



Sleep No More

Aprilynne Pike

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The blockbuster film *Inception* meets Lisa McMann's *Wake* trilogy in this dark paranormal thriller from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Aprilynne Pike. This supernatural young adult novel is perfect for fans of Kelley Armstrong, Alyson Noël, Richelle Mead, and Kimberly Derting.

Charlotte Westing has a gift. She is an Oracle and has the ability to tell the future. But it doesn't do her much good. Instead of using their miraculous power, modern day Oracles are told to fight their visions—to refrain from interfering. And Charlotte knows the price of breaking the rules. She sees it every day in her wheelchair-bound mother and the absence of her father. But when a premonition of a classmate's death is too strong for her to ignore, Charlotte is forced to make an impossible decision: continue following the rules or risk everything—even her sanity—to stop the serial killer who is stalking her town.

Sleep No More Details

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Author : Aprilynne Pike

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From Reader Review Sleep No More for online ebook

Giselle says

Sleep No More has some good entertaining content and an interesting Oracle premise, but there were many eye-rolling parts as well. I had mixed feelings even before I started this one. The mention of both Inception which I loved, and the Wake trilogy which I loathed made for an odd combination of expectations. Still, I was intrigued and it was fun while it lasted, but it's not without a list of flaws.

The Oracle lore is what kept my interest the most. It takes a while to get a clear picture of the Oracle abilities and the history is weak at best, but the concept is fascinating and, in many ways, thought provoking. Changing someone's fate does not come without consequences, thus giving the ability a very bittersweet feel. Seeing the future sounds great and all, but would you save someone's life knowing another person is likely to take their place? And wouldn't you feel just as guilty if you did nothing? Seeing as this book involves a serial killer, we get a good dose of situations just like this. Throughout the story, while we learn more about the rules, consequences, and complexities surrounding Oracles, we'll get a few WTF moments that not only changes everything we thought we knew, but also makes the book exponentially more interesting from one page to the next. Unfortunately, there are also many frustrating parts that added up to make for a very love and hate kind of read.

For one, you just know from the very start when she talks of a guy she's had a crush on for years, a guy who is on the top of the social ladder whereas she lies on the bottom, what kind of cliché romance we were going to get. To throw another wrench in this overused trope, after he develops a sudden affinity for the lone wolf he admits to only hanging out with her because she takes his mind off his dead girlfriend. And she's just totally fine with this because he's just so hot!! With no chemistry and no personality, the romance is definitely the weakest part of this book, and although it serves a purpose and eventually throws its own curveball, the lack of emotional depth made me indifferent to it all.

Then we've got a murder mystery in the mix which allows for a bit of suspense, but this is hindered by the protagonist's obliviousness. Why she trusts certain people or decides to not get help from her aunt after a certain point is beyond me. She meets this creepy 30 year old dude who seems to know all about Oracles on top of him admitting he's been stalking her for years, yet she immediately puts all of her trust in him, going off with him alone in the middle of nowhere with a serial killer on the loose. Um, oookay. Have fun dying!

In the end, yes I had a few qualms with this one, but its entertainment value is definitely decent and improves as the story progresses. I found myself more and more intrigued as we neared the end, compelled to keep reading by a few baffling occurrences that plays with your mind. It has its ups and down, but it's an overall enjoyable read.

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An advance copy was provided by the publisher for review.

For more of my reviews, visit my blog at [Xpresso Reads](#)

Debbie Narh says

1.5 Odd Clouds

Oracles are cool. Don't believe anything else about them. Sure, they may be dangerous and mean but overall, they're great. Charlotte is not because she acts like a ten-year old when people from her school start getting murdered. Sure, she could have been in a shit ton of trouble for telling her aunt that she saw the visions but she thought that she was a grown up and decided she could do it on her own (See? ten-year olds think they can do EVERYTHING by themselves just because they've been alive for a decade.) Charlotte takes care of everything in such a juvenile way that I got a sore neck from all the head shaking I did whenever she got a vision or someone got killed. I was so disappointed with this one because the premise sounds good. Oracles and murders. What could go wrongs? Almost everything, that's what.

Right off the bat, the novel has a childish feel to it. I don't mind teens doing dumb shit and all that stuff but come on, this is just ridiculous. Moreover, all of the characters are flat and not at all well described. The ending is really forced. I knew who the killer was once they came into the picture, nothing exciting about that.

Nevertheless, the oracle aspect of the book, by far was my favourite. I just couldn't get enough! The visions! The suspense! The randomness of it all! So good.

Sleep No More is not a book I would call suspenseful because, it generally isn't. It's a bit predictable, childish, and dull. I can't say that I completely hated it but I came awfully close to it. I only recommend this to those who absolutely love oracles and stuff like that and don't mind dull, predictable plots.

Sarah says

3.5 stars

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to HarperCollins and Edelweiss.)

16-year-old Charlotte is an oracle – she has visions of the future, but after changing one of her visions and accidentally killing her father, she tries to ignore her visions as much as possible.

When she gets a vision of a murder, a vision that she can't push away, she does what her aunt has trained her to do – nothing, only to receive a text from an unknown number asking her why she didn't stop the murder from happening. Charlotte begins to wonder if she really could have prevented the murder, or whether interfering would make thing worse; like it did with her dad.

Can Charlotte really change the future? And more importantly – why will happen if she does?

This was an interesting story about a girl who could see the future, and I was really desperate to find out who the killer was!

I liked Charlotte and I admired the way she wanted to make things better, and to stop bad things from happening before they happened. I also liked the way she didn't put herself in danger whilst trying to help other people.

The storyline in this was pretty good, and I really wanted to find out who the killer was. I did think the second half of the book wasn't quite as good as the first half, but I still liked it overall. The mystery element was done well, the paranormal element also fitted in nicely, and there was a bit of a twist to the tale at the

end.

There was a little bit of romance, but it wasn't really a big part of the storyline.

The ending was okay, and I'm wondering if this is going to turn into a series now. It would certainly be interesting to see what Charlotte has learned after this little adventure!

Overall; a good paranormal mystery story.

7 out of 10.

Tintenwelten says

Charlotte ist ein Orakel. Das bedeutet, sie kann in die Zukunft schauen. Ihr Leben lang hält sie sich an drei Regeln: Jede sich anbahnende Vision muss unterdrückt werden. Niemand darf je erfahren, was sie ist. Und die Zukunft darf unter keinen Umständen verändert werden. Den Preis eines Regelverstoßes musste sie im Alter von sechs Jahren bitter lernen. Damals versuchte sie den Tod ihrer Tante zu verhindern. Stattdessen verlor sie ihren Vater und ihre Mutter landete im Rollstuhl. Als sie jetzt eine mächtige Vision nicht zurück drängen kann und seit 10 Jahren das erste Mal den Tod eines Menschen vorhersieht, ist sie hin und her gerissen. Doch bereits am nächsten Morgen sind die grausamen Bilder bereits Gesprächsthema Nummer eins bei allen Nachrichtensendern. Bei ihrer nächsten Vision ist Charlotte klar: Sie muss handeln. Dabei bekommt sie Hilfe von ganz unerwarteter Seite. Und so verstrickt sie sich in ein Verwirrspiel von Vertrauen und Verrat, Liebe und Hass, Realität und Vision, Schuld und beginnendem Wahnsinn.

Charlotte ist ein sehr authentischer Charakter, dem man die Zerrissenheit zwischen dem Wunsch, die Welt zu verbessern und der Angst, alles nur noch schlimmer zu machen, absolut abkauft. Von ihrer Tante ist sie ihr Leben lang über das Ausmaß ihrer Fähigkeiten im Dunklen gelassen worden, so dass sie es einfach nicht besser weiß und deshalb zwar nicht immer klug aber nachvollziehbar handelt. Teilweise sind Charlottes Visionen sehr blutig und erschreckend. Die Vorstellung, dass in der Kleinstadt ein Mörder frei herum läuft, der scheinbar wahllos Jugendliche abschlachtet ist wirklich sehr befremdlich.

Das Buch ist von der ersten bis zur letzten Seite spannend, ein wahrer Pageturner, den ich nicht mehr aus der Hand legen wollte. Es ist ein Thriller mit übernatürlichem Touch, der in einem unerwartetem und atemraubenden Finale gipfelt.

Menna says

The plot of this book is very interesting and it enchants you from the first page itself.

The writing style and the sequence of the events taking place makes the book hard to put down and to forget.

Due to my exams it took me 2 months to finish the book *eye roll and a laser shooting glare towards my examiners*

however I never needed to go back and reread a few pages to remember what happened.

The characters are easy to love and sympathize with especially charlotte.

From page one I admired charlotte's personality and shared her sorrow on how constricted she felt especially with the fact that her visions are becoming more vital and a matter of life and death (literally).

The beauty of APRILYNN PIKE's writing style is that it involves you unconsciously in the story and the characters thus as a result you (the reader) will fully experience charlotte's character development where she loses the guilt and replaces it with understanding that her guilt was only her mind's defensive method to deal with the pain of what had happened years back. That guilt was also her mind's only reasoning on why she needs to find her inner instinct and conscious and follow the rules the sister's has given put.

Charlotte's mother is a normal realistic mother who has had enough of pain and loss in her life that she is on the verge of freaking out as soon as she comes to know that there is a small possibility she might be losing her daughter as well.

Charlotte's aunt, sierra, was very secretive and annoying at the beginning that resulted in me believing most of the weird conspiracies I came out with while reading (sometimes even on my bed before I sleep when I just need to stop thinking of my studies :P)

At the end you come to see her point of view and understand why she did the things she did.

You also come to see that non of your oh so great theories about her are true LOL

This book has a very undetailed, unnoticed love story and that was actually for the first time ever very enjoyable to me as I really loved how APRILYNN PIKE concentrated more on the oracles and their world to maintain the plot line than the romance aspect.

All in all this book is very interesting and appropriate for all ages and all literal tastes.

Until next time, stay kind one another and always read.

Xx Menna Khaled Xx

Jessica (Goldenfurpro) says

This and other reviews can be found on The Psychotic Nerd

MY THOUGHTS

Ever since Charlotte was three years old, she has had visions of the future. It was at that moment that her Aunt began to train her on how to be an Oracle. Then, at six, Charlotte tried to change the future, which ended up with the death of her father and her mother in a wheelchair. After that, Charlotte learned the lesson that she cannot change the future. For ten years she completely blocks out all visions, until one day a vision becomes so strong that she cannot block it. She ends up getting a vision of a murder of one of her classmates. How can she possibly not try and change this? Especially when the murders don't stop...

I was kind of iffy about this book at first just because it was compared to Wake, which was a book I read many years ago and absolutely hated it. Sorry, Wake fans. Thankfully, this was nothing like that book. This book reminded me more of Slide by Jill Hathaway. This book is mainly a thriller at heart, but it has a very unique touch of paranormal. There's the whole Oracle aspect and the visions involved, which are interesting by itself. There was also a whole bunch of other very interesting and unique abilities that Charlotte was able to unlock further along in the book. In fact, this book gets so much more hardcore, dark, and very very different as the book goes on. Can't really explain why, due to spoilers, but it was very interesting.

Charlotte's not really an abnormal main character. She's much like many other heroines. She's not enormously admirable, but she's not annoying. She's just a girl with a very interesting ability that instead of being a blessing, it's more of a curse, and she wishes she could be normal. The character in this book that really did annoy me is her Aunt. I don't dislike her, I just disliked how she withheld information from Charlotte, saying she was too young. Really, Charlotte has to live with this ability, she needs to know the dangers. If her Aunt were to only tell her these things, she could have saved Charlotte from many many things that happened in this book.

I found the unique thriller-esque way very interesting, but it did get a bit confusing at the end. It was mostly because so much was happening at the end, that there was an overload in my brain. Other than that, this book does have surprising twists to it, though some parts of it were predictable.

IN CONCLUSION

Overall, an interesting way to combine thriller and paranormal. The main reason why I only gave this a three is just that this book is very similar to other thrillers I've read, even though the whole Oracle aspect is very new. If you enjoy thrillers with a touch of paranormal, I do recommend this book!

Monica says

"Sleep No More" is set in the present in a small sleepy town. Long ago, Oracles were praised, and worshipped to like gods. They helped humans with their foreseeing visions. But after many catastrophic events, such as the fall of the Roman Empire the Oracles of the world decided to stifle out their visions and refused to service the humans with their visions. Not long after that, Oracles became a long forgotten myth to most of the world. 16 year old Charlotte Westing is an oracle-she has future seeing visions, but after accidentally killing her father in place of her aunt, she tries to suppress her visions as much as possible.

When Charlotte foresees a vision of a girl at her school brutally murdered, she starts getting mysterious messages from someone accusing her of not saving the girl and knowing about her powers. She eventually ends up meeting this person and he teaches her how to change the future to save the murder victims. At first she trusts this stranger named Smith but then starts to wonder if he really has her best interests at heart.

The theme of "Sleep No More" is to "Trust your friends and family." In the book, Charlotte makes the mistake of not telling her aunt the truth about not being able to suppress her visions as her aunt; a more experienced Oracle could've helped her. Because of this, Charlotte gets into a lot more than she's bargained for.

Charlotte Westing herself wasn't particularly likeable. She often did stupid and naive things that lead to her demise. She trusted a random stranger almost immediately and didn't tell her aunt whom was her mentor since the age of 3. Charlotte could've prevented everything from happening by just trusting her aunt who's always been there for her but not that I'm complaining, the story was compelling. There wasn't much

character change in Charlotte as the story progressed considering the ordeal she went through. I would've liked to see a total change in perspective since she went from strong to stronger in the story.

One thing I liked about "Sleep No More" was the suspense. It kept me on the edge of my seat until I finished the book in one day! The storyline was quick paced and a page turner. In other books I've read, there are often a few fill-in chapters that get boring, but I can guarantee you that there is not one non-fast paced scene. I must warn that the book is pretty gruesome. When Charlotte is envisioning the murders, they aren't pretty. "Deep red liquid pools under her neck, still dripping from her unmoving body. The puddle spreads as I watch, and the slice across her neck gapes in a grotesque display that makes my whole body rebel." Another thing I liked was how "Sleep No More" is able to present battles on both the physical and physiological plane. It was interesting to see Charlotte struggle mentally and physically between her visions and the murders. One thing I did not like about "Sleep No More" was the predictability. I myself like to be surprised and this story wasn't satisfying my appetite for surprise. I could just see the plot coming together and wished something magnificent and wild would've happened in the end but nonetheless I still enjoyed this book.

Overall I loved the book, there's not many books these days about Oracles. I loved how Aprilynne Pike weaved Greek Oracles with serial killers. I would recommend this book for fans of Harry Potter and Percy Jackson looking for a quick but exciting read.

Melanie says

DNF at 52%

So I give up. Firstly, I don't get the purpose of why there are Oracles in the first place. I also am not connecting with the main character. She seeks help from a stranger that has been sending her stalker-ish texts on the spur of the moment--because that's totally rational. Lastly, the romance lacks chemistry. Not having any luck with this author at all. Wings, Earthbound and now Sleep No More. Just no. Only good thing is that it's a quick read. I read half of this novel in no time at all. Oh. And there's crappy writing.

Chiara says

A copy of this novel was provided by Harper Collins Australia in exchange for an honest review.

WOW. Okay, let me start off by saying that I read *Sleep No More* in about three hours, which is a pretty big feat, especially since I started it at 9pm. NO SLEEP TO BE HAD FOR AMAZING BOOKS. But seriously, I was blown away.

I must admit something to you all. I simply must. ... I am a fan of novels that have a small cast of characters. Yes, I like to read novels that have a wide range of characters with differing personalities and motives etc etc. But I prefer to have a small cast. One where we can really get to know the characters: who they are, why they do what they do, what is really important to them. I love getting to know the nitty gritty of a character and I think a small cast allows this on a greater level.

Sleep No More has a small cast. It pretty much centres on the same five characters and their journey, but also

includes other characters who may not have a huge role scene or speech-wise but play a huge role in the novel overall. Did I achieve confusion? *high fives you*

I'd call *Sleep No More* a thriller, and that's one of the reasons why I liked it so much. Most of the YA novels I read don't really have any suspense. And sure, that may be because I am not scouring the shelves for thrillers, but that might change now because I loved the thrill that reading *Sleep No More* gave me. I loved the guessing and the condemning and the heart beating. I love it when a book makes me feel different things (that aren't depressing or swoony).

Because of this mystery aspect, there really is not a lot I can say about the storyline because I think even the slightest speculation on my part could potentially ruin the entire story for you and then I'd feel immense guilt and sorrow.

So. Great characters. Mystery. Eerie happenings. MURDER. BETRAYAL. Love. Lust. MAGIC. THRILLS. Suspicion. Secrets. AWESOMESAUCE.

Okay maybe that last one wasn't in the novel, but everything else was and they are all reasons why *Sleep No More* should be the next book to hit your shelves! Or your eyes, but not in the way that would hurt you.

pushes you out the door Go. Go now and read *Sleep No More*!

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Your Turn: Do you prefer books with a small cast of characters, or a large? Why? Are thrilling novels exciting for you to read?

Bella says

Well what can I start off saying..... I loved this one it was filled with so much action, adventure and twist I could not put this one down. Pike gave me the chance to fall in love with something new, well for me. I have not read many books with oracles in them or the main character so it made for a very fastening read.

Following Charlotte on her journey to discover what she is and how to deal with it as well. She can't seem to not want to step in and change the future, her visions make it hard for her to look away and she has suffered a great deal because once when she was younger it changed her life for ever. Now there seems to be a killer on the loose and Charlotte keeps seeing the kids she goes to school with dying and there is nothing she can do to stop it or is there? Until, she meets someone who knows her secrets and wants to teach her how to change the future. But things are not as easy as they seem and maybe changing the future is only going to make it worse.

This one is fast paced and page turning. The plot the story line everything about it makes it intense. Charlotte has a very special gift but I am not sure I would want the burden of knowing the future and not being able to do anything. She really has a fight in this one, and a life for a girl her age seemed so hard. I love how each and every character for so well in this one and made for a much better read. That doesn't happen much in a book when I read it, I always seem to hate someone or something and I just could not find it in this one.

So when she has to figure out who is murdering the kids at her school she will have to make a chance to step back and let it happen or listen to this stranger "Smith" who says he knows all about her and can help her stop it. Not sure I liked "Smith" from the start but without him the story would have not been so paging

flipping worthy! This is one of those type of books you have to read to get more of, I can't write a review for it all or then I am just rambling and giving it all away! SO get out and get this one its worth the read I promise!

Vi ♥ Inkvotary says

Style and Language

Aprilynne Pike has a great way to bring a novel to life. Charlotte is an Oracle but she's forced to deny that. Her aunt taught her as long as she can remember that whenever she feels a vision coming, she needs to block her - because visions are dangerous in many ways. But one day Charlotte isn't able to do so and has no other choice but to let them unfold.

That's painful and rips her off her feet. She knows it's totally against the rules, but when she sees that a girl she knows will be brutally murdered, she decides to let the visions unfold their power and hopes that she can save a life.

Her struggle with the following incidents shows the author in a beautifully written and very sensitive way. This captivating thriller is written from Charlotte's point of view and puts the reader in a world where love is one thing, but bringing that love into danger is a completely different story.

Characters

It's not easy to be an Oracle at all – even when you haven't discarded the test yet. And certainly not when you get involved with the evil and don't know it. But Aprilynne Pike uses that to her advantage and created with Charlotte a character who learns from her mistakes and who puts the strong bonds of a family above everything.

When she starts to realize what she'd done by dropping her shields, she no longer obeys and starts to work out a plan to bring evil to justice.

The way how she begins to understand why her aunt lives the life she lives, why she is the way she is and what she does to prepare her family to prevent them from harm – all that shows a strength which is just incredible.

Result

The author uses a great legend in her story and puts that with wonderful words on paper. This thriller is the first one I've read from this author, and it was worth every minute I spend with it.

Mitchii says

I guess my 'best reads' luck has run out with this one. It was contrived, predictable and wasted a potentially good concept. What a bummer! :(

Abbie says

Sleep No More was an okay read, but i started to get bored at the halfway mark.

I felt really sorry for Charlotte. Being able to see how people were going to die would be horrible, especially if the person was murdered!

I wouldn't have been able to cope knowing that i could have changed someones future... but wasn't allowed to.

I guessed who the killer was, so i wasn't shocked when it was revealed, but it took ages for Charlotte to work it out.

The pacing was alright to start with, but the second half dragged.

I don't know if it was because i had suspicions about who the killer was... or if it was just slow.

Overall, okay, but a bit slow and predictable.

Glass says

Do you remember Wings? Aprilynne Pike has a way with words and writing stories that will remind you of your favorite childhood fairy tales. I know that a lot of my friends around blogosphere aren't the biggest fans of this author because, as I said in my review for Earthbound, first in her new paranormal series - it's something that will be more appealing for younger readers. Sleep No More doesn't go into that group, it looks like Aprilynne Pike tried to write a darker story and get the attention of different type of readers.

What did I like?

- Premise of Sleep No More. It is so weird and completely different than what I'm used to when it comes to A. Pike. More violent and twisted plot with paranormal elements.
- Charlotte. Not the kind of character you'll find in paranormal young adult novels that often. Think along the lines of Angelfall by Susan Ee.
- Premonitions. The scariest part of the story. I couldn't help myself thinking what would I do knowing about all the bad things that will happen.
- The way book ended. I know that there will be a lot of people that will think how few things could have happen differently, but I loved that author didn't fall under the pressure of giving us predictable ending.

What I didn't like?

- *Inception* parts of the book. I didn't like that movie at all, I didn't get half of the things that happened. I had same issues here. It's not confusing like the movie, but still few things felt rushed and at times out of the place.
- Aunt and "the explanation". I will leave it at that to avoid spoilers, but I really hoped there will be much more to her story.
- Is this a sequel or a standalone? The way it ended made me a little bit confused. I thought it supposed to be standalone.

Review posted at Ja ?itam, a ti?

Copy of this book was provided by publisher, Harper Teen, via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

Debby says

1.5 stars

As a fan of all things timey-wimey, when I spotted *Sleep No More* being advertised as a thriller with a "change the future" kind of aspect, I was immediately intrigued. I'll be the first to admit that I had not heard many great things about Aprilynne Pike's writing, but I thought I might as well give it a shot - because maybe this story could convince me. While I was absorbed by the creeptastic story, the ending was a disaster, and without the illusion of suspense I realized... I didn't like this book very much.

So in *Sleep No More*, our main character, Charlotte, is an oracle. She's spent her life fighting her visions, because she's not supposed to interfere with the future, but now the visions are overpowering her as she sees brutal murders of her fellow classmates. A serial killer is on the loose. I don't often pick up serial killer type stories, I must admit. It's not *exactly* my thing, but I thought with the paranormal aspect of seeing the future, this was worth a shot. And *boy* did it bring the creep factor. Charlotte sees these murders and the aftermaths, and it chilled me to my core. It evoked such suspense that I just had to keep reading to know who was doing this and why.

And so, **for much of the novel, I was completely engrossed.** Charlotte finds out more about her powers and what she can do, and tries to help in whatever way she can. However. However. Obviously, there is a big but. The plot was going so well until about 75%, because then, obviously, some resolutions had to happen. And it was a messy disaster. Nothing made sense anymore. (view spoiler) You can't just throw in all these supernatural elements suddenly and then just rush a half-assed explanation of them. Talk about your poor planning and poor worldbuilding. I was so excited to learn who the killer was and then it was just a combination of easy way out + fuzzy resolutions. Disappointment doesn't begin to cover it. This could have been so much more.

But how the plot crashed and burned isn't even my biggest complaint about this novel. When the suspense was receding, my eyes were opened to the bad writing. People weren't joking around about Aprilynne Pike's writing. **It's all tell and no show.** That makes me sad. It was okay during the sections with a lot of action and suspense, and I didn't notice it, but at the end, it comes down to the characters and how they've been affected. Here's my biggest problem: Charlotte doesn't seem to be scarred at all. I mean, she tells you she is.

I wonder how long it will be before I can sleep peacefully again. - *Sleep No More* by Aprilynne Pike (ARC)

She says it so calmly, but I was on the brink of that insanity and even now - in this comfortable

room with Sierra's arm around my shoulders - it terrifies me. - *Sleep No More* by Aprilynne Pike (ARC)

But do you see how I don't buy this? Okay, **here's where my review is going to get personal**. At the beginning of the month, I was walking to the station after my cousin's birthday party. It's a creepy road that's almost completely dark, and I was crying because I didn't enjoy the party at all. Suddenly, out of nowhere, this guy was standing in the middle of the path. I jumped a bit, but I kept walking and moved to walk around him. I passed him, let out a breath, but suddenly, his hand came out of nowhere and he grabbed me by my thigh. I screamed, pulled away, and pulled out my phone. LUCKILY, he backed off there, and I ran off, talking to my dad on the phone until I got to the station, but I have to admit it's the most terrified I've ever been in my life. I was sobbing uncontrollably. The rest of the night I was constantly looking over my shoulder. I was only sticking to well lit roads, always making sure there were people around, and at the station, I pretty much hugged this pole that has a panic button. *This is fear*.

The fear that I was feeling earlier in the novel was my own fear - not the main character's fear. And that would have been fine if this was a second person novel, but it's not. (And ew, no to second person.) The thing is, this is just not how you convey fear. You can't just TELL me the character's frightened. You have to make me *feel* it through the main character - the full range of the emotional trauma, including not only fear, but paranoia, suspicion, terror to the point of uncontrollable crying, and the desire to lock yourself up in the safety of your home for the rest of your life. Thinking about it, I think fear is possibly the hardest emotion to write - especially if you're writing about attacks, harassment, or abuse, which (hopefully) you haven't experienced yourself. For people who know even a shred of what that actually feels like, you won't come across as genuine.

Could what I'm describing be considered overkill? Perhaps. But moderation would be fine. Just, if you're writing realistic fiction (which I would argue this still is in spite of the paranormal element) and you're writing a thriller from the eyes of a victim... you have to show that you know at least to *some* degree what a realistic person would feel in that situation. You have to *show* that. And not just tell me. Because I don't buy it. Not even for a second. Charlotte is freaking Hercules, because it seems like none of this affects her for more than an hour. And she witnesses *terrifying* things. People getting their throat slit, beaten to death with a bat, chopped up by a machete - she's even grabbed in the dark *herself*. But no lasting impact, aside from telling us, which I find hard to buy. In fact, when she should be scared and paranoid, she dreams about her boyfriend and how much she wants to kiss him and whatever, even begging her mom to let her leave the house to see him while the killer is still out there. Prioritization, bitch. Ughhhhh.

Summing Up:

Obviously I pulled my own personal experiences into this story, and that's a big barrier for me to like it. But even without that, this would have bothered me. Perhaps not to this extent, but still. The suspense and creepiness was good... until that last fateful quarter. Then I was left with bad writing, bad characterization, bad romance, bad plot resolutions, and bad worldbuilding. So... yeah. I'm disappointed.

GIF it to me straight!

**ARC received from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the contents of the review.*

