go crazy
- the media repeatedly dubs the suspect "cold-blooded killer"
- the media and the prosecution refer to the suspect as a sociopath with little or untrustworthy proof
- the prosecution in the foreign country is under international pressure to find the killer

- thus, the prosecution attempts to depict the suspect as prone to violent outbursts and spells of intense anger
- they also ignore other suspicious figures/potential suspects, including a man from the area who was harassing the victim, connected to recent burglaries, and soon fled the country
- the murder weapon was a knife from the kitchen with the suspect's fingerprints on it
- both victims were found dead of multiple stab wounds in pools of their own blood, with their clothes removed or tampered with (which leads to the sexualization of the case)
- both suspects used the following alibi: spent time with their boyfriends, then showered
- the evidence is largely circumstantial
- there is no concrete timeline offered by the prosecution
- personal writing of the suspect is published/used as evidence (Amanda's diary; a poem and short story of Anna's)
- the suspect spends months in a foreign prison
- the suspect makes a highly publicized, tearful apology to the family of the victim for their loss
- the suspect pleads not guilty
- THERE'S EVEN A F*CKING NANCY GRACE

On top of that plagiarism from reality, this was boring and slow, and I hated the characters, and the ~big reveal~ made no sense, probably because it was smushed into a handful of pages after reading hundreds.

Bottom line: Don't bother. Watch the Amanda Knox documentary on Netflix instead. Isn't real life fun???

Emily May says

"Wouldn't we all look guilty, if someone searched hard enough?"

Why, hello there, awesome book. You managed to take me straight out of this whole Goodreads censorship/deleting reviews fiasco and plant me right inside another time and place; many brave books have tried and failed this past week to do what you have done. So, thank you.

Dangerous Girls is in danger. It's in danger of being underread. It's in danger of being given a quick once over and then dismissed as something vapid, senseless and probably crap. It isn't, my friends. It's damn good. Dangerous Girls is one of those multi-layered books that does several different things at once and still manages to do each one equally well. Haas does what, in my opinion, all good mystery writers should do: she doesn't hang everything precariously-balanced on her reveals. The ending is fantastic but it doesn't matter because the book is also about so many other things. It is a satisfying story from start to finish that took me through so many different emotions.

So, what is this book? It's a mature YA mystery. I use "YA" with some hesitation here because it's full of all the kinda stuff that will make some parents clutch their rosary beads - sex, alcohol abuse, drug use... oh yeah, and there's that whole murder thing too. It's about a teen summer vacation gone wrong. Anna, her best friend - Elise, her boyfriend - Tate, as well as others, all go to party hard, get laid and have fun. Then, one day, Elise is discovered stabbed to death in her bed and Anna and Tate are the prime suspects. From there, we are taken on a journey through a murder trial that seems to paint Anna in a worse light with every piece of "evidence" provided. The story of the present is also broken up with flashbacks into how Anna and Elise became friends.

This is a dark story that takes you through the many nasty corners of teen girl friendships but it also shows the other side, the importance of friends to one another and the complicated psychology behind it all. Elise is such a wonderfully complex character. I think most people know an Elise. That reckless, volatile person who is always the life of the party, so confident, often overtly sexual and looking for a new adventure at every turn. But underneath there's something a bit different, a sadness or an anger or loneliness, that hides beneath the mask they've created.

My knowledge of the law and judicial system is limited to one year at AS that I hated, so I'm far from an expert on what is realistic or not. But I've always been fascinated by the portrayal of court trials as a kind of show or circus where everyone plays their parts. Where it isn't about guilty/not guilty, but about the performance you put on and how convincingly you deliver the script. Like in the musical, *Chicago*. Anna's trial resembles a circus and it horrifies me at the way each little piece of a person's life can be taken out of context and manipulated to mean whatever the prosecutor chooses. Scary.

I honestly loved everything about this wild little gem and I'm now going to recommend it to everyone I know. That means YOU too.

Taniksha says

RATINGS : 4 STARS FOR FREAKING OUT MY MIND.

Recommended by: shady boots

WHAT THE HELL DID I JUST READ?!

The functioning of my brain is completely (pardon my language) f###ked up. I swear as little as possible but honestly I can't stop doing it after reading this book. This book should come with the warning labels and I seriously think if one can handle a tornado of mixed emotions, then there's no problem reading it. I don't know what to make of my emotions after reading this book. It's been a very long time where I've been affected by a book in such a way. I don't know whether to throw this book out of my window or keep and take care of it. This book is a grave danger for the mind.

Lies

Manipulation

Anger

Greed

Envy

Hatred

Jealousy

Betrayal

Fear

Sorrow

MURDER

It's a terrifically beautiful story webbed with all the negative thoughts and emotions in a person's life. The story traps you in whirlwind of emotions and as you go further, you're pulled in deeper and deeper from which you can't be pulled out till the end of the book. The story begins with a group of teenagers visiting a beautiful island of Aruba during their Spring Break. Who could've thought that the vacation which was meant for relaxation and enjoyment on beautiful island with beach could turn out to be the worst nightmare of your life? This is what happens with Anna, who had fun with her friends and boyfriend, is faced with the grief of death of her best friend, Elise and helplessness to show that she's innocent, not the culprit. The less I tell you about the plot, the better it'll be when you read. The story goes on and on with twists and turns in every part and then giving you the ending which is either unexpected or a suspicion, which you might have initially but consider to be irrelevant, coming true. In my case, my suspicions became irrelevant as I continued but at last I had to bang my head for not sticking with it.

The drawbacks in the book was that I felt slightly off about some parts of the judicial system and procedures in the book. Some of the circumstances were slightly exaggerated. Anyways, those drawbacks couldn't shake off the best part of the story. It scared, dismayed and surprised the bejesus out of me. I doubted each and every character but the one least expected was the main culprit. Is it really wrong of me to feel that Elise brought her own demise? If you think it's wrong of me to think like that, then please consider that the book seriously has damaged some part of my mind. I don't think I'll re-read this book (because it's damn overwhelming) but yeah, it was one of the best experience of reading. Anyways, it's rare to come across such books and if one's up for a breathtaking mystery- thriller book, this book is one of the best.

Please pardon my language but let me express this or else I can't get over this book.

TATE, YOU BLOODY BASTARD, I HATE YOU.

Seriously, I don't even know why I hate him so much but in the entire book, I hated him a lot.

Thanks for reading my review. Happy Reading ?

Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says

Dangerous Girls scared the hell out of me. For real. And that's saying something, because I'm not easily frightened except for clowns —and freakin' dolls with blank eyes who stare—but who wouldn't? What do you mean, everybody isn't afraid of dolls and clowns? Are you kidding me? They're so fucking weird and unnerving that I shiver when I think about them. Anyway, the fact is, I can read about almost *anything* without being scared at all, either serial killers or ghosts, yet this book reaches my biggest fear : **not being believed by others.**

? **Why did this book affect me so much?** ?

Perhaps it's because I can relate?

When I was in my early 20s, I was friend with a girl who reminds me Elise (and Anna, for that matter) - not really in their behavior, because we didn't go out like them (no judgment here, just facts), but because how possessive our friendship became. Quickly, we developed a fusional relationship, and yeah, at first I didn't realize, that was so subtle. She was nice, we got along well, we had fun, and we let go of many other friends without even realizing it, creating a protecting cocoon around us. When my BF and I started to date, we came across the same difficult adjustments, and after some time, I genuinely thought that we were good. Until she started calling me all the time, and our interactions became filled with jealousy more often than not - I felt it, this urge to swear that everything would stay the same, to promise anything to make her more happy about the situation, while in my heart I just wanted to tell her to leave me the hell alone because I felt *suffocated*. That was it - we finally stroke a balance - but the fact remains that I've stayed scared as hell by female relationship for a few years, until a wonderful friend convinced me that a real friend wouldn't want to make you feel guilty for being happy. Feeling neglected is hard and unfair, and I'm not saying that we have to forget everyone when we're in love, **far from it**. But emotional blackmail is never okay.

Is all this unsolicited personal information helping to understand this book, you're asking? I don't know, but I think it affected my perception of the story, showing me, if I needed it, that **the way the relationships are portrayed here, how twisted they seem to be, can be fucking realistic**, unfortunately.

The truth is, **we all would look guilty**. When everything can be interpreted in a way or another, how can you be sure that you're not digging the grave that will send you to jail? That everything can't be twisted to make you look guilty? You can't, that's simple like that - let alone in the society we're living in, always so saturated by information that we have a hard time deciphering what to believe. **And if that's not the most frightening thing of the world, I don't know what is.**

Throughout the book we suspect **everyone** , including the main character, Anna, and that's what gives Dangerous Girls so much strength in my opinion.

(view spoiler)

? **To conclude ?**

- ✓ It's **gripping, overwhelming**, and I was hooked from page one.
- ✓ The use of interviews, texts, trial records and other phone conversations make this story look like a true

investigation where we, readers, are struggling to follow the tiniest clue and damn how I love it.

- ✓ The writing is perfect, as it makes everything **so fleshed out**, whether the characters or the settings - damn, I was there, with them, at every fucking moment they live.
- ✓ Don't expect it to be some light investigation - that's **raw, painful** to see all these relationships being dissected until each and every one of them look downright *toxic*.

To be frank, I think I equally loved and *hated* it - but even if it ripped my heart and depressed me, **this dark psychological thriller is just so damn brilliant to be rated lower.**

For more of my reviews, please visit:

Blythe says

Wow. *Dangerous Girls* was...quite far from what I had initially expected it to be, honestly. I had planned on bringing this one on the beach with me for vacation, expecting it to be an easy, breezy YA murder mystery that would be entertaining enough to hold me over for a few hours.

Now? Now I'm glad I chose to start this earlier and didn't save it for the beach, because I'm certain my screams of many expletives would have alarmed quite a few other beach-goers. Don't get me wrong-- *Dangerous Girls* is an absolutely *fantastic* novel, and it bears some stunning and endlessly engaging trial sequences, and portrays some topics so deftly I was utterly dumbfounded. It's brilliantly written in alternating time periods, and has some chapters written in the perspective of a television network reporting the case, which I thought was refreshing and loved.

But I did *not* find it to be an easy, breezy read. This book astonished me, shocked me, startled me, and ultimately left me with my mouth agape at the sheer brilliance of it all once I turned the last page. But what I feel makes this fantastic novel unqualified for the "easy beach read" label is that it is so much more than anything you would find in an easy beach read.

Odds are, *Dangerous Girls* will frustrate you. Many things in it are bound to anger you. If you're anything like me, most things will. This novel so amazingly depicts the cutthroat nature of court trials, and the awful things people do for the sole purpose of ruining someone's life. Anna is a character I immediately sympathized for, and I can say with utmost certainty that I have never been so engaged in a fictional trial before in my life. With every new revelation made in court to practically screw Anna over, and all of the people to go out of their way to ruin her name, I found myself infuriated, out of breath, and horrified.

And I loved it all. In essence, I felt everything a person in an audience for an actual trial would feel while reading this book, and that takes nothing but a great amount of authorial skill. Abigail Haas has immersed me into her story, into her characters' lives, and had me feeling seemingly every single feeling as I read *Dangerous Girls*, and will inevitably do the same for other readers. There is so much to uncover in *Dangerous Girls*, and I am incredibly excited for other readers to have the same experience with it as I had. While it's not a book I think I'd reread, like I would some of my other favorites (of which *Dangerous Girls* is absolutely one), I loved this book with a passion, and it is, in my mind, nothing short of a hidden treasure, waiting to be opened.

Wendy Darling says

Well crafted, well written, and extremely readable, even though I guessed the twist. Possibly the best YA thriller I've read in recent years, though.
