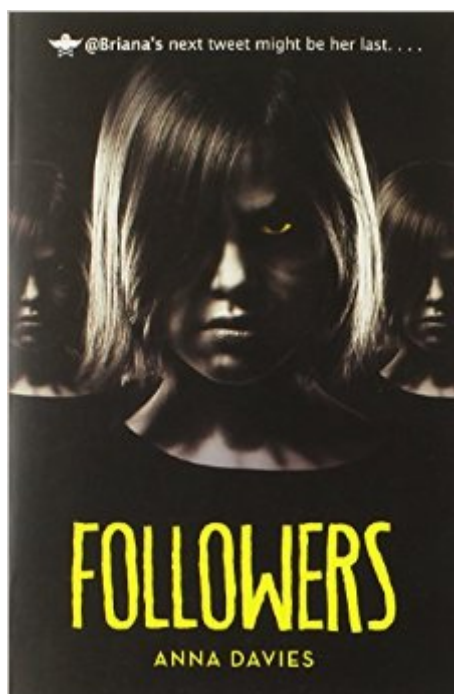


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Synopsis

To tweet or not to tweet . . . what a deadly question. When Briana loses out on a starring role in the school's production of Hamlet, she reluctantly agrees to be the drama department's "social media director" and starts tweeting half-hearted updates. She barely has any followers, so when someone hacks her twitter account, Briana can't muster the energy to stop it. After all, tweets like "Something's rotten in the state of Denmark . . . and a body's rotting in the theater" are obviously a joke. But then a body IS discovered in the theater: Briana's rival. Suddenly, what seemed like a prank turns deadly serious. To everyone's horror, the grisly tweets continue . . . and the body count starts to rise. There's no other explanation; someone is live-tweeting murders on campus. With the school in chaos and the police unable to find the culprit, it's up to Briana to unmask the psycho-tweeter before the carnage reaches Shakespearian proportions . . . or she becomes the next victim.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am so torn about how I feel about this book because while I enjoyed reading it, there were numerous problems throughout which really annoyed me. I have really been trying to get into reading horror/mystery books in YA after I stumbled upon some amazing adult ones, but what I am finding is that there are hardly any good YA horror novels available or at least I have not found them yet. I was really hoping this book would live up to the expectations I created in my head after reading the intriguing synopsis, but unfortunately, I was left unsatisfied by the end of the book. First humongous problem with this book is that it is so inconsistent with its facts. The synopsis does give

a good feel about what the book is about, however, it adds a bunch of stuff that is not in the book or untrue. Briana's account is not hacked at any point in the novel, the Tweet mentioned is never used in the book, Briana's rival's body is not found in the theater, and her rival (which I use the term loosely) is not the first murdered. I mean, that is over half the synopsis that is wrong, which is really disappointing. As well as the synopsis being incorrect, there are some situations in the book that need editing. At one point in the book all the lights are turned off at the school (which makes no sense because it serves no purpose), but then Briana and her friend turn on a light in a room literally a few pages later. Then at the end of that same chapter, Davies mentions that the power is still off at the school. I feel like that would be an easy mistake to be caught because it was so blatantly obvious. Also, I have to mention, what is up with this book cover? It has nothing to do with the plot and it makes readers think that there are evil children in it. However, I did enjoy reading this book. The writing was okay and the pacing of the book kept me guessing what was going to happen. I liked that this book involved technology from today because I feel like it would feel more relevant to teens; however, in several years this book will be dated because of it. I also really enjoyed the plot of this book because the mystery was interesting. I did have trouble guessing who the killer was because I initially thought I knew who it was and kept with that hypothesis until the end to find out I was wrong. I think it was confusing adding the aspect of a girl who had been murdered several years earlier. I really thought that I was going to like where that was headed, but unfortunately, it did not go the direction I was anticipating. I felt like that murder was just thrown in for no particular reason and did not add anything to the story at all. The characters were alright, but I still felt like there was a lack of character development. I did like Briana's character and I could relate to her wanting to fit in, but I did think she made some really irrational decisions, especially at the end of this book. I did like the character of Zack, but I wish there would have been more about him. He seemed like a funny character, but was not involved that much until the end. Briana's friends at the school were okay, but I still felt like they did not add that much to the book. I mean, I know that they had to be in there, but I wish they were more developed and unique. I did not care if the characters died and although I was curious about whom the killer was, I was not really rooting for Briana to catch them. The romance in this book really lacked. I don't know exactly where Davies was going with it, but it seemed all over the place. When you thought there might be a genuine connection between characters, it all of a sudden blind sides you and switches to something else and not in a good way. I was not sure if I was supposed to be rooting for these characters to be in a relationship or hating them. I can't say much about the ending because I don't want to give away spoilers, but it

was so abrupt. The rationale that determined who the killer was and the actions taken afterward were so crazy and strange to me. I did like that there was an epilogue so the book did not just end with no wrap up, but I also thought that the pairings at the end of the book was pushed and that Davies wanted to wrap everything up so it would be a happy ending. Overall, I did enjoy reading this book, but the ending left me unsatisfied. I didn't really have too many problems with the book until I realized the synopsis was incredibly incorrect and gave readers the wrong impression of aspects in this book. I do think that readers on the younger side, say yearly teens, would enjoy this book, but if you are any age over 15, then I would skip it and look for a better mystery novel.

Garbage book. The blurb literally lies to you. Her account is NEVER hacked. The tweets that are written in the back like "Something is rotting in..." are NEVER used in the book. Also, WHERE ARE THE COPS?!?!?!? People are being murdered left and right but the cops are nowhere to be seen. It's a shame. The book was well written, and the story wasn't all that bad. I just hated that the blurb straight out lied to you.

I would not suggest anyone else waste their time on this book. Poorly written, and "designed to be profitable" based on the overly saturated teen mystery niche. The main character, Briana, wants to play the role of Ophelia in Shakespeare's classic, Hamlet. This isn't even revealed until you are about half way through the book. Briana doesn't get this role, and instead becomes the "social media director" (yes, I'm scratching my head too), and makes twitter updates about the play in an attempt to further engage the audience and fanbase. Overall, this book is very poorly written and feels like something that tried so hard to "design to sell" and become a big hit, but never did. Pass on this book.

You're a kid in a Maine boarding school that specializes in the arts and you're a drama kid, wanting to be an actress - you feel you don't really fit in until you decide to go for it and try out for Ophelia in Hamlet. But a killer stalks the school and especially the drama department, as kid after kid involved in Hamlet dies and everybody thinks that it's you. You won't be able to stop reading this haunting mystery so get your snacks, hit the bathroom, turn off your phone, and be ready to stay up later than usual until you reach the last page.

Desperate to shine, Briana understands that she must first emerge from her mother's shadow. In an apparently counterintuitive move, she chooses to attend the very same prestigious

boarding school where her mother was once the brightest star on stage. Driven by the need to prove to her mother, and more importantly to herself; one can most certainly be a fine, talented actor while deftly avoiding drama in real life, she was able to push reservations aside, as the move is not without apprehension. McHale remains void of friends, and even acquaintances are hard to come by when tension is palpable between the McHale students and those unfortunate souls that live in the surrounding town, attending the public school. It wasn't only the imagined class disparity that kept the teens apart; but an unsolved murder of a student that attended McHale along with Briana's mom many years ago held the wedge firmly in place. Focusing solely on the goal of being Ophelia, Briana morphs into "Bree", takes to Twitter, and is quickly accepted into an exclusive McHale theatre clique. But what goes up; must come down. In no time at all, the friendly glances warranted by popularity become accusatory side-long stares. Accidents begin to happen in the theatre, students meet untimely and freaky demises. A new Twitter user, "Hamlet's Ghost" begins to taunt, and point the finger at Bree. Life has new meaning. More important than a role in a play, far outweighing the ridiculous pipe-dream of popularity, Bree's focus is abruptly shifted to the critical tasks of staying alive and revealing the truth. Ms. Davies spins a chilling story with a meaty mystery, spot-on teen-age representation, down to the sparring dialogue; with a few sly mentions of Phish and the Grateful Dead for those of us that are not exactly "Young Adults". She artfully combines the angst of high-school with real-life, adult issues; thus allowing the characters opportunities for self-reflection and growth. As Bree learns more about her fellow students, faculty, and the townsfolk; she reveals more about herself and what kind of person she really wants to be; while discovering surprising parallels with the mother that once seemed her polar opposite. This is a book that I can happily recommend to any Middle-Grade, YA and Not-So-Young Adult reader; as it is simply a well-written, entertaining story. This review was written for Buried Under Books Blog.

my tween daughter enjoyed this book

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