



Betrayal

Gregg Olsen

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In this action-packed thriller sequel to *Envy*, foreign exchange student Olivia Grant is stabbed to death after a party--and the prime suspect is her best friend. As twins Hayley and Taylor Ryan get pulled into the aftermath of this Amanda Knox-like crime, they realize nothing is what it seems. Could it be betrayal of the ultimate kind?

Betrayal features real-life crime-solving techniques, heart-stopping suspense, plenty of red herrings, hard-hitting ethical questions, and information about the Amanda Knox case that inspired the novel. As the crime unravels, so does the twins' past...and they must face off against a family member who may unexpectedly have carried out the worst betrayal of all.

Betrayal Details

Date : Published September 4th 2012 by Splinter

ISBN : 9781402789588

Author : Gregg Olsen

Format : Hardcover 288 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Mystery, Fantasy, Paranormal

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From Reader Review Betrayal for online ebook

Laura says

A DNF - while the plot was interesting, the writing was getting to me and I gave up after the "banana bread loaf-sized muffin top" jiggling in the "skinny jeans [that] only work if you're actually skinny". The author needs to cut back the adjectives and extraneous descriptive phrases by about 2/3 and beef up the rest of the plot.

Which, as I said, did look interesting: a British exchange student, Olivia, is violently murdered at a Hallowe'en party. The hostess, Bree, is rich, self-involved and overly indulged; and the homestay hostess, Beth, and Olivia had an argument before the party. Or possibly this death had something to do with the death (in a previous book) of Katelyn.

Thanks to the writing style, I'll never know. Perhaps those less bothered by it will enjoy this.

ARC provided by publisher.

Candace says

I wasn't the biggest fan of the first book, Envy. I didn't dislike it, but I didn't have a connection with it. The writing style wasn't really for me and it felt slow and confusing. So I was shocked at how much I loved this book! This time around I had a better idea of what to expect and I actually really enjoyed the writing style. I also was never bored with this one. I desperately needed to know 'who did it' and could hardly stand putting the book down. And since I now 'know' the twins, Taylor and Haley, I was able to get into their bits of the story and never felt confused about anything.

This book has its own murder mystery in it separate from the one in Envy. This murder mystery comes to its full conclusion in this book. But we also have some continuing story line regarding the twins Taylor and Haley. This portion of the book is something that will continue on. A mystery that we get pieces of in each book. And while there's not a major cliffhanger it leaves off with some new information that definitely has us curious for more of the story. It's this part with Taylor and Haley that has paranormal-like elements. Realistic paranormal, in my opinion.

Gregg Olsen is a true crime writer (other than this series). And I think if you go in knowing that his style is different than we're used to seeing in YA you will enjoy the first book more. I think maybe I was just caught off guard or something with the first book. I'm not sure if it was just me and my mood or if the book just really didn't work so well for me, but after reading this book I'm inclined to think that it's just me.

The murder mystery worked well for me. For one, I loved how crazy these people were. From absent parents (or downright BAD parents) to teens who really are more concerned about themselves and their own comfort rather than the dead girl, this book really left me guessing who was a murderer because there were just so many that weren't very good people. I didn't really guess who it was, though I did figure out parts, there was so much more to it.

I loved how emotionally invested I was in this book and the characters. I felt furious at people for their callousness, for their ridiculous accusations at the completely wrong people and for their completely inappropriate behavior. It worked fantastically well in this book.

I recently visited Port Gamble and I don't think it had a big impact on my overall feel of the book, but I did enjoy being able to picture the homes and places where everyone went. I had even toured the home that Haley and Taylor live in so being able to picture everything so well was just an added bonus.

You can find this review and others like it on my blog at <http://www.candacesbookblog.com>

Annie Brewer says

Review to come!! Loved it!

So I was given an ARC of this book from the author for this blog tour. When I first read Envy, the first book in the Empty Coffin series, I had no idea what to expect. But to say I loved Envy would be an understatement. However, we are not talking about Envy at this time. So Betrayal is the sequel to Envy. I was so excited to get this ARC because I loved Envy and needed to know what happened in the next captivating installment! I was not disappointed! The sequel was just as wonderfully written and descriptive as the first one was.

The thing I love most about Gregg's stories is how they are based on factual events. He takes those real life cases and makes his own story out of them. This book was based on the Amanda Knox case, which I vaguely remember hearing about years ago. If you don't know about it, it's about an exchange student who comes to America and is accused of killing her roommate(Like I said, I don't remember the details so I may have gotten it wrong, but that was my understanding). Anyway, I loved Gregg's story better!

So from the beginning of the book I am literally glued to my book; heart stopping, pulse racing, sweat covering my forehead....I am on the edge of my seat in fear as this story unfolds. Its amazing how descriptive Gregg is. His writing is so alluring and you feel like you're in the scene with the characters. I loved the fact that this book is set in Port Gamble, Washington-just like Envy was. I loved that we got to see most of the same characters, with a few new ones added in. I loved it, this book was amazingly executed and really fulfilled my expectations.

I loved the twins, they were my favorite characters in both books so far. I love getting to see them again and getting to know them more and their strange abilities. I like Colton as well. All in all, this book was awesome! The tension was perfect, the writing-flowed easily and kept my attention...the pace was just right. Another awesome book from Gregg! Congrats! I can't wait for Guilty now...need to know more!

So as I was reading both Envy and Betrayal, I pictured Taylor and Haley Ryan as.....Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen. I think it's mostly because you don't hear often about 2 twin girls their age, so I automatically had them in my head.

Chapter by Chapter says

Since I loved Envy by author Gregg Olsen, I knew that I would absolutely love Betrayal, the sequel in the Empty Coffin series. If you are a fan of Envy (and just reading the murder mystery is destined to make you a fan) then you have been dying to read Betrayal. The synopsis probably caught your attention and the creepy cover is what had you hooked. As with the first novel in the series, Betrayal does a lot more than deliver. The first chapter, that holds that murder of Olivia Grant is beyond terrifying. It's thrilling, dark, and intense. Not in a way that has you scared out of your mind, but in a way that has you cringing (in a good way) at the details of a knife slicing through skin and of a murder.

Betrayal is a lot different than Envy. Whereas Envy was a story that focused on bullying and a not-so suicide, Betrayal focuses on an actual homicide. That's right. Homicide. Murder. Somebody killing another somebody. The novel (which has parts that are based on real events) revolves around the murder of foreign exchange student Olivia Grant. Characters from Envy are possible suspects in the murder. The story doesn't center around the Ryan twins Hayley and Taylor as much as it did in the past novel, and instead takes place mostly through the POV (point of view) of other characters. Including Brianna, Drew and the Chief of Police.

I found myself comparing Betrayal to CSI more than anything, which is something that I didn't find myself doing while I read the past novel. Betrayal holds more chapters that show the police trying to figure out the murders, which includes lots of interrogations, evidence gathering, and discovering cadavers. The one thing that I enjoyed most in Betrayal were the few chapters in the killer's POV, not because he killed somebody (duh), but because they gave the story more hype. It had me taking in every detail in an attempt to figure out who the serial killer might be.

When chapters were seen through the Ryan twins eyes, the two girls begin to gather more words via their psychic abilities and begin to uncover more clues that lead to Olivia Grant's killer. The girls are terrorized a lot more in this novel and begin to receive texts from the "Text Creeper". Who he is, I'm not allowed to say. All I know is that you can expect the Ryan twins to try and discover more about their abilities.

All in all, I found the ending of the novel very unexpected. Mainly because the motives behind the killer's actions were ones that I didn't imagine. Like the story before it, Betrayal will have readers sitting on the edge of their seats. I would recommend this series to readers who want a series that is just amazing. Like I said in the review of Envy, if you like murder mysteries and thrillers, then the Empty Coffin series is definitely for you.

Beth says

Hayley and Taylor Ryan are twins that share a special supernatural bond. They can tell when an unnatural (murder) or unexpected death has occurred.

An exchange student, Olivia Grant, is stabbed to death at a Halloween Party in the town of Port Gamble. Suspicion toward Drew, Olivia's boy friend, and Beth, best friend to Hayley and Taylor, immediately grows and to save their friend Hayley and Taylor must discover the murderer before the wrong person is accused.

The story is based loosely on the Amanda Knox case. Even though it is based on an actual murder investigation, the surprising twists and turns in this book keep you transfixed to the story.

Let me just say that I did not read the first book in this series. **Betrayal** can stand alone. This is an interesting

young adult murder mystery with a dash of paranormal on the side. In the end, I found **Betrayal** an easy, enjoyable and intriguing read.

This ARC copy of Betrayal was given to me by Goodreads First Reads and Sterling Publishing in exchange for an honest review.

Ken Eveleigh says

I read an advance reader's copy (ARC) of this book and the story was completely entertaining but the ARC was riddled with typos and other errors which were very distracting. Wait for the finished product. There were also no allusions to or hints about the "empty coffin" as there were in the first novel of The Empty Coffin series and I was a bit disappointed by that. I'm anxious to learn more about the strange goings on in Port Gamble.

Bella says

First off I want to thank the publisher for an ARC of this book. I read the first book right before I got into this one and I have to say I really enjoyed Betrayal more. The new girl Olivia Grant was not such a lucky girl in this story. After her untimely murder the twins Hayley and Taylor go on the journey to find out what happened to her while uncovering so much more in their life and the others in their small town. Murders keeping happening to people the twins know and they can't figure out what's going on. Things just seem to be getting weirder, along with their life as well. As they try to uncover what really happened to their mother when she was younger and Olivia you will journey in to so much more in this book!

Betrayal is a GREAT title for this one. Gregg really had me hooked from the first murder. The twist and turns that went on during this story were amazing. I never really knew who did what or how. It mad the story so much more exciting and page turning. Secretes, mistakes, heartache, danger and much more is some of the things going on in this one. I loved the Twins in each story more so in this one because there part is so much bigger. They are great at what they do and I love how they are determined to get answers.

This is a murder mystery you wont want to pass up, you will think you know but really in the end you will be shocked to see maybe you just were not! It's a dangerous ride you take with each character in this one and you will for sure what to hold on tight because you will not want to put this one down!

Thanks for the great read Gregg and I cant wait for Guilty, I am excited fro more!

Tímea says

Celá kniha bola tak suchá a všetko v nej bolo tak očividné, že som len prevracala oči.
Očividne mám po seriály Scream až príliš vysoké očakávania.

Courtney says

This felt like two different books. There were two different stories going on. They somewhat fit together, but the murder story was not very good. In fact, the first part of book was not good at all. I kept going for whatever reason and was somewhat rewarded. The story following the twins, Hayley and Taylor, was interesting. The other characters, especially Brianna, her mother, even Beth Lee, Drew, etc. were less than likeable. I realized the author was basing the behavior on that of Amanda Knox and the role the media can play in a murder investigation, but the whole crime story was not good. I only gave it a three because of the twins and their investigation/findings.

Rose says

OMG, the beginning of the book was so bone chillingly awesome that I have no other words to describe it! Just being a foreign exchange student is scary enough. But for Olivia Grant, it was more than scary, it was deadly. As the investigation goes on, twins, Hayley and Taylor Ryan find out some secrets about themselves that their parents have been keeping since the tragic bus accident. Later we soon find out that the suspects in Olivia's murder have disappeared, without a trace, and there's more to the puzzle that needs to be discovered. Betrayal kept me on the edge of my seat and gave me chills throughout. I loved it!

Sandra says

Like its predecessor Envy, Betrayal was such an interesting murder mystery and I absolutely loved every minute. Gregg Olsen has a way to weave a mystery that makes it almost impossible to guess the truth. Sure when you read a mystery, you know it's probably not who you think it is, but when the end comes and you learn the truth, the Empty Coffin series will leave you surprised. I know I was!

The twins Hayley and Taylor really are the stars of this novel. Their special abilities to see the future and past are such an asset to solving crimes and when the victims are classmates, it's understandable they would want to use their ability to help. But that's not the start and end of their plot; their family makes for an interesting mystery itself. Their mother is obviously hiding something about her past and the twins are also itching to know what happened to her. Their father writes mysteries and I can't help but wonder if Olsen put a little of himself in that character. We did finally learn more about the twins' mother in Betrayal, but I have a feeling there's a lot more this family that we'll learn about in subsequent novels.

As strange as it sounds, I found the afterword of the novel to be extremely interesting. Olsen seems to be basing the crimes in his Empty Coffin series off real events. In Envy, the plot was loosely based off a real case of bullying. In Betrayal, the plot is loosely based off the story of Amanda Knox. She accused of murdering her roommate while studying abroad in Italy. I didn't follow that news piece at all, so when Olsen explained the parallels I was quite surprised and intrigued. The fact that the Empty Coffin novels are based off real events makes the books that much more exciting to read. I'm eagerly anticipating the third novel, Guilty, to see what real-life drama will show up in its pages.

The only thing I didn't like in Betrayal was the product placement. For example, instead of simply saying the

character sipped from a cup of coffee, it was Starbucks coffee. If a character changed her outfit, we learned she changed out of something from Macy's and into something from L.L.Bean. I could go on and on, but really the brand-name name-dropping got a bit annoying after awhile. Still, I think the plot and action itself made up for it.

Four stars! I loved the mystery in this novel and I think this is a great fall read as Halloween approaches. While you could potentially read Betrayal as a stand-alone, I highly recommend you read the first book in the series, Envy, first since it will give a lot of the background information on the twin's ability and family life. References to Envy are pretty frequent throughout Betrayal. I think it's a little unfortunate these books haven't made more of a splash in the YA world, when I think they're definitely worth reading.

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Pam says

I received an ARC of this book from the publisher for an honest review. I loved the first book in this series and couldn't wait to read the next one. From the moment you start reading this book the action starts. Olivia an exchange student is murdered at a Halloween party. The police begin to investigate this murder and have several people they believe did it including her best friend Bree, the girl she lives with Beth and a few more. The best friend doesn't help matters when she does yoga at the police station while being questioned, make out with her boyfriend the next day plus lots more. The twins Taylor and Hayley they get that feeling that someone has died that night. The same feeling they have had before. They start to get those signs that they receive pointing them in the direction of the killer through visions and signs. In the midst of all that the twins also get text from creepy text guy that makes them look deeper into their own past at what secrets may be there.

I love the twins and all they get into following their feelings and the signs they receive. You really get a better look at what them different from each other and you also get to see more of that special bond they have. Beth is a good character as well you get to see her break down her tough girl exterior at one point and get a good look at who she is under that. Bree is a rich, snobby spoiled, liar and I didn't like this girl at all. She reminded me of mean girls in school who would rip your to shreds all the while laugh about. She doesn't care what is going on she just cares about herself. The other characters you get to read about in this book each have their own impact on the plot.

I really liked how the action starts right away and doesn't let up the whole book. You never know what is going to happen or who the killer is. You can guess you know but trust me you don't. The twins finding out more about their past is like a side story you just know is leading up to a bigger story hopefully coming soon. All the twitter reference and other things the author adds makes a nice touch I think and will help draw in new readers to a great series. I can't say what part because of a spoiler but one had me almost ready to cry. It is such an emotional scene and Gregg Olsen did a great job writing it. When the killer is revealed I was shocked who it was and why they did it. I look forward to the next book in this series as I need to know more where Hay-Tay get their spidey sense I guess you could say. If you want a young adult murder mystery with some great characters pick this one up.

Raven Tiger {Paint me like one of your 19th century gothic heroines!} says

DNF on page 50. Sorry, I'm just too old for this book. Read the ending though.

Meghan says

I won an advance reader's copy of Betrayal by Gregg Olsen through Goodreads First Reads. Betrayal is the second book in the Empty Coffin series and is geared toward the YA audience.

Fast-paced and interesting, I would have found this novel very hard to put down if I was still in junior high. But I do want to be fair in this review because this is a young adult novel. It is filled with pop culture references that may not be easily recognizable in a few years. Another downside is that if the reader has not read the first Empty Coffin novel, they may be a little confused about references that are made in the second novel.

Other than these few things, I thought the book is a perfect beach read. Murder, intrigue, and Twitter; what else could you want?

Haley ~ YA-Aholic says

WHEN DID THIS GET A COVER?!?!?!? How did I not see this?!):< Oh well CANT WAIT!(: andddd totally love the cover(:
