



Dragonfly Nightmare (Once Upon A Secret, #1)

Erin Richards

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To be a normal teenage girl.

To forget about the past.

To fall in love for the first time.

Is that too much to ask?

Sixteen-year-old Allie Bailey just wants a break—a break from her overly-protected life. And Dragonfly Meadows summer camp is the answer. A summer away from her parents in the California Sierras with her best friend is exactly what she needs.

But once at camp, Allie notices that things are a little off. Paid excursions are cancelled and staff is replaced with shady new people. When the camp's founder goes "missing," Allie starts to worry. Unable to let it rest due to her past, she starts to investigate, enlisting the help of Logan Montgomery, her best friend's older and adorably geeky brother.

When hauntingly familiar flowers appear in Allie's cabin, she's not sure what to think—has her past caught up to her? Yet, after Allie stumbles across a murder conspiracy and chases down the truth, she becomes a target. Pushing through her paranoia and fear to find strength, it's up to Allie to save herself and the campers from a deranged killer before it's too late.

Dragonfly Nightmare (Once Upon A Secret, #1) Details

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From Reader Review Dragonfly Nightmare (Once Upon A Secret, #1) for online ebook

Katherine Paschal says

Allie was kidnapped and held hostage for 24 hours when she was 12. Now that she is 16 she is excited for her parents to let her off her strict leash so she can have a normal teen experience of going to summer camp with her best friend. But when she gets to camp, it is not what she expected and her internal alarms are going off at all the weirdness she picks up. And on top of the oddities of camp, she is having issues of the boy variety, namely her ex-best friend Logan. Allie may be in over her head and it feels like she is being target for a second time.

I was lured into reading this book by the pretty cover and the idea of mishaps at a summer camp, two things that are sure to peak my interest by themselves. As someone who never attended summer camp, I may have an unhealthy obsession with it. (Also, I had recently watched the show Dead of Summer and wanted more camp danger/escapades.) Unfortunately, I think maybe my hopes and expectations were too high because I only found the book to be ok. It had it's moments of creepy mystery and danger but then at times my interest waned when it came to the teen angst and the flip flopping of romantic interests. I think I would have preferred the book to be less of the relationship between Allie and Logan and any other guy she was currently checking out and more of the mystery and creepy elements. Maybe I was just was in the mood for a mystery more than teen drama at this exact moment. I am glad that I read the book and it is the first in a series so I am definitely intrigued to find out more.

Overall this was a really different concept, unlike anything else that I have read. At times Allie drove me insane with her fascination with EVERY MALE in her vicinity, paying close attention to their butts in particular. She was even checking out her BFFs luvv interest as well as the person that she was convinced was a killer, which made me want to shake her a little bit. I know others will really enjoy this book regardless of my hesitancy and I am interested in reading the next book. I can honestly say I have no idea what will happen next. I did not know this was a series when I started reading, but I am glad that it is because I am not ready to say goodbye to these characters (especially Laurel because she was my favorite).

I received this title from the author in return for my honest review.

J Aislynn d'Merricksson says

****This book was reviewed for Xpresso Book Tours****

Richards' Dragonfly Nightmare is a thrilling young adult coming of age story. Four years ago Allie Bailey was kidnapped by a former employee of her father's and held hostage. For the last four years, Allie's parents have been overly protective of her, refusing to allow her away from home overnight. Finally, this summer, Allie is being allowed to attend summer camp with her best friend Laurel, with the stipulation that both Laurel and her brother Logan keep a close eye on her.

However, things at the camp appear sketchy from the start. The usual camp leader, Mrs A, isn't there this

year. Instead, her nephew and niece are running the whole show. Supposedly Mrs A broke her leg and is in her cabin, but not up to running things. As the first day progresses, things seem more and more out of place. The food is not the gourmet fare Logan and Laurel bragged about summer after summer, paid for excursions are cut, and then Allie gets a gift from her past, a gift reminding her forcibly of her kidnapping.

Attempts to see Mrs A or to call home are brushed off. Dante, the new camp leader, loses his temper several times, even going so far as to verbally and physically abuse campers. After a series of terrifying incidents and discoveries, Allie, Laurel, and Logan, along with new friends Nick and Marco, decide to take matters into their own hands in order to keep the younger campers safe. What they learn in the end is far grimmer than they first believed.

I loved this book. I admit, I didn't when I first started, and it was because of the voice. It's written from the perspective of a teen and the voice and phrasing reflects that. It grew on me though. Clearly Allie has gone through a great deal in her life, events that make or break a person. The intervening four years have served as a chrysalis period, and her 'dragonfly nightmare' breaks that shell. The person who emerges is a strong young woman who is fiercely protective and unwilling to give up. Realising her own deficiencies and limitations, Allie seeks to improve herself, such as learning martial arts.

The author chose well in using dragonflies. As a spirit or totem animal, Dragonfly represents transformation, and the ability to flow with life. Dragonfly shows one how to see through deceit. All of these things certainly apply to Allie and the camp! She's still learning that flow part though, as shown with Logan. Both are too stubborn to speak to one another about those events of four years ago, despite burgeoning romantic feelings between the two.

This book is the first in a series, and I'm looking forward to the next one. I would also love to read the story of Allie's kidnapping.

Emmyjo says

This book is a great camp story.

Allie who was kidnapped a few years back still has nightmares and is trying to stay strong and show her parents she can do fun things. So when All he's parents finally say yes to going to camp with her two best friends, she can hardly wait to leave.

But when Allie, Laurel and Logan get there things are different.

When Allie ask them if things are what they seem? Laurel brushes her off, however Logan listens to Allie.

When camp leaders aren't who they really say they are and things go from bad to worse with the camp food and activities. Can Allie convince her friends that they should solve this mystery? Stumbling on a dead body and shady people make camp not so much fun.

Check this book out for some scares and twist.

zoë ✨ (fallxnrobin) says

2.5 stars

Um, yeah, reading this was a huge nightmare for my patience as well. My impression of this book is choppy and stilted but I don't think it's due to the story but rather my reading habits over the past two weeks. For one, every time I started reading on the car, I felt nauseous and so I fell asleep instead. But the deadly combination of Haikyuu!! and Yuri!!! on Ice, together with my sudden urge to rewatch Kuroko no Basuke, put me into a reading slump. The moment I got to our accommodation, I would either start watching anime or reading manga.

But I'll try to gather some coherent thoughts regarding this book and write a decent review.

full review to come soon

Kelly Clare says

A modern-day, teenage mystery with all the right ingredients.

Read my full review at YA Books Central: <http://www.yabookscentral.com/yaindie...>

Cranky - The Book Curmudgeon says

**** 4 Cranky Stars ****

I've never been to camp, so I was captured by the summary. Drama? Suspense? Murder? SIGN ME UP, I'LL PACK MY BAGS!

The first few chapters, I found myself wanting to skip ahead to get to the good parts. I want the drama! But it came soon enough, in the form of Camp Director Dante. I could tell he was evil and shady from the first meeting with the teenagers. Major creep alert!

All throughout the book I kept putting myself in their place. I have to say, it was fun! The suspense of who did what, where, how, and with who really had me wanting more and more story.

The relationship between Allie and Logan ended up being so sweet and cute. I loved that he was on board with her investigations from the beginning. He ended up being a crucial part of her finding out the truth. Add in some key people (friends and fellow campers), and you have a kick butt team who can get things done!

What was better than the story, was the ending. It was a cute story with a perfect ending. I would highly recommend this book to all, even teenage girls.

I give it 4 stars!

Stormi (Bewitched Reader) says

I received an ARC of Dragonfly Nightmare in exchange for an honest review.

Staying true to my recent suspense and thriller trend, I decided to read Dragonfly Nightmare by Erin Richards this week. Dragonfly Nightmare is a suspenseful young adult romance that makes me question the idea of letting any future children of mine go to summer camp without me attached to their hips as a chaperone.

Erin Richards combined two of my favorite genres in Dragonfly Nightmare: suspense and romance. Poor Allie Bailey has had such a traumatic childhood. First, she was kidnapped when she was 12 years old and now she finds herself in the middle of a murder plot, when all she was expecting was a great time at summer camp.

Richards writing enables the story to flow smoothly from one point to another. The details she includes in the story make Dragonfly Meadows summer camp come to life and seem like the perfect place for a teenager to spend summer break. Well, if you exclude the whole murder plot.

The romance scenes between Logan and Allie were so sweet and helped bring lighter and sweeter moments to the story line. I'm glad Allie and Logan were able to repair their friendship and move past the resentment and guilt they had been holding onto for the past 4 years. Logan's protectiveness over Allie was so sweet. Their friendship with each other and Logan's sister Laurel makes the relationship even sweeter in my opinion. I think having a great friendship as the basis of a romantic relationship makes the romantic relationship even stronger.

Overall, I really enjoyed reading Dragonfly Nightmare and was very excited to read that it is the first book in a series! According to Erin Richards, "it's a very loosely connected series and the next book will center around another character completely." I kind of hope that the next book will center around Laurel and Nick...

Keira says

ORIGINAL THOUGHTS:

Far more enjoyable than I thought it will be and really interesting.

FULL REVIEW:

Normally, I don't read mysteries. In fact, this was quite possibly my first venture into the genre and I was very pleasantly surprised! I enjoyed the general storyline and enjoyed the characters as well. I thought the

background of the main character worked very well in the context of the story and found it weaved into the general plot nicely, but I would have liked a little bit more clarification as to the exact nature of what happened by the end of the story, as we are left guessing a little bit. I really enjoyed the friendship between Allie and Laurel. I thought it was paced out very well and the ending wasn't obvious or too predictable. However, there were quite a few clues, which I was very happy about as it was fun to try and piece the mystery together.

All in all, I'm quite excited to maybe try some more mystery in the future. Thank you to Erin and Xpresso Book Tours for this review opportunity!

Julia Handley says

I was given this ARC in exchange for an honest review.

This was a awesome read!!!

I got hooked with following Allie's investigation and not knowing who to trust. I was just kept on the edge of my seat to see what was going to happen next and to who.

Allie has been over protected she feels kept prisoner by her parents since The Incident. Laurel and her brother Logan help convince her parents that it's safe for Allie to go camping with them this time. But of course that wasn't true. The camps owners Niece and Nephew have taken over and not all is at it seems. Of course after Allie's experience she gets very suspicious and investigates and has some side kicks.

The gang is awesome mix of characters and it gets frustrating when you are not sure who to trust. Still you can't help but love some of them. Especially Allie and Logan. Omg Logan is so cute and how he gets protective with her he awesome to watch. Allie though she can take care of herself. Never again is she going to be someone's victim, she will stand her ground and protect her friends and the kids at the camp. I'm really hoping to read more of this group as they are awesome!!!!

Amanda says

Great story, loved the suspense!
