



Snap

Carol Snow

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Madison Sabatini thought she knew who she was: an almost-sophomore with a bright future. The newest photographer on her school paper. A shopaholic with great hair and a fabulous wardrobe. Then, in a flash, everything changed.

Now she's stuck in Sandyland, a gloomy beach town in the middle of nowhere, living with her parents in a crappy hotel "suite." Instead of spending the summer with her friends at home, she's hanging out with pink-haired Delilah, an artist who works in a shop called Psychic Photo, and a skater boy named Duncan who's totally not her type. Except, maybe he is . . .

Determined to make the best of things, Madison throws herself into her one passion: photography. But when strange figures start appearing in her pictures—people who weren't there when she snapped the shots, people who are later reported dead—she begins to question everything about who she is . . . and who she wishes she could be.

Snap Details

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Author : Carol Snow

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From Reader Review Snap for online ebook

Jada says

It was pretty good, an easy read.

Sara Grochowski says

Snap first caught my eye because of the cover, which I actually like and think fits the novel really well, but it was the summary that drew me in. I am a photography hobbyist (think dark rooms and winding my own film), so the fact that Madison is a photographer was interesting. Furthermore, Madison is a photographer who sees dead people in her pictures (I am not this type of photographer) made her even more intriguing.

The supernatural aspect was well done. It wasn't what I was expecting, but I like that – it would have been boring if everything had turned out just as I'd expected it to. I thought it was really interesting that Madison didn't have any supernatural ability, but that the camera itself was capturing images of the ghosts. It reminded me a bit of those ghost hunting shows on television.

Throughout most of the book I was not a fan of Madison. She honestly was so unlikeable – spoiled, rude, stuck-up, and immature are words that come to mind when I think of Madison. I don't feel too bad about feeling this way though, as I'm fairly certain Madison was meant to be viewed this way at the onset of the novel. And, in ways, I can see a bit of my younger self in her. Madison is young and it was kind of refreshing to see her act her age – complete with immaturity and annoying habits and attitudes. Luckily, Madison learns some lessons throughout the novel, gaining maturity and insight. Unfortunately, it takes about four-fifths of the novel to reach this point.

There is a minor romantic plot line in Snap as well. I liked the boy, Duncan, who sounded like a cute skater, much like a boy I would have liked when I was Madison's age. Again though, Madison made annoyed me with her horrible treatment of him. But I must admit, once again, that I remember girls my age (and maybe me, if I'm being completely honest), treat boys just like Madison treats Duncan.

Ratings (out of 10):

Characters: 8

Plot: 10

Writing style: 10

Romance: 8

Originality: 10

Total: 46/50 (A-)

Overall, Snap was a good coming of age story with a supernatural twist. Madison is a very realistic character, which makes her simultaneously refreshing and utterly horrible. After all, she is a young teenage girl – they are generally horrible at some point or another. Snap incorporates many different story lines: romantic, supernatural, and familial, making the novel a novel with a little bit for everyone!

The Bookologist says

Madison Sabatini thought she knew who she was: an almost-sophomore with a bright future. The newest photographer on her school paper. A shopaholic with great hair and a fabulous wardrobe. Then, in a flash, everything changed.

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Determined to make the best of things, Madison throws herself into her one passion: photography. But when strange figures start appearing in her pictures—people who weren't there when she snapped the shots, people who are later reported dead—she begins to question everything about who she is . . . and who she wishes she could be. (synopsis)

The plot line is somewhat great. I really like how Madison likes photography, I mean I like photography, I'm not as in in love but I just like it. I kind of liked the idea of the whole story, it was somewhat unique from other books.

I'm not sure if I have a favorite character in this book. Madison was okay, all I liked about her personality was just she loved photography. I don't know why but I got somewhat confused with the characters, maybe I was too slow understanding this. I got so puzzled about all the characters at the start, but after a while I did figure out who was who. Duncan, Celia, Lexie, and the rest of the characters are developed well in the story. Lexie was the best friend of Madison. She was a great friend with Madison and she played her role well in the story, I liked reading what parts she was involved in.

Overall, this book is good. Again, it was not amazing but not bad either, just right. I do recommend this book to you but if you don't read it, it's okay. It's up to you. But I still do look forward to Carol's writing in the future.

Rebecca Garner says

When I first looked at the summary of Snap, I almost put the book back on the shelf. I didn't like the thought of strange figures popping up in this girl's pictures taken on her camera, when the people were never even there in the first place. That sounded very creepy, and I don't usually read mysteries, thrillers, or horror stories. I could not see me reading this kind of book. But, I thought I would give the book a shot just for fun. I liked the book so much, I was disappointed when it ended. Snap by Carol Snow is about a fifteen year old girl, Madison Sabatini, who is basically spoiled rich kid who expects everything to be handed to her on a silver platter. She thought she knew who she was, an-almost sophomore with a perfect future. Madison was going to be newest photographer for her school's newspaper. She has a great life, friends, house, and parents. Everything seems to be perfect. Everything is going her way until, for "vacation," or her dad's job. Madison and her parents go to Sandyland, a beach land in the middle of nowhere, instead of cruises or foreign countries, like their usual vacations. She then finds out that her once wealthy parents have gone bankrupt and

are going to stay in Sandyland to get back on their feet. As she lives in Sandyland, she gets to know some pretty great, but weird, friends and even a guy who may or may not be her type. Madison also figures out how hard it is to live money when you've been spoiled with it all your life. As the story gets deeper, she finds refuge from everything by taking pictures. But, the pictures show people that were not even there, when she took them on the camera. Madison goes through the life of being poor, having weird friends, and having a creepy camera. She soon figures out that she doesn't need to have money to have a good life. She really changed as a person from the beginning to the ending of the book. I will not give away the ending of the book, or whether she figures out if her camera is haunted or if she is going crazy. Snap is a very good book that keeps you turning the pages faster and faster, as you get deeper into the story. I have never read a book by Carol Snow, but she is truly an amazing writer. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a mystery, thriller, and romance put into one book. Snap is a great book!

Eyeflower 42 says

The title and cover are misleading. If you are looking for a ghost/paranormal adventure skip this one. If you want a teen girl in a new environment with some romance and such... eh there are better books but this one isn't bad. It mercifully short so give it a read I guess.

Robert says

snap

snap

snap

Yay! Aside from all those random (dead) people in my photos, I'm going to post these on MySpace! Wait, MYSPACE?! Oh, right. This book was published in 2009. Oh well. Cue the underdeveloped plot and incomplete dialogue, we've got another book I randomly pulled off the shelf at my local library!

Kristi says

I enjoyed reading Snap, but this is one of those times that the synopsis on the back of the novel is totally misleading. If you read the above you'd think, oh kinda spooky dead people showing up in pictures, this could be interesting.

But the summary should really say. Madison Sabatini a spoiled, self centered and extremely shallow almost sophomore, dealing with adjusting to a new life, new friends, whining about wearing non-name brand clothing, and the worst life ever. Not to mention that she sometimes has dead people in her photographs.

Despite the lackluster character that is Madison. Whom, I didn't care for at all because she was extremely judgmental and shallow. Though she did sort of grow up a little toward the end. I still couldn't find it in myself to forgive her completely. I did enjoy Delilah, Leo and Duncan. They definitely stood out. But obviously for me to dislike her as much as I do, Snow must have her characterization down!

The plot despite it's non spookiness was fast-paced and entertaining. I was more worried about Madison breaking Duncan's heart than having dead people show up in her camera. One thing that I thought was important was one of the morals of the story, that superficial things don't matter and it's the people that are in your life that make it worth living. Which is so very true, and I'm glad that Madison finally woke up and smelled the flowers.

Snow is a fantastic writer and I'm definitely looking forward to reading more of her novels. I'm just hoping next time I'll be able to like the MC!

Max says

The summary of "Snap" is the most misleading thing I have ever read. I expected the book to be full of action, mystery, and horrific events. Instead, I got a diary of an average spoiled teenage girl. Out of 221 pages, only maybe ten were about ghosts in the photograph. The author completely abandons the idea of ghosts in the middle of the story and wrote about Madison's love life. In my opinion, Snow should have just gotten rid of the ghost part (which isn't much) and made it a book about teenage drama. The story never picks up from its boring and slow pace, and the plot has so many holes. For example, if Madison knew that her camera was "haunted" and predicted the deadly futures of others, why the f*** would she continue to take pictures? Also, if she saw her dead body floating in the beach water, why would she go to the beach right after? Avoid this book if you aren't a big fan of romance drama/whining. Those two things basically create the plot of "Snap".

Harley says

This book was ab-so-lute-lee A-Freakin-mazing!!!!!! I really liked how she took the whole idea of you growing into yourself and put it in a way that made you think and start saying "Oh my zombie that's how I want to know that I made an important decision". But I really liked how she made Madison think she was seeing ghosts of the dead people. It also made me think that she was seeing ghosts and that she was maybe going a little coo-ku for coco puffs. But most of all I liked how she kept the story going and kept the reader gussing what was going to happen.

John Clark says

Madison Sabatini is excited about the upcoming school year. She'll be a photographer on the school paper and hanging with her friends. Sure, she's a little bummed about having the two week trip to Hawaii canceled, but that's not enough to darken her horizons. When her contractor father takes a job in Sandyland, a dreary town on the coast, she's completely unprepared for what happens next. Mom announces that the whole family is going along, ostensibly to make up for the canceled trip. It doesn't take Madison long to start suspecting things aren't on the up and up. First, dad forgot to grab her bag, so she has only one outfit. When she asks her mom to buy new clothing, money suddenly becomes an issue. Then she drops her beloved digital camera and breaks it right after taking a bunch of photos at the beach.

When she discovers the Psychic Photo Shop and Duncan, a skater guy who's definitely not her type, things get interesting. Duncan's dad fixes her camera after Delilah, daughter of the owner takes pity on her. Delilah and her brother Leonardo live above the shop with Rose, their mother, a throwback hippie-type who does

readings to supplement her income. When the camera is repaired, Madison is shocked to find an old woman in one of the last pictures she took. She knows the woman wasn't there when she took the picture, so what's going on?

Madison is faced with several challenges. Her attraction to Duncan who is totally unlike the guys she knows back home, her friendship with Delilah, who is also completely unlike her fancy friends at home, and the mystery of not one, but two people in photos who weren't there when she took them. If this weren't enough, she starts putting pieces of the puzzle regarding their extended stay at the beach, coupled with her mom getting a job, their still living in a seedy motel room and emails from her friends back home that hint at her house being for sale. Suddenly Madison is really lost and her future has started to dissolve.

How she deals with this abrupt change, how she handles the lies she told Duncan and Delilah when confronted, as well as figuring out what to do when she confronts her parents, coupled with solving the mystery of how two people showed up in her photos when they weren't actually there, will give teen and tween readers a real fun read.

Raegen Sommerfelt says

This was a great book. I loved how it had a side of romance in it.

Katie says

Madison did not think this was how she would be spending her summer. She pictured herself in Hawaii with her family. Instead they are spending it at the worst beach she has ever been to. Sandyland, USA. Not exactly paradise.

There is nothing to do in Sandyland so Madison spends her time taking pictures at the beach. When her camera breaks she ends up at Psychic Photo where she meets some strange characters. Delilah, Leo, Duncan, Rose, and Larry. They make up a very unique family and somehow Madison finds herself spending most of her time with them.

Things seem to be looking up for Madison's summer until strange people start appearing in her photos. People that weren't there when the shots were taken. As if that's not weird enough, Madison starts getting some confusing messages from friends back home.

Will Madison ever figure out what the people in the pictures mean? Will she ever figure out who the people are? And could this vacation to Sandyland turn out to be more than a vacation?

The synopsis for Snap really intrigued me. I'm sad to say that the book didn't do the same. I was actually really disappointed with Snap after reading such rave reviews of Carol Snow's first book, Switch.

Madison Sabatini was a stuck-up witch. She was snotty, rude, ungrateful, and just plain mean at times. I couldn't really find anything to like about her and while I admit that she changed a bit at the end, it wasn't enough.

The rest of the characters were great. I loved Delilah, Leo, and Duncan. They all had problems with their lives but they were a family and they made it work. Plus, they were pretty funny. =]

Oh and the whole random people in the pictures thing was a very minor part of the book. It was more about Madison and her being forced to spend her summer in Sandyland whining about how unfair her life was. It was explained in the end but not very well or very believably.

Overall, I can't say I liked Snap or that I would recommend it. If you really want to read it check it out from your local library before buying it. =[

Stephanie says

From the summary, I was pretty much expecting some ghost story and how Madison managed to save the people in her photos from dying. However, this was most definitely not the case. In fact, Snap is more about Madison and her family and how she would survive in a whole new place with new friends and without money - something that she had always taken for granted.

My first impression and probably my lasting impression of Madison is that she's a spoiled brat. She is always, always, always thinking about herself, the way she dresses, the people she interacts with, how her "friends" back at home would think, even despite the fact that her family is now officially poor. But does she understand this? No. She keeps thinking that she can have whatever she wants and she didn't really seem to understand the fact that her family can no longer afford to live where she used to live. So she lives in denial for throughout most of the novel. She keeps thinking that after a few weeks of boredom and that crappy hotel, she'll be back to living like a princess. But hello, get a grip of reality here, girl, your family is BROKE. However, I have to admit, by the last few chapters, very last few, Madison finally grew up.

Delilah, Madison's friend in Sandyland, is a very interesting character. I loved her personality and her ability to get along with practically everyone. Except for maybe that cute lifeguard but that's only because she's a little shy. So it's highly understandable. I found her funny and kinda quirky but in a good way. And the thing with selling things on eBay? Totally cute.

Overall, Snap was a very original book. I mean, who thinks about cameras and their ability to photograph the dead and wrap it all in a nicely bound book? Apparently Carol can. Which is a good thing. Hahahah. I like the imagination. Anyway, I recommend Snap to those who enjoyed Carol's previous novel, Switched.

Melissa says

Preppy and pampered Madison Sabatini has just about everything going for her. She got the job as photographer for her school newspaper, she has great friends, great clothes, and she is going on a Hawaiian vacation on her summer break with enough time left at the end of the summer to come home for the newspaper's pool party. That is, until her parents cancel the trip and inform her that they are going to Sandyland instead. She suspects something is up with her parents, her dad isn't talking much and her mother has been angry a lot lately. They seem to be keeping secrets from her. Then her prized camera begins to capture images that aren't there in real life. Images of people who later suffer tragedies. Now Madison has a secret of her own, one she can only share with her new friends at the Psychic Photo store in town. Can she figure out what's wrong with her parents and solve the mystery of her camera before it is too late?

In many ways this book reminded me of a Sarah Dessen novel. The family, the quirky characters, and the

love interest all made me feel like I was reading a book by Sarah Dessen. But then Snow adds in the paranormal aspect which felt slightly out of place in this novel. Madison has enough going on in her life, without her paranormal camera. I felt that this book was almost two separate stories. The realistic fiction of a girl dealing with her parents, the secrets they are keeping, and the changes in her life, and then another story about a girl whose camera captures the images of people who are going to suffer a tragedy. While the book blends these stories together, Madison and her family, and Madison and her camera, I still feel that the blending was awkward.

All in all I felt that it is an okay book, but it had the potential to be great. I love Sarah Dessen's books and this one really had the feel of one of her novels. The paranormal aspect of the story just felt wrong, It almost seemed like you can either have a book that is paranormal fiction, or realistic fiction, but it can't be both and that is what the author was aiming for.

A quick read for someone looking for light paranormal stories or semi-realistic fiction.

Michaelie Love says

Snap by Carol Snow tells the story of a popular girl with a great life, a great house, great friends and the best spot on the best high school news paper. When her vacation cruise gets cancelled for a trip to the worst beach in her opinion, everything goes downhill fast. As she is on the beach taking pictures, a strange old woman appears in her photo, but she wasn't there when she took the picture. Sounds interesting, right? It turns out that even though it had an very surprisingly interesting plot, it was less than interesting. At the beginning it was a hard to put down book, but as the ending got nearer, the story started to flop. It seemed that Snow rushed to finished and made what would have been a great story, a huge fail.
