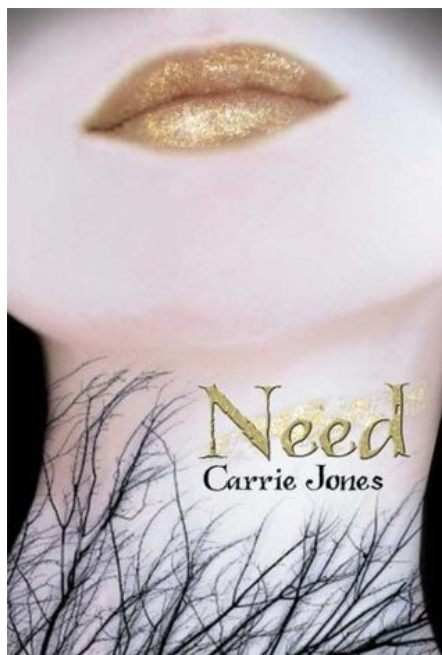




Need

Carrie Jones

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Need

Carrie Jones

Need Carrie Jones

Pain shoots through my head. Fireworks. Explosions. All inside my brain. The white world goes dark and I know what's about to happen.

Zara White suspects there's a freaky guy semi-stalking her. She's also obsessed with phobias. And it's true, she hasn't exactly been herself since her stepfather died. But exiling her to shivery Maine to live with her grandmother? That seems a bit extreme. The move is supposed to help her stay sane...but Zara's pretty sure her mom just can't deal with her right now.

She couldn't be more wrong. Turns out the semi-stalker is not a figment of Zara's overactive imagination. In fact, he's still following her, leaving behind an eerie trail of gold dust. There's something not right - not human - in this sleepy Maine town, and all signs point to Zara.

In this creepy, compelling breakout novel, Carrie Jones delivers romance, suspense, and a creature you never thought you'd have to fear.

Need Details

Date : Published December 23rd 2008 by Bloomsbury (first published January 1st 2008)

ISBN : 9781599903385

Author : Carrie Jones

Format : Hardcover 306 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance

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From Reader Review Need for online ebook

Haleema says

What a strange book.

So here's this teenage girl named Zara who memorizes phobias just for the hell of it. She chants them when she is nervous. It calms her down. It was interesting at first. You know, to be aware of so many bizarre phobias out there. However, it got simply annoying and it wouldn't relate to anything in the story. They were so random.

Then there's this Mary Sue (Gary Stu?) of a love interest named Nick who is macho, huge, unbelievably good looking and just glides through ice with this feet (It's really because he wears boots like a sensible human being, not heels like the silly girl.) so gracefully. He's basically very controlling and very Edwardish.

Very Edwardish.

Then there's this seemingly BA grandmother named Betty White. LOL. Betty White. She knows karate, I believe. She's very fit. And she talks like a 20-year-old woman. She claims that she will kick anyone's butt if they mess with her only granddaughter.

That's utterly silly. Since when were grandmothers that BA? Or is it just that I am stuck with a mean, gossipy Indian one and I cannot do anything about it?

Then there are these really annoying, weird characters that made me cringe. That Issie girl that made me want to choke someone. That Ian guy that existed for no reason. And Megan, the evil, jealous witch.

That's purty much it, peeps. I just couldn't finish this.

Megs ♥ says

Need is a fun paranormal fantasy. Each chapter name was a certain phobia, since the main character Zara "collects" phobias. I thought most of the phobias were pretty interesting, but some were just stupid. Zara is a very likable character and a pretty smart girl.

The secondary characters shine in Need, particularly Zara's friends. Her quirky band of outsider pals share banter that is hilarious, breaking up intense moments of darkness and angst. Issie is an awesome friend to Zara. Nick is the mysterious hottie that Zara can't keep her eyes off of. I felt that Nick laid on the machismo a little too much at times, but other than that, he was attractive and generally a good person. I've seen a few other people complain about the dialog in this book, and to a degree I can agree that some of it feels totally unrealistic, but somehow the characters still feel very real so that didn't bother me too much.

As far as the romance I love the excitement that comes from Zara's draw to the "bad boy". I enjoy knowing what her mind is telling her in contrast to what her heart is longing for. She knows something is different and strange about him but cannot pull herself away from the feelings he brings her.

The plot flows smoothly and quickly, while having just the right amount of suspense and twists.

I thought this book was genuinely unique and recommend it to all paranormal and fantasy fans. I was surprised how much I liked this book.

Queen Keely Tubbs of Salt "the Last of the Moral, Conservative Catholics on the Internet" (aka *Keelskilo*) says

NEED:BECAUSE YOU *NEED* TO BURN THIS BOOK.

I knew there was going to be trouble when I started getting *Twilight* flashbacks in chapter one: girl has awkward family situation. She moves to someplace cold. Where it's really cold. She probably should have put on a better jacket but she's not used to that because she used to live somewhere warmer. And now it's cold. Because of awkward weather situations, she's also given a new car (well, Bella's wasn't new, but whatever. Same intent). Did I mention it's cold?

FUN FACT!: The word 'cold' is mentioned **eleven times** within the first chapter. Just in case you forgot.

Zara is a pity-me-but-I-will-still-save-the-world type of character. She is so noble, in fact, that we need to be told that she's going to try and save the world several times in the first chapter. Because that must be really important. She also, sadly, cannot differentiate between Stephen King novels and Harry Potter. Sad day, Zara, sad day... Plus, she has a name that makes it sound like she's already a fairy herself. Not that I'm judging...not at all...***

(***EDIT: For those of you who have not read my reviews before, you probably aren't aware of an on-going rant I seem to be caught up in and that's the idea that a lot of American/British authors like to pick "exotic" sounding names for their white characters. This isn't supposed to be taken as an insult against people named Zara in general, but the fact that Zara is a typical Bella-Sue character with a name from another culture and there is 0 explanation as to why she would be named that other than "it's different and more interesting than naming her Sara, which is the name Zara is derived from. The name IS in fact odd considering her CHARACTER. If she was actually a different ethnicity it would make much more sense. Thank you to the two Goodreads members who pointed out to me in the comments that this point might not be made clear enough on its own.)

Although I will judge her on the fact that she believes that people only wear boots when it's cold up in Nowheresville. Well, I'm proud to say that up here in Wisconsin, I've been wearing boots since October. And yes, yes they are these tiny brown and black little boy boots with thick lace up strings and everything. No UGGs for me!! Basically, take this picture. Then make it a size zero. THAT is my fashion sense. And I like it thank you very much.

And Zara wears prissy shoes. So though it gives her character, I suppose, it does not score her any points with *me*. I believe common sense generally dictates that when there is snow, you should wear boots. But that's just me.

Anyways, Zara-with-the-odd-name** of course meets a nice hunky guy while pulling into the school lot. A guy who is an athlete, already knows who she is, and actually stops to say hi and whatever. Of course. And comments on the fact that she should be wearing boots. As a high school senior, I have learned by now that rare is the teenage boy who would do any of these things. And he WALKS her IN to the SCHOOL.

Can you purchase one of these boys? Possibly at Pick 'n Save?

Then we must have the immediate run in with the hair-flippin' bitch archetype. Because apparently her character is a necessity to the plot. (Question mark?) And we'll call her a Barbie. Because that's very original. And their little insult exchange? Teen girls nowadays aren't even a quarter that straight forward, they would never say those sorts of things in front of an adult, and since the schools systems have initiated the War on Bullying, being caught in this sort of predicament would bring down the counselor squad right away. Anyways, all I'll say about the rest of Zara's introduction to her new school is "hey, 'sup! Welcome to Coldville Coldstown, where everyone is an archetype to fit perfectly into your budding heroine needs! Welcome, welcome, welcome Bella-Zara! We will all stop our lives to pay attention to **YOU!**"

STOP THE PRESSES, FOLKS! GOT A NEW HEADLINE!!! ZARA WHITE IS HERE!!!!

Also like Bella, these kids apparently find all their information on the internet. Can I also purchase websites that give me answers to everything?

Basically I can't handle the energy of writing a full review while being sick. So I'm just going to list of a bunch of ridiculousness in this book:

Days off in cross country. Can I get a day off in cross country? The only times we didn't have practice were Sundays. And that's it.

And apparently everyone believes in pixies and stalkers and weirdness and are ALL cool with it. Because that makes sense. While we're at it, can I get an express elevator to Middle Earth? Everyone good with that?

Do all libraries have fairy encyclopedias? Mine sure doesn't. Trust me on this: I checked.

UPDATE: (I'd put a page number but I can't because this is an online version I borrowed from the library. With no page numbers) I should have guessed. And I think I did. Stalker fairy needs Zara for bloodline purposes! We love having babies in the paranormal romance part of the world! (Yes, yes there IS a paranormal romance part of the world. All cold places like Russia, Washington, and Maine. I guess poor old Wisconsin just got left out of the loop. Again: can I order that express elevator?)

32% through the book: *"Do you think she knows?" Devyn asks. "Knows?" "About the pixies?" I imagine Betty with her gruff flannel shirts and her fact-gathering nature. "No way."*

TEN BUCKS SAYS BETTY KNOWS.

33% through the book. They found a note that says "Don't fear. Here there be tygers, 157." Uh-oh! Tygers is spelled with a 'y'! Ray Bradbury *and* a William Blake reference! Sh*t's about to go down folks.

34% Zara given iron bracelets. Fairies...bracelets...Sh*ts goin' down fo sho.

35% Apparently if you know army time, you are a geek. Hey guys, it's official now! I'm a geeeeeeeeeeekkk!!! Also, Zara doesn't finish dinner. And it's spaghetti. This girl is **weird**. Oh, and then she goes running. To find a pixie. So she's stupid, too!

37% *"It sounds so stupid."* That's because it WAS stupid, Zara, dear. Pixie hunting in the dark by yourself is very VERY stupid...

43% PREDICTION: Nick is crazy fairy dude. Or a werewolf. Take yer pick. (Or, I'll even broaden it and say 'were'-something. Just to give it a better shot.) Wait, I change my mind. Certainly a were-something.

45% Wait...a buncha teenage guys keep on going missing in this specific town in a very specific area? And the US Marshalls aren't there yet?

46% *"I'm not most girls."* says Zara. Nope; just like every other YA heroine in the world. But that's okay! You're still an individual! *"I'm not into pity parties."* *Shakes head sadly.* Yes you are, Zara. Yes you really are. Also, Zara wants to know why it's cold in Maine. Compared to the south? Possibly because it's further north. Just spitballin' here. Could be wrong.

49% Wait...she can't tell Stephen King apart from Harry Potter but she can quote Nietzsche?

51% Zara is stupid. Zara hears a pixie calling her. Zara goes out into the woods. Zara hears a dog out alone in the woods. The dog is hurt. Zara miraculously makes it back to her house. \$20 says the dog is Nick. (I really want to make some money offa this thing. I think I deserve it.)

55% I WAS RIGHT ON BOTH BETS!!! KILI WINS, YOU LOSE!!! I JUST MADE \$30!!!
MWAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!!

...

Wait, who's gonna pay me?

56% Zara previously correctly guesses that the dog is a werewolf. But when the dog disappears and she's left with a naked guy in her house, she somehow can't put the pieces together that naked Nick is the werewolf. Hence, there WAS no dog.

Zara is stupid.

64% Screw pixies, Zara STILL can't get over the fact that Maine is cold. She should try living in Wisconsin with cold urticaria.

67% Pixies start to invade the house and Zara thinks that the voice outside that sounds like her dead dad is actually her dead dad. Obviously not dead. Apparently Zara has never read Spiderwick.

Also, Zara is stupid.

Well, at least she doesn't let him in. At least she figures it out just in time. At least she is the luckiest person alive.

74% On a pixie hunt. Let's stop what we're doing, have a snowball fight, and kiss each other. Sounds good? Ambush? Worry about an ambush? What are you, crazy or something? Pixies can't come out during the day!! Hahaha!

Whoops. Except for when the “need is great”. Remember that bit? I sure did.

77% The name Zara means princess? Well Sarah means “God’s princess”. Ha, I win. Also: Megan and Ian are pixies!! Well, *that* explains a lot.

79% The end of this book is just like *Twilight*...Wait. 79%? It’s not over yet??!! What are they going to do, kiss for the last 20%?

81% Oh....I get it now. Must rescue the mother now. Okay. Fine then.

95% (Which IS actually the end of the book because I guess they count the author bio page and sneak peeks or whatever as the last 5%)

...

Wait, what?

I just realized, absolutely NOTHING happened in this entire book. 306 pages of NOTHING HAPPENING. That was very boring. That was very annoying. I’m not sure why in the world I just wasted an hour+ reading it. WHY? **WHY???!?!!**

Oh wait, I’m sick. And sort of delirious.

Yep, it all makes sense now.

Review mostly finished. GIFs to come. And a rant on a serious lack of good YA villains, because that’s just one of my favorite complaints to make in the world.

Probably.

Irmak says

Kitap? sevdi?im söylenemez. Öncelikle bu kitap 2009da yaz?lm?? ke?ke ona yak?n bir zamanda çevrilseydi çünkü günümüz kitaplar?na göre yavan kaçm??. Çünkü art?k farklı ?eyler bekliyoruz fakat 7 sene önce yaz?lan bir kitaptan farklı?k beklemekte pek olmuyor.

Kitapta en sevdi?im ?ey Zara’n?n fobiye olan ilgisiydi. Ki san?r?m bu herkesin en sevdi?i ?ey olmu? kitapta. Ve kitap çok ak?c?yd?. Okuyamama durumuna iyi gelecek kitaplardan birisi bence ?htiyaç.

Üstelik konunun periler etraf?nda dönmesi bence çok hoştu.

Amaa yazar?n anlat?m?n? sevmedim. Diyaloglar ba?larda bana çok zorlama geldi. Ortalardan sonra yine daha düzgündü.

Ba? karakteri yani Zara’y? hiç sevmedim. Güçlü bir karakter gibi yans?t?lmak istense de bence bu ba?ar?lamam??t?. Bir insan ne kadar güçlü olursa olsun perilerin, ?ekil de?i?tirenlerin ve daha bir çok ?eyin varl???n? ö?rendi?inde bunu bu kadar kolay kabul edemez.

Çok tahmin edilebilir bir kitapt?. Her ?ey gün gibi ortadayken salak Zara hiç bir ?eyi fark edemedi bile.

Fenal?klar geçirdim vallahi.

Sonunu da be?enmedi?imi söyleyebilirim. Bence buldu?u çözüm oldukça komikti. Serinin devam?nda ne olaca??n? tahmin edemiyorum çünkü bitmi? gibi bitti. Yan? bir devam yok gibi.

K?sacas? okudum bitti kitaplar?ndand?. Çabuk okundu, tempomun dü?tü?ü bu günlere iyi geldi. Ama pek ho?lanmad?m.

Arminzerella says

Zara White is sent to live with her grandmother in Maine after her father dies and she falls into a deep depression. Living with her grandmother and being thrown into the middle of a mystery (disappearing teenage boys, and a stalker) – not to mention the attentions of several cute boys – seems to perk her up a bit. Throw in some elements of the supernatural and you have, yet another, *Twilight wanabee*. With werewolves and pixies (fae) and blood-drinking, this may appeal to fans of Stephenie Meyer's books and/or those who like Melissa Marr.

This book has an intriguing cover – gold dusted lips set in a pale face with the branches of a winter dead forest creeping up the figure's neck. The story just wasn't very good, though. The whole thing feels sloppy and thrown together, like Carrie Jones scooped up the elements that make a "Supernatural Teen Story" and blended them up any which way (ok, if I'm honest, it reads exactly like the crack baby lovechild of *Twilight* and *Wicked Lovely*). Zara and the other characters are superficial, and their conversations are almost painful to read. They can't seem to figure out (or remember) who they are either, from one page to the next. The pixies aren't all that well-developed – Zara's biological father is their king, and we don't get to know them at all except for their baser instincts, which are leading them to prey on humans. And everyone is remarkably matter-of-fact about the presence of werewolves, were-eagles, and weretigers. There's just not enough depth to any part of this story to make it good – everything is glossed over (except for these meaningless dialogues between Zara and her friends that seem to make up the bulk of the novel). This did not in any way rock my socks. Alas.

Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

One would need a tremendous amount of willing suspension of disbelief to believe the events in this book. I mean, I GET that it's fiction, and paranormal fiction at that, but oh man, the heroine is so TSTL it's unbelievable. Things are just too easily believed in the book to be credible. Her friends tell her pixies exist, and Zara is like "No! They can't possibly...Oh ok, so maybe they do," in the span of like 2 seconds. Please.

Rabbit {Paint me like one of your 19th century gothic heroines!} says

DNF on page 33

DNF because the slight potential this book had nose dived into cliché territory. Not only was this a twilight-esque (granted with potential to be a better than the source material). I've read all these themes before. Wash rinse and repeat.

Kitty says

Dis book.

Alright, so working in a bookstore sometimes you come across some pretty ridiculous looking books. Beach Vampire anyone? But as a child of the early 90's my threshold for cheese can be pretty high. I love The Lost Boys and all the Living Dead movies and sometimes if the moon is high in the sky, and the stars align, I can find a teen horror/paranormal book that I can enjoy in an equally cheesy fashion. Picking up and sifting through all of these books day after day I could only wonder if one of these books might not be the next milk based jackpot. One day I mentioned this to a coworker and was surprised to find that she too felt the same way. So putting our heads together we devised an ingenious plan to be able to read our way through these and still keep our dignity intact. The Bad Teen Book Book Club! Perfect! We would both take turns picking the worst of the worst and would read them together, secretly enjoying some, spurning others, and if any of our coworkers asked we could always respond with a roll of the eyes and say "Oh yeah, we're trying to outdo each other on the bad book scale. I didn't really want to read this one but you see she insisted . . ." And so with the plan in place we marched foreword and in the process found some comedic gold, some unexpected favorites, but mostly just bland, boring teen lit.

And then one day we picked up this.

It was amusing for awhile to talk about this one at work and watch other's reactions.

Me : So I got to the part where the villain is leaving sparkles everywhere.

Fellow Conspirator : I nearly laughed my ass off. How on earth . . . ?

Me : If I saw some dim wit pointing at me and then leaves sprinkles on the ground I'd think it was an escaped mental patient with a penchant for glitter, not a pixy king out to woo me.

FC : That pretty much sums it up right there doesn't it?

But soon even the novelty of that wore off as the looks on others faces suddenly went from baffled horror to straight up disgust. I found myself suddenly reluctant to be seen in public holding the thing. I had the vague, unpleasant sensation of being seen with slightly seedy porn. I took to covering the thing up with a stack of old Subway napkins when I left it in my car between lunch breaks, terrified someone might see it and know that I was in possession of fairy, incest wish fulfillment.

This book can best be summed up by World Stupidest Teenagers meet World's Stupidest Villain.

Zara is being haunted by a dark and brooding figure who follows her across state lines to her new home. This dark and evil creature stares at her across great distances and . . . points at her before vanishing. No really, that's it. He also leaves massive amounts of glitter in his wake but how that's supposed to be frightening is beyond me. Zara instantly makes new friends at school and, upon hearing her plight of woe about some

stranger's pointer finger, INSTANTLY jump on the idea that he must be a malevolent supernatural force. A quick trip to their handy dandy neighborhood library that just HAPPENS to have ancient tombs on fairy lore handy reveals that Zara is being haunted by a Pixy King, which almost makes me feel sorry for the girl since she isn't even being haunted by a real fairy. It's like she got downgraded before the story even began. Also in the book are the ever memorable lines of, I shit you not, 'it's pretty rare for a pixy king to be interested in someone so you should be flattered, it also means you're probably not 100% human'.

Weeee lookee me! I'm Carrie Jones! Writing a book is easy! Got any other fantastically easy ways to get the plot along with minimal effort that will solve all your writing problems that you can push out you lazy excuse for an author?

Anyway, I made it to the point where Zara starts arguing with her car after naming it Yoko and gave up. The situations were sloppily drawn, the characters little more than tools to keep the bland plot moving, and the incest implications more than unfortunate. I also found all the political stuff vaguely insulting since it's handled in such a sitcom, 7th heaven type way that it seems to cheapen rather than raise awareness to the various causes the author seems to be trying to promote.

My friend stuck it out, as per rules of our agreement that whomever picked the book must finish it. What she told me of the plot after that did more to horrify rather than inspire.

BONUS TIME!

Also, the more I look at this cover the more one has to wonder. If glitter is the calling card of the bad guy, and he only leaves it on the ground whenever he makes an appearance, how on earth did it get all over her lips like that? Is she sucking it up off of the ground? IDK, I give up.

AH says

I have a few good things to say about **Need**. If you are an aspiring psychologist or psychiatrist thinking of specializing in phobias, well – this is the book for you. Need is a great vocabulary builder. Instead of numbered chapters, each chapter is named after a phobia with its definition below. So you get to learn great and useful words like:

Phobophobia – a fear of phobias

Autophobia – a fear of yourself

Cacaphobia – a fear of ugliness

Too bad there isn't a word for fear of dull reads – dullreadophobia.

Need was an unsatisfying read. Many times I had a sense of déjà vu. I've read this story before, somewhere. I don't think it is fair to compare to other books, but as I was reading this, I had this "same old, same old" thought in my head.

Zara, grieving after the sudden death of her father is sent to live with her grandmother Betty in rural Maine. Zara gets the use of the sensible Subaru, goes to the local high school, makes a few friends, and has two boys

ving for her attention. Oh yes, there is a stalker and a warning to stay indoors at night.

Zara is a smart, articulate young woman. Yet, she has absolutely no sense of self-preservation. Everyone warns her to stay in, she goes out jogging at night on rural roads. Who does this? Rural roads are not for night jogging.

Pixies....Here's where I had a problem with this book. I just can't imagine a pixie as a threat. I just can't picture them as human sized and dangerous. Pixies need blood? Pixies leave sparkly gold dust on the snow? They just don't have the same cachet as vampires and werewolves do.

There was a little excitement in the book, but I felt that it came too little, too late. The resolution was just too easy. I understand that there is a sequel to this book. I think I'll pass.

Angigames says

Prendete una ragazza 17enne carina ma normale sotto tanti aspetti, fatela trasferire in una piccola cittadina nel Maine, dove sembra che l'inverno non finisca mai (non vi ricorda qualcosa?).

Fate vivere la ragazza dalla nonna che dovrebbe avere una certa età, ma che pare abbia la forza di Superman, fatela trasferire in una nuova scuola dove i pochi studenti non fanno altro che parlare di lei. La carissima ragazza sarà la prima, sulla faccia della Terra, ad attirare l'attenzione del più ambito ragazzo della scuola che, ovviamente, non si comporta normalmente... no! È tutto molto misterioso, vive da solo è guida una Mini rosso fuoco... (sicuri di non aver già letto una cosa simile?)

Intanto, dall'arrivo della ragazza cominciano ad accadere strani fatti: due ragazzi scompaiono, vengono avvistati strani cani e la povera ragazza si convince che qualcosa di non umano la sta seguendo! Avete capito ora di che libro si tratta? Sì? Come dite? No... lo so pare strano ma non è quel libro! Capisco che la trama sia molto simile (UGUALE) ma no non è quel libro lì!

Qui non ci sono i vampiri ma i pixie, una specie di esseri fatati belli e pericolosi che non possono entrare in casa se non sono invitati (si lo so, questo fatto è vampiresco), che cercano la loro regina... qui, invece, ci sono i Mannari: tigri mannare, orsi mannari, aquile mannare (?) e ovviamente loro (o meglio, LUI) i mannari per eccellenza, i LUPU che in primis verranno scambiati per cani.

La dolce donzella in difficoltà per tutto il libro (proprio tutto) adotterà un atteggiamento da eroina della difficile situazione, ma che in realtà si rivelerà essere un atteggiamento da perfetta idiota! Testarda, non ascolterà i consigli di nessuno e cadrà nella trappola del nemico... povera... mi sono chiesta perché ancora ci si ostina a salvare tali personaggi... io l'avrei eliminata all'istante!

IO ODIO I LIBRI FOTOCOPIA!

Krystle says

What you see is what you get with this book. Most of what you need to know can be gotten from the cover. The story was superficial and not much on depth.

Zara was a decent character - had some spunk and some of her quirks. I felt that the idea of her being so adamant about helping the poor, saving those in need, while good in concept, it was forced and only seemed to be a method to try and make the character stand out more. I had a feeling that it was the author trying to preach me some sort of message and I wasn't too appreciative of that.

I did like the whole bits about phobias though. I thought it was neat since it's interesting to find out what kind of fears people have. Even the chapters are split up by the name of phobias, and not by the traditional numerical marker and/or title. Her writing is decent, clear and easy to read through.

The romance suffered from a lot of what is populating the ya section nowadays. It's lust on the superficial level where we have the main character going on and on about how hot he is, how gorgeous, and what not. Yech. I'm sorry I don't want to hear how good looking he is every time they meet. Also, Zara's friend sort of blended together and there wasn't much to distinguish one from the other so I constantly forgot who did what, what they looked like, and so on.

Some concepts of the book were pretty interesting though. Vampire/cannibalistic-like pixies. The majority of the plot twists are pretty predictable, although there is one that manages to surprise you a little.

Pretty typical ya fare.

Rachael says

Since the recent death of her beloved stepfather, Zara has been accumulating phobias like some people collect stamps. She's pretty much afraid of everything. Zara's mother, worried for her, sends Zara to live with her grandmother, believing that Zara will be safer in that cold and isolated state of Maine. Zara is upset, she hates the cold and misses her home in Charleston. And then, there's also that mysterious guy that Zara keeps seeing everywhere, the one that leaves nothing but glittery gold dust behind. It turns out that he's real—and a threat. He's a pixie, and not one of those cute little things that flit around flowery gardens, but one who's controlled by his horrible needs—needs that are causing boys to disappear, needs that are haunting Zara's new home once again, needs that are causing Zara's phobias to pile up at an unprecedented rate. And Zara is about to find out just where she fits into this dangerous pixie tale.

I know they say not to judge a book by its cover, but with one look at this one, I knew I was hooked, even before I read the summary. Zara is such an interesting character; there is something so sweet about how she wants to save the world, yet at the same time, her self-sacrificing tendencies make her vulnerable. I thought Zara's character was extremely well-developed and realistic as well. She constantly struggled between what was imaginary versus what was actually real. I was also impressed that the other characters weren't just flat and uniform; Nick and Zara's Gram were characterized especially well. But, although the characters were pretty extraordinary, the plot was even better. Need has all the essential elements such as mystery, fantasy, danger, and romance to keep the story suspenseful. The only thing I didn't really like was that the plot slowed before I felt the climax was reached. Need was an incredible book with the perfect combination of plot and characters that keep me needing to turn those pages until the very end.

I initially thought it a little ambitious for the book to say it appeals to fans of Stephenie Meyer and Melissa Marr, because they are truly phenomenal writers, but now that I've read Need, I have to agree. Fans of the paranormal, from Meyer's *Twilight* and Marr's *Wicked Lovely* to *Tantalize* by Cynthia Leitich Smith and *The Summoning* by Kelley Armstrong, we well as most reluctant readers, won't be able to set Need down.

reposted from <http://thebookmuncher.blogspot.com>

new_user says

Readers can find a lot of diversity across the YA spectrum. There are *Gossip Girl* dramas, insightful reflections, and adventure reads. *Need* by Carrie Jones sits between the latter two. It's a novel about junior Zara White coming to terms with the recent death of her father, a mother who deals with her husband's death and her daughter's grief by folding and sending Zara away, and rumors of a serial killer in a strange Maine backwater town.

Need can easily be dissected into two moods: the first a mystery as Zara learns the disturbing depths of her town and comes to trust a few friends and finds a possible love interest. It's the Getting to Know You period.

The second mood of the novel is What Comes After. Zara has learned the truth, finds allies and enemies. Here's the action element and without this I feel the book would have been too simplistic. However, this conflict presents another layer that only improves the story, as Zara deals with X and Y and Z all at once, i.e. emotional, family, and supernatural problems.

The story's told in first person, present-tense mode from Zara's point of view in a concise, relatively simple style that really speeds the narrative along and allows us to sink ourselves into Zara's plight, especially her reconciliation with her father's death, which conflict is probably one of the most critical in the book. (For this reason, I relate the book to *The Silver Kiss* by Annette Curtis Klause, whose heroine meets a vampire but narrative ultimately hinges on the death of a loved one.)

Not to diminish the romance, of course. That was satisfactory for this romance reader. ;) (PG-13, FYI.) And the fight with the pixies! LOL. (They're Grimm's pixies, not Disney's, okay? Work with me here.)

However, the style does have its drawbacks. *Need* is pretty simple and straightforward, without the complexity, gray areas and subtext that we love. I don't want to compare every YA paranormal novel I read against *Twilight*, but since *Need* is advertised as comparable to that book, I'll say that *Need's* characters and plot are somewhat shallower, with the notable exception of the pixies who are a definite gray area. So this is lite.

I *did* like that Zara was not obnoxious. She was an intelligent teen, and I do like the themes for younger readers in this book, the encouragement to be proactively involved in the world and write, the contrast of need vs. love (particularly relevant to readers who may be struggling with the physical implications of that question, even though they may not draw blood like the pixies, LOL).

I will probably be reading the sequel, since the ending left me no choice (!) I would recommend this to readers looking for a simple, quick adventure romance. :D

Kayla says

Zara White suspects there's a freaky guy semi-stalking her. She's also obsessed with phobias. And it's true, she hasn't exactly been herself since her stepfather died. But exiling her to shivery Maine to live with her grandmother? That seems a bit extreme. The move is supposed to help her stay sane...but Zara's pretty sure her mom just can't deal with her right now.

She couldn't be more wrong. Turns out the semi-stalker is not a figment of Zara's overactive imagination. In fact, he's still following her, leaving behind an eerie trail of gold dust. There's something not right - not human - in this sleepy Maine town, and all signs point to Zara.

CHARACTERS-

I loved Zara and I just thought she was such a great character.

ROMANCE-

I didn't really ship Nick and Zara, it just didn't feel right.

PLOT-

The plot was super unique and intriguing. I've never read about pixies before and it was just super cool to read about something different.

ENDING-

I loved the ending. I just need the next book.

I just don't really like Nick, I don't know what's wrong about him.

Characters-10/10

Romance-8/10

Plot-10/10

Ending-10/10

Speed-10/10

Kristi says

I'm a fantasy junkie, so of course I absolutely devoured Need, in one setting. I could not put it down. When I first read the synopsis for the book, I was instantly intrigued. It sounded like something right down my alley and it ended up being much more than I anticipated!

I had a few things pegged before they happened. {Slight Spoiler Alert} I mean how could you not with these context clues.....

“..... wolfs down one of those lunch room cheeseburgers....”

“..... could huff and puff and blow my house in.”

Then there was another about hair falling over eyes like a dog.... hmmm, not to mention all the talk about werewolves.

{End of Spoiler Alert}

But it didn't bother me that I had it figured out. Because there was a great deal more that surprised me. That sly Carrie Jones, she had me so fixated figuring out what I already knew, I didn't see what was coming!

The character's were wonderfully developed and three dimensional. The plot was intense! It definitely kept me turning the pages. Driven by my own need, I just had to know! There were a few minor details that bothered me. Which I'll refrain from divulging because unfortunately that would be a huge spoiler. Sorry! It was story telling at it's finest. Well, if you like elements of fantasy, suspense, romance, and mystery in your novels as I do.

I really enjoyed Jones's writing and will definitely continue to pick up her novels!

Ronyell says

“Need” is one of the first paranormal books I have read in my life and I can tell you that I really enjoyed reading this book! “Need” is a paranormal book written by Carrie Jones and it is about how Zara White realizes that a mysterious stranger has followed her from her hometown Charleston to her new home in Maine. “Need” is a brilliant book that will be a huge hit for paranormal fans.

What can I say? Carrie Jones has really brought life to this paranormal romantic story. Carrie Jones has made the book extremely intense yet charming at the same time as Zara White is a truly wonderful character in this book. Zara is not afraid to speak her mind as she is genuinely interested in World Peace and she tells everyone her desire to be a pacifist with such passion that it makes her a truly admirable and courageous character. Another character who is truly memorable in this book is Nick Colt as he seems like a mysterious character, but as the story progresses, he becomes a close friend to Zara as he is willing to protect her from any danger. Carrie Jones brings creativity to this book as each chapter is named after various types of phobias that Zara experiences in her adventures in Maine such as one chapter being called “Didaskaleinophobia – fear of going to school” and another chapter is called “Sitophobia – fear of eating.”

For adults who do not like bad language in books, this book has a couple of mild profanities, but the profanities in this book are not as strong as some of the books and it might not affect many adults who dislike bad language in books.

“Need” is a truly mesmerizing book full of mystery and romance that any hardcore paranormal fan will for ages.

Review is also on: Rabbit Ears Book Blog

Angie says

First of all. How about those gold lips? Shimmery! The color of those lips does a good job of representing the glittery-but-dangerous magic in this book. Just as the pale skin of their owner conveys the tone of the story quite well: pale, cold, and creepy. I'm pretty sure this is my first pixie urban fantasy and I wasn't sure what to expect. What I did not expect was feeling like I was back inside the world of Stephen King's *It*. But apparently if a book's got Maine, winter, and a town with a curse on it, it will always evoke the same prickly, back-of-the-neck feelings in me. And *Need*'s heroine shares my sentiments.

Zara's stepdad is dead. After watching her waste away day by day, Zara's mother puts her on a plane and sends her to her de facto grandmother--her stepdad's mom Betty. Betty lives in Maine. Maine feels like another world to Zara. A world in which the every surface is blanketed in snow and the local teenagers are all track stars or football talent or some other sort of gifted. These things combined make Carrie real nervous. As a coping mechanism, she recites phobias in the hopes that naming her fear will help her face it. Yeah, she's brave and likeable that way. And she makes a trio of truly cool, hilarious friends. The adorably scattered Issie, the kind and quiet Devyn, and the dark and looming Nick. The three of them begin giving Zara a reason to get up again. There are, of course, some kids who don't like the new girl. And there is, of

course, a bit of a love triangle (but not really). And it's all very high school. That is until gold dust starts showing up everywhere and her classmates start turning out to be Not Who She Thought They Were. And it becomes clear that something wicked is definitely this way coming.

Need is a good one to stay up late at night reading. Alone. That way you can take full advantage of the awful not-pretty pixies going to eat you factor. And, really, when was the last time you did that? What I liked about Ms. Jones' writing is the way she created a truly scary world and villain with very little overt description. I have no idea what he looks like. In my head he's this huge dark form without a face and he is the scarier for it. Part of this is accounted for by the fog Zara is in when she first arrives in Maine, and part by the fear that seems to grow no matter how many names she gives it. I liked that she had such good friends and that they were actually a part of the story, not just background music. Once I met Issie and Devyn, I wanted more and more of them. Nick is definitely a good guy and could probably have used a little more conflict for my taste. But I liked him well enough. His hero complex was indeed charming. I would be happy to read more in this world. Recommended for fans of Holly Black.

Hannah says

I randomly picked up this book at the library. I had seen it at Borders at least a dozen times, and I needed a book, so I decided to check it out.

Okay, let start off with the basic plot.

Zara, a once popular and happy girl living in Charleston, watches her father die of a heart attack on their kitchen floor. Feeling depressed and "dead inside," her mother forcibly sends her to Maine to live with her grandmother because somehow solitary confinement will help her cope. There, she makes a whole bunch of new friends and enemies as soon as she steps in the door (literally), and she acquires a 'powerful' stalker. She is surprised to find out that pixies and weres exist, and her stalker is actually the King Pixie. She is also shocked to find how her family has ties to the age old battle between the pixies and the weres. She has to fight along side her new best friends to help save the world, and save herself from becoming the Queen Pixie.

Now that that's over, let's talk about my opinion.

All right. One word to describe this book: stupid. You could actually use pointless too! This book felt like a complete waste of time, and it took every inch of my willpower to finish it up. Halfway through the book, I was about to throw it against the wall or something! Talk about unoriginal and forced! Whew! This book was obviously written for the Twilight crew, for the two books greatly resembled each other (and that is definitely not a good thing.)

Anyways, let's break it down into elements:

Negative Elements:

The Plot - I've seen this plot time and time again. Girl with tragic past moves to new town. Girl makes a boatload of new friends and is torn between two unrealistically hot guys. Girl gets into trouble through her own stupidity that is somehow portrayed as courage. Helpless girl gets beat up a little (but not so much as to distort her pretty features) and is saved by her love. With the help of her "awesome" friends, the bad guy is defeated. Girl ends up with hunkiest guy.

That was the plot, no joke. It was so predictable... so boring. The ending, however, is what really made me uncomfortable. Way to make the bad guy look like a wimp and set up a boring ending, Ms. Jones.

The Characters - I thought the characters, especially the main one, were extremely annoying and unoriginal.

Zara is a perfect embodiment of Mary Sue. She was too perfect, and idealized by the other characters. Nothing is wrong with being liked by others, but it is a problem when you're loved by all and don't have a personality. Her lack of flaws, stupidity and neediness alone was enough to drive me insane. Continuing the trend of current YA novels, she was way too dependent on Nick. She couldn't live without him, couldn't stop thinking about him, etc. The other characters were also perfect in pretty much every way; they only had a few, obviously placed flaws. The antagonists were wimps who were too stupid for their own good.

The "Romance" - Gosh, talk about corny. The romance between Nick and Zara was completely fake. Nick, of course, was REPEATEDLY (as in throughout the entire freakin' book) described by Zara as having bulging muscles, smooth skin, dreamy eyes, a washboard stomach, a Mediterranean tan, ultra-soft lips, luscious hair, manly scruff, blah, blah, and blah. Their so-called chemistry was based solely on looks, not what really counts. All Zara talked about was how cute Nick was. *groan* As for Nick, he was a flawless hunk whose only goal in life was to protect Zara. Ha ha, sound familiar?

The Believability - Okay, I know it's a story about Pixies and Weres, but come on! The author could have made it at least a little bit believable. Everyone was so calm about finding out the pixies and weres actually existed. If I moved to a new town and some people I barely knew told me these types of things existed, I would contact a mental institute. Zara was just like, "Pixies? Like, no way. Like, they actually exist? I totally believe you." Everyone was so.. matter-of-fact. It was annoying. Obviously this was done to bypass the time needed to create an exceptional novel. This book, if you can ever call it that, was a money maker and nothing else. The author did not write to selflessly put her imaginary world on paper, she wrote to exploit this generation's young adults and cash in a huge profit.

The Dialogue - Forced and lacked meaning. The entire dialogue was full of bad sarcasm, stupid comments/questions and cheap romance. Need I explain more?

Positive Elements:

The Phobias - The ONLY thing I enjoyed about this book was Zara's hobby - chanting all the phobias. Every chapter was titled a phobia, and Zara was constantly describing them. I enjoyed reading them and finding out what they meant. I especially loved the long ones that I couldn't pronounce.

All in all,

I found this book to be a waste of time, and I don't recommend it to anyone. Feel free to disagree with me, but this is one of the worst books I've ever read. I hated how the not-so-evil villains acted and how all the females were portrayed as useless damsels. It was uncomfortable and uninteresting. Read it if you dare. ;)

Jen says

What a fun, quick read!

I thought the incorporation of Zara's slight obsessive-compulsiveness with the phobias was interesting. It really built her character and surprisingly gave her a personality. I hate it when heroines are introduced with no intriguing traits or hobbies, and we're expected to believe it when everyone lusts after her. THANK GOD Zara has some sort of distinguishing feature.

Zara is a very likable character. She has a good head on her shoulders, for the most part, and her quirkiness is refreshing. Too often are we presented with bland female leads with no real intrigue, but Zara realizes she's a complete weirdo and embraces it. Yes, please! Given her circumstance with losing her stepfather, I felt especially sad for her. I can't imagine going through what she did. Though it was evident that Zara was in near constant pain, she kept her chin up and kept on truckin'. I have to give props on the secondary character, too, who were very well developed, namely Devyn.

The villain was a little strange, though not unpredictable, especially when the whole "need" thing was brought into play. Creepstastic, truly.

There are definitely some cliché aspects to the book:

1. Awkward, clueless new girl in town moves in and the spunky friends are drawn to her, the hot guys get a crush on her, and all is well except for the beautiful bitchy girl that tries to make her life hell.
2. "Secret" supernatural beings, but that's perfectly acceptable.
3. Awkward, clueless girl finds out that nothing is as it seems and discovers she might be EXTRA-SPECIAL and not just awkward.
4. Special awkward, clueless girl ends up not-so-clueless and realizes she's an essential pawn in evil, diabolical plan.

But this book was so fun, I don't even care about any of that. Nick and Zara were a cute pairing and for ONCE there was no "I love you" 50 pages into the story, taking place 5 minutes after the hero/heroine first meet. Yay, Carrie Jones! You did it right!

Shannon says

I'd give this book 2.5 stars if I could. **The beginning starts off a little strange.** We're not given much description and we pretty much live inside Zara's head. **There's a lot of dialogue and inner monologue, and while it's quick to read, it's just not as engaging as it could have been.** Plus, Zara's obsessions with phobias is a little odd and it's never really explained why or how she remembers them all.

At first I was thinking that this was going to turn out to be a typical teen book with all the clichés, **but there were enough surprises along the way that I could look past the shortcomings of the novel.** The characters are developed well enough, even though most are pretty much standard-fare for any teen novel; the mean blond pretty popular girl, the hot mysterious guy that falls for the awkward girl, awkward girl's slightly more awkward friend with bonus handicapped boyfriend. I was a little disappointed that the author stuck to these less than creative roles, but it didn't kill my interest in the story.

Zara's step dad dies and her Mom sends her to Maine to live with her Grandmother, Betty. Zara is used to North Carolina weather so she constantly complains about the snow, ice, and cold temperatures. Since I live in Michigan I can sympathize, but Zara whines about it excessively.

Zara is being stalked by a man and her friends set out to find out who or what he is. **With one day of research they come upon the idea that he's the Pixie King.** I'm not sure how they come up with this, **I don't know if you can do a Google search for "stalker, man, following, pointing, fast" and come up with Pixie King as a result, but they did it somehow.** Zara doesn't even mention the gold dust that she sees, which would have been a valuable search keyword, so I'm not sure how they arrive at this conclusion.

Once Zara figures out what's going on in the town and about who's following her, the story really picks up. In fact, it picks up so fast that it's over before you know it. The fight between Zara and the Pixie King is anti-climatic and pretty much the first plan she comes up with works on the first try. **Zara accepts the fact that pixies are real and comes up with the plan to defeat them so quickly that it's kind of absurd.** Plus, the way she defeats them is so hypocritical since she's constantly spouting off about Amnesty International and how people that are falsely imprisoned need the help of letter-writing teens, which was also another weird obsession that Zara had.

I know there's a second book coming out but I can't stand it when an author plans for that. I'm going to read it but I hope I enjoy it more than I did Need. I like the characters and the world, but I think the pixies got a raw deal in the end, and I hope we get to learn more about them!

My reviews of Captivate (Need, #2) and Entice (Need, #3).
