



# The Bug Jar

*Ava Black*

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## **The Bug Jar** Ava Black

For make-up salesgirl Samantha Holland, life is a constant struggle to cling to reality. Her tenuous hold on sanity is exacerbated by a toxic affair with wealthy and powerful State Representative Richard Harrison, who gets sadistic pleasure toying with her already confused mind. But Sam comes closest to losing her grip when Harrison's emotionally disturbed stepson is murdered—and the police suspect her. When Harrison tries to break off their relationship, Sam tries to save herself by piecing together patchy memories of what might be her own involvement in the killing. The truth she uncovers is more sinister than she could have imagined.

## **The Bug Jar Details**

Date : Published September 2018 (first published July 17th 2018)

ISBN :

Author : Ava Black

Format : Kindle Edition 231 pages

Genre : Mystery

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## **From Reader Review The Bug Jar for online ebook**

### **Katrece Nelson says**

Let me just start out by saying that you absolutely have to read this book!! This book hooked you in straight from the prologue and it was a whirl wind all the way to the end. The Bug Jar starts out with a very Last Mrs Parrish vibe with the narrator having an affair with a married man. The only difference is that this main character, Samantha, is so relatable. She suffers from depression possibly bipolar and doesn't take her medicine properly. So that compounding with typical female insecurities she craves male attention and it's not a shock she goes for an older man.

I honestly could not stop talking about this book. I even had it with me at work talking to co workers, who don't even read, about it. The ending blew me out of the water, which is surprising. As often as I read suspense and thriller, it takes a bit to really throw me for a loop but this one totally caught me looking the other way.

???? (5 out of 5) This book is definitely in my top 5 books for 2018. Will definitely be looking forward to seeing more from Ava Black.

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### **GripLitGrl says**

Ava Black starts her debut novel off with Evan a teenage boy with some major serial killer like tendencies, when Evan is murdered you think you know where the story will lead but you won't see all the twist Black has in store for her characters. From early on I was hooked turning the pages of this one.

This is a gripping read the main character Samantha Holland has a mental illness that is not properly cared for or diagnosed. I found myself turning the pages wanting to get to know Samantha better. Is she a unreliable narrator, how is she able to hold herself together with every plot twist & turn? She is quick thinking & almost always on the defensive. She's a young woman who says what's on her mind unfiltered with quick witt at times she's quite funny & relatable.

I really enjoyed Black's writing it was the fast pace with short chapters. I was able to devour her book in 2 nights. If I had a free day definitely I could have finished it in a day.

I look forward to reading more from Ava Black in the future a wonderful new author who should be reading. I definitely could see a book to screen adaption in the future for this wonderful page turner.

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### **Karin Carlson says**

I have never read a book that so accurately portrays bipolar disorder like this does. And then take that sufferer and drop her in the middle of a political quagmire and you have The Bug Jar. I started this book and could not put it down. There is an interesting mystery here and some characters that are beyond despicable but so well drawn. Excellent plotting and lots of twists right up until the end. I will say that the part of the book from which the title is derived dragged on a bit longer than it maybe should have and almost felt

disjointed in a way. I found myself skipping through that section. And it could not have ended on a more enjoyable note. This was a really great read and I found myself sorry to see the last of Samantha. I can not recommend this enough. Thank you so much NetGalley for the copy to review!

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### **J.D. DeHart says**

The Bug Jar is a thriller, ordered well done. The writing has the right amount of edge and a psychological undercurrent that adds to the suspense.

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### **Rosie Amber says**

The Bug Jar is a suspense story with a mental health theme. The book is contemporary and set in Chicago.

Samantha Hollard (Sam) has mental health issues. Her medication allows her periods of release from the world. She thinks she killed a boy called Evan. However, she first heard of the story on the news; a car with her distinctive type and colouring was reported at the scene. The crime scene is a neighbourhood she regularly visits, and her car does have a child-size dent in the bumper; she just can't remember the accident. See here for full review <https://wp.me/p2Eu3u-c8H>

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### **HeidiLynns BookReviews says**

First, I want to thank Ava Black and Netgalley for providing me with this book so I can bring you this review.

I am a huge fan of psychological thrillers but never have I read a prologue to a book that shocked me so much as this Ava Black's The Bug Jar. Warning to readers you may want to skip this section of the book. With that being said dang what a way to start off the book!! You not only shocked the heck out of me you got my total and undivided attention. He was a sick and troubled kid and well it made for a good story!!

This book touches on a very important topic mental illness. Ava brings up stalking, bipolar disorder, depression, animal cruelty by the hands of his owner.

Sam quick wit sarcastic humor made me laugh out loud. Especially about Sam's take on makeup and her customers buying her makeup products.

I loved how Sam wanted a better life than the one she had. However, having an affair with the soon to be Mayor and hoping he will leave his wife wont work. Sam was delusional and had mental issues that she saw a shrink for.

I could totally see this being an independent movie at the small movie theaters. I think it would do well actually.

Ava's description, attention and ability to tell a story that is totally outside the box that has never been done before is incredible.

I absolutely loved the cover of the book. It captured the essence of not only the title but the feel of the book as well. Kudos to the graphic artist and the one who came up with the idea.

If you like books about cheating spouses, death of a child, unstable individuals, political campaigns, police investigations, troubled youth, stalkers, then this book might be for you.

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### **Lel Budge says**

Samantha Holland has a mental health problem that she is trying to deal with, taking meds a bit haphazardly and she loses her job as a result.

Sam is also having an affair with a politician, Richard, and has a boyfriend, Mark, whose a mechanic and says he loves her, but she is using him to keep her car on the road.

Richards son dies in an accident and suspicion is on Sam, due to her mental health and she feels someone is out to get her. She is certain it was her that run him down in a yellow car, but signs point to her car being involved. Ava Black has written so many twists and turns, it really keeps you guessing until the last chapter or 2.

This is such a great read, with a really original slant. There's cheating politicians, dodgy police Sheriffs, honest detectives and the odd mistress all in a clever thriller. It shows that mental health problems are a normal condition that should be treated just the same as any physical health problem. I really enjoyed this and while a cliché, I really couldn't put it down...

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### **Keirstin Smith (CloudOfThoughts) says**

The Bug Jar by author Ava Black is a page turner with thrills throughout. The characters are great and well developed as well as the plot. I enjoyed reading The Bug Jar and would recommend it to others.

Thank you Netgalley and the publisher for a copy of The Bug Jar in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Doris Vandruff says**

It starts with the death of a psychotic little boy. Samantha Holland didn't imagine having an affair with a State Representative would cause so much drama in her life. It did! Not only is she now being accused of murdering his son, but she's supposed to have also murdered her boyfriend.

Then she's sent to a mental hospital where there may be no escape. Taking the right medication for bipolar or schizophrenia was on her to do list. Now she has no choice. All she wants to do is escape the "Bell Jar" and prove her innocence. The best time is at the press conference. All she has to do is escape and try to find a way there.

Greatly entertaining! Absolutely a must read!

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I would like to thank the Author/the Publishers/NetGalley for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for a fair and honest review

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### **Michelle says**

This book is a hot mess - DNF!

"Even with his pasty, flabby arms that showcase unmanly years of paper pushing, his stare melts me like plastic wrap in a microwave."

Really? \*groans\*

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### **January Gray says**

Excellent book, but we warned it may trigger some people so read the description closely. Well written. I read it from cover to cover in one sitting.

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### **Amy says**

An easy, fun thriller. A woman is accused of the murder of her lover's stepson. She questions whether she did it due to her recently diagnosed bi-polar disorder and soon learns who did...and why. I read this on a plane ride and just flew through it.

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## **Shaun Olp says**

Wonderful book that keeps you guessing. It's worth having and worth checking out.

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## **JOX says**

### Summary Short:

Samantha Holland, makeup salesgirl is a suspect in the death of the stepson of the man she is having an affair with.

### My Review:

The book starts out with the stepson creating havoc and then quickly losing his life, hit by a car. The following underlying quest, for Samantha, is to figure out whether it was she who hit the son.

Samantha suffers from a mental disorder, one she is not sure of. Is she bipolar or schizophrenic? Thoughts about this are constantly running through her mind, along with the self-awareness of memory loss. I followed Samantha (at a fast pace) as she was on a continual move towards finding out the truth while trying to hide her involvement if it did happen to be her fault. Her affair with the politician and the jealousy of his wife combined with using a man who is in love with her ping-ponged the reader back and forth on whether Samantha is a mean girl or just vulnerable due to her medical and family history.

I was rooting for the main character the whole story, which lead me to finish this book quickly. The author kept me interested with never letting the action die down for long and upping the ante with some bizarre events. Even though the actions/words of the detective and sheriff seemed silly at times, I liked the twists in the story. All in all, a great read.

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