



Young, Gifted and Dead

Lucy Carver

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You can't get into St Jude's Academy unless you're gifted, talented and supremely rich. New girl Alyssa is on a scholarship and feels like an outsider - she's not even that smart, apart from her photographic memory (and that's cheating, right?). Then one day her room-mate Lily is found floating face down in the lake. It looks like suicide, but, torn apart with guilt and grief, Alyssa is convinced that things aren't as they seem. Soon a jolted memory puts her on the trail of a sinister secret that might hold the clues to Lily's suspicious death. But Alyssa is in too deep, and she's being watched . . . The first in a brand-new YA series, perfect for fans of The Gallagher Girls.

Young, Gifted and Dead Details

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Author : Lucy Carver

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From Reader Review Young, Gifted and Dead for online ebook

Oda Renate says

had to dnf-it. Cant stand the writing style.

Juliet says

Almost DNF'ed this book, but my kindle kept encouraging me by telling me I only had another 30 mins to go (it was more like an hour)

There were just so many things that I didn't like about the book:

1. The obsession with her boyfriend's quads. What.

Also the insta-love and the fact that she basically ignored her boyfriend just because he went away for a tennis tournament for a few weeks. Boohoo, my boyfriend is a nationally-ranked player and I'm upset he just abandoned me for a tournament. *rolls eyes*

2. For a school full of gifted kids, none of them seem to do ANYTHING at all! It would have been much better if the author had incorporated some schoolwork/athletic practice into Alyssa's investigation. I feel that it would be much more realistic if she had to struggle a little to cope with both school activities and detective activities.

3. The whole plot was just conveniently pulled along with Alyssa's eidetic memory... Which coincidentally only works when the plot needs some carrying. Honestly, when the entire start of the book harps on how Alyssa's special because she has a photographic memory and that's how she is gifted and got accepted at the school - *blah, blah* - it kind of sucks when she doesn't even remember important details.

4. How the mystery just derailed in the middle of the book...
(view spoiler)

All in all, I probably will not be reading the second book.

Jodie Donaldson says

I absolutley LOVED this book, definatley deserved 5 stars. Unexpected ending with Guy but a really good ending! ♥♥

Marco (Barely a blogger) says

Usually I am not one for the more realistic fiction stories, but the title grabbed my attention from the get-go.

Every bus ride to my internship, I indulged in reading books, since I wanted to read more this year. The entire week I got sucked into the mystery and suspense that *Young, Gifted & Dead* had to offer me. This truly turned out to be a case of: "Don't trust a book by its cover".

The mystery of Lily's death was wonderfully written and boy, was my initial suspect way off!
Well done, Lucy Carver. Well done!!

Emma says

Rating 3.5 to 4

Really enjoyed this book, the murder, the mystery! It left you hanging til the very end. Great debut... Review coming shortly!

Vicky Perera says

I reached page 60 and gave up... Really not worth the read. The main character, Alyssa just appears slightly superficial and this is just way too teenager-ish..obsession over this Jack guy she barely met just irritates me.

Loyal Hazboun says

3.7/4

Natasha Wilson says

"*Young gifted and Dead*" by Lucy Carver follows Alyssa Stephens, a shy red haired girl who earns a scholarship to St Judes Academy- an academy for the elite. Coming from an extremely different environment, you are taken along with her struggle to fit in, which is something i can relate to. When Alyssa decides to investigate further into the death of her roommate Lily, she unearths suspicious clues, and as she follows them she finds herself getting deeper and deeper into the puzzle.

I decided to read this book because it had been bought for me by my grandmother as a Christmas present and i thought it looked like a good book to read.

A character i found interesting in this novel was Lily, an anti-social outcast "punk". I found her interesting because she was just so different to all the other prestigious students at St. Judes', and provided a kind of relief from all the "proper" characters which became quite boring.

"The deep brown current boiled to either side of the stepping stone. By the time i turned round, the black undertow had sucked Cooke below the surface. A few seconds later he resurfaced fifteen metres downstream- just his head and left arm. Frozen in horror, I saw the water spin him round, drag him down again then push him up to the surface twenty metres away, in the deepest part of the river. His mouth opened and he gulped in air and water as the current twisted and pushed him on."

I like this quote because of the use of descriptive language to paint a picture of what is happening in your mind, and the imagery that Lucy Carver uses.

This novel made me think more deeply about the dark sides of people and how lucky i am to be living in such a friendly neighborhood, where i do not have to worry or fear for my life on a daily basis, which the characters in this novel do.

Lorna says

FINALLY!!! A FEMALE LEAD WITH READ HAIR!!!! Serious brownie points for a fellow redhead protagonist.

Damn this cover is so ugly but I'm so glad I looked passed it and allowed myself into this story.

Also, I study french in college and Alyssa speaks french in some parts of the book. I did notice a grammatical error in her french. There was also a time when Paige used Alyssa's name when she should have said Lily. It didn't make sense when she said Alyssa.

I really enjoyed this story and felt like I was really listening to a fellow teenager whole reading Alyssa's account of things. I really enjoyed the characters and even though we only saw some of them for a very short time, I still really connected to them and missed them if they weren't in a certain scene.

The mystery element was a tiny bit far fetched for me. It felt a little bit like the author wrote the death and then the middle section of the story and had to quickly think up of a reason for the murder/ an actual murderer. Nonetheless, I enjoyed the mystery and was really invested.

Moving straight onto the sequel. Really dubious about the sequel, really feel like it didn't need a sequel but I'm not going to complain too much because I love reading Alyssa's perspective.

Charon Lloyd-Roberts says

So this is yet another book that has been sitting on my TBR pile since last year and I was already one and half chapters into it so why not finish it.

A summery for Young, Gifted and Dead:

Welcome to St Jude's Academy, the elite boarding school where the students are beautiful, talented and dangerously out of control...

New girl Alyssa is on a scholarship and feels like an outsider-she's not even that smart, apart from her freaky photographic memory. Then one day her room-mate Lily is found dead. It looks like suicide, but torn apart by guilt and grief, Alyssa is convinced that things aren't as they seem. Soon a jolted memory puts her on the

trail of a sinister secret that might hold the clues to Lily's suspicious death.

But Alyssa is in too deep, and she's about to find out that some things are better forgotten...

Not a bad debut for Lucy Carver I have to say I was impressed with the fast paced writing and this book doesn't really drag on as much despite the length of some chapters in *Young, Gifted and Dead* for this particular type of story it worked in its favor and I'd say this is a who done it for young adults and another plus it's very easy to get into.

I am curious to see what happens to Alyssa in *Killing You Softly* even though there's no confirmation for a third book but hey I just hope these books get some more attention because they're pretty good.

Becca ???? (PrettyLittleMemoirs.com) says

First up; Alyssa was such a good narrator! I sometimes find in YA books that surround several characters that entwine into the dialogue frequently, that sometimes the main character voice can get lost, but Alyssa is up there with my favourites. And being her point of view, I felt that extra connection with the plot, and it really does help a reader when we can empathize and root for the main character throughout, by bonding with them.

Onto the story! Wow. Lucy Carver is on her way to becoming the next Ally Carter. I was hooked without a doubt to the suspicion surrounding Lily's death and the whirlwind of chaos that became Alyssa's life. Lily's death is supposedly a suicide, but Alyssa knew Lily in a different way to how she was perceived, and knew better than to think that anything that felt sinister wasn't just a coincidence. But what I wasn't expecting was the further thrills of more bodies and a tale of the back story that would uncover the truth...if it didn't tear apart the lives of the ones the death effected first.

I was slightly reminded of Ally Carter's *Gallagher Girls* series, not because of similar storylines or plots, but because of the incredible rollercoaster-of-a-book that *Young, Gifted and Dead* truly was. I knew it was going to be great, but it totally exceeded my expectations by miles! From diary entries to parties and sneaking out of St Jude's Academy to the hints of romance, I had my eyes peeled on clues and the mystery for the whole time.

Everything came together in an epic conclusion with an ending I couldn't have flawed at all; totally how I would've ended it--better, though, a thousand times more amazing. I can already tell that Lucy Carver's *Young, Gifted and Dead* is going to be a huge hit for the other YA-lovers who will choose to be taken on a ride of secrecy, enchantment and thrills.

A massive 5 star novel! A favourite of mine this year, definitely.

full reviews: <http://prettylittlememoirs.blogspot.c...>

Mehsi says

Actual rating 1.5 stars.

The book started off at a good start. A girl gets dumped at a boarding school and she looks kind of forward to the time there. Sadly it was not meant to be as one of her roommates gets dragged from the lake... dead.

And that is where the story kind of fell flat. I know the girl barely knew Lily and all, but other than a few tears, a few fleeing from the room, I didn't see her grief. And later on when something else happens, she again, doesn't grieve that much. The only thing that happens is that she goes in full snooping/sleuthing mode. Which also brings me to the next thing, the whole snooping/sleuthing thing. Normally in books, adults would say something like: It is dangerous, leave it to the professionals and now hop along to your friends. Instead they seem to encourage her and motivate her. What are they? Lazy to do it themselves and just leave it to a 16/17 year old?

Then we have the whole photographic memory thing. Which I must say was a really nice touch. Well, ok, at the beginning then. It started to get annoying after a few pages when we had random action replays of things we already had read a few pages back. Like was that really necessary? In the end, I mostly skipped the whole action replay crap and just went on with the book.

Also her relationship with people. Jack and her, was just awkward, at times I knew they were you know, together, but most of the time I felt like they were just good friends.

With her and Paige I had the same problem, at times they seemed like really good friends, but at other times they avoided each other and seemed more like casual roommates. Or Alyssa was making remarks about Paige and her horse perfume...

Even the conclusion to the book was quite, well over the top. I won't spoil anything, but I just thought it was too much.

All in all, I wouldn't recommend this book.

charlotte says

(1) the instalove is stifling in this one, (2) why do the police just believe everything she says and every theory she puts forward i call bull, (3) that eidetic memory sure is handy hmmm

Liralen says

Entertaining enough, but I found the description to be quite misleading. Ostensibly, Alyssa is at a school for rich kids who happen to be off-the-charts smart. She's been admitted (and given a rare scholarship) on account of her perfect recall, and I was looking forward to seeing how she *and the other students* applied their brains and privileges to solving mysteries.

Alyssa's eidetic memory aside, though, St. Jude's could more or less be any fictional prep school chockablock full of teenagers with more money than common sense. There's a mystery (with a verrrry complex, wartime-era backstory) that Alyssa's unusual memory helps solve, but...I was really hoping for more out of the smart-kids end of things. We only barely see the students in class at all, as most of their time seems to be taken up sneaking off campus and going to parties and riding horses and investigating possible murder and falling into insta-love. Much less *Gallagher Girls* than...umm...*Prep School Confidential*, maybe? Which is fine, and those books were plenty of fun, but they're very different comparisons. It has its moments for sure, but I wanted a lot more from this.

Jasmine says

I just didn't enjoy this at all. The pacing was really slow, the insta-love was really annoying and unrealistic and honestly the conclusion didn't feel realistic. In short, I didn't like any aspect of this but I didn't hate mostly because I didn't care about ANYTHING enough to hate it or care about it. This was just okay- it wasn't the worst book I read but it wasn't a good book (in my opinion) either. I felt like I never got to know any of the characters properly ever.

Overall, I didn't like this and wouldn't recommend.
