



Killer

Sara Shepard

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In picture-perfect Rosewood, Pennsylvania, ash-blond highlights gleam in the winter sun and frozen lakes sparkle like Swarovski crystals. But pictures often lie—and so do Rosewood's four prettiest girls.

Hanna, Aria, Spencer, and Emily have been lying ever since they became friends with beautiful Alison DiLaurentis. Ali made them do terrible things—things they had to keep secret for years. And even though Ali was killed at the end of seventh grade, their bad-girl ways didn't die with her.

Hanna's on a mission to corrupt Rosewood's youth, starting with a very attractive sophomore. Aria's snooping into her boyfriend's past. Spencer's stealing—from her family. And pure little Emily's abstaining from abstinence.

The girls should be careful, though. They thought they were safe when Ali's killer was arrested and A's true identity was finally revealed. But now there's a new A in town turning up the heat. And this time Rosewood is going to burn.

Killer Details

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Author : Sara Shepard

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From Reader Review Killer for online ebook

Attack Salmon says

WOAH, I gotta say Sara Shepard is not only incredibly talented but incredibly cruel as well. I suspect she delighted in seeing her characters suffer. Just when u thought things are going real good for the girls, then disaster strikes.

In Killer, we have a different set of person being suspected as A. Story is the usual as we see how the girls being tear down to pieces. All of the adults in this book are very unlikeable. I find myself sympathizing the girls and wish those god damn adult will fucking give them a break. Come on they already have so much on their plate without the adults added to their troubles.

The ending wasn't that jaw dropping for me. I know better that this story is far from over

Razan says

Spoiler alert

Would have given it 4 stars if it weren't for the last 2 words I read!

"It was Ali"

I can't believe my eyes. It says that Alison's parents didn't check the body's DNA for some reason. So, could it really be Ali?!

The things that happened to the girls in between the chapters left me with a very sad face, though. Mostly Spence. I can't believe she lost all her college money savings! It was a stupid thing to do anyway. Why doesn't she just live with her mum without buying an apartment?!

And Hanna banana. Can't she just get over that bitch Kate? She should be better than her by not caring about her at all. Like she doesn't exist. I really liked her character before she started getting all jealous from Kate. I was really thrilled to find out that Em was intersted in a boy! Isaac seems cool. His mum on the other hand is unbelievably a moron.

I hated the way Jason treated Aria after she invited him to the party that was previously his psychic's clinic or, what was it really?

They were so cute! I dunno. Maybe I like Jason because I like his looks in the series!

Wow, Ali is back! *Sheds a tear* *sighs*

Brb for the next book!

Karen says

Loved reading this and loved the "ending" ... I need to start the next book asap!

Stef says

Spoilers for previous books as usual, but none for this instalment

Killer is the 6th book in the Pretty Little Liars series. I found it to have a good consistent pace but it still has that annoying repetitious look at the past, every time looking at tiny details that weren't included before. Even if it was needed to give hints, too much repetition bothers my reading flow.

So the drama continues without a yield since old A kicked the bucket and a new diabolical, yet confusing new A is torturing our four favourite little liars. But is it really torture? New A seems to have a twist to his/her intentions for harassing Aria, Spencer, Hanna and Emily. A seems obsessed with urging the girls to find out who really is behind Ali's tragic death. Instead of listening to A, everyone gets distracted with their own more petty drama. Boys of course. Emily jumped back to driving stick. Aria's old crush, Jason, makes her put common sense blinders on. Hanna is competing with Kate again and trying to date the same younger guy. And, Spencer, the exception, has turned in her boy troubles and focuses on screwing up her future even more by rushing into a big move to New York to be with her perfect birth mother.

For once they find themselves in trouble all by themselves with not much help from A's twisted threats and consequences. A might just be the puppeteer of all the lying and gullible girls, but even they find themselves relying on A's messages and hoping to get them when they're in trouble or need a warning. All these smoke and mirrors make your head hurt a little but keep you hooked.

Are the dead.. really dead? Are the good guys actually the bad guys? And is A actually trying to help? It's all what keeps your mind sucked into the PLL world and wanting more drama. There's always some sweet moments, WTF moments and it keeps you wondering what is real and what's not. The only negative side is the repetitiveness of certain Ali scenes while she's still alive. Good cliffhanger and, overall, good read with the needed dose of drama.

Elizabeth Scott says

!!!! (That was me when I got to the end) I cannot wait for the next book to come out...

Charlynn says

Sometimes, when reading a Pretty Little Liars novel, I find myself marveling at the girls' lives, disbelieving them. While I, too, hail from Pennsylvania, my hometown is the antithesis of the fictional Rosewood – fictional being the all-important word there, because there are moments when I question whether such places could really exist. But they do. Shop for real estate in the towns which dot the real Main Line outside of Philadelphia; check out the King of Prussia mall which the series' King James mall is based upon. Hollis could easily be Bryn Mawr. It's just that Aria, Spencer, Emily, and Hanna's lives are so far removed from what I consider normal... and I'm not just talking about the secrets and lies; the entire setting verges on the

fantastic for someone who, at best, was raised in a middle class family environment. Rather, it's the opulence, the sense of entitlement, the galas, and the absolute disregard for the rules that the rest of society follows, but these are all stereotypes found in any affluent society depicted in film and television or in books. Whether fair or not, stereotypes exist for a reason, and I think it's this shock and awe towards places like Rosewood which draw readers (in this case) into the Liars' world. While it can seem foreign, even alien, it's also appealing... even if we recognize that, despite the girls' every advantage, their lives aren't perfect either. At the root of their unhappiness – and ours – are the same, basic problems: communication and trust.

Killer picks up directly where the previous novel in the series left off with the girls convinced that they've found Ian's dead body... only the body has disappeared and they're eventually labeled as the girls who cried wolf in order to claim more of the spotlight. Things just continue to spiral out of control as the book progresses. While Aria finds herself yet another older man – this time, Alison's brother, Jason, Spencer's searching for her birth mother and getting scammed... or so it seems... in the process. Meanwhile, Emily finds out that her new boyfriend's mother hates her after she sleeps with him, and Hanna continues her popularity games with her step-sister Kate, all the while, though, the four girls continue to get texts and clues from A. Despite being burned in the past for failing to talk to one another, they continue to keep secrets, using A's words to further their own agendas rather than banding together, actually communicating, and solving the mysteries destroying their lives. Yes, some of this is motivated by their selfishness, but, mainly, it's inspired by their lack of trust in each other and their insistence upon giving their trust to the wrong people.

But there's the beauty of Shepard's books: readers don't know who to trust either. Everyone has an agenda. Basically, it boils down to two things. One, the girls know that they're not A; they can't say the same about anyone else. And, two, for whatever their personal reasons, they all have the same goals as far as A and Ali's murderer are concerned: they want them caught, stopped, and punished. For these reasons and these reasons alone – whether it's lonely or not, Aria, Spencer, Emily, and Hanna need to shelve their reservations, put aside their personal lives, and truly start to work together to figure out what's really going on, because, as of now, A's winning. A always wins, and, until the Liars start to communicate and trust each other, A will continue to have free reign to do whatever A wants.

Stephanie says

Wow this book was so good! That ending was so intense! I need to read the next book but I have to wait until next month to read it :)

Lotta says

Hmh. Aina sama juttu. Parisataa sivua on pelkkää turhaa draamaa ja jaarittelua ja viimeiset 50 sivua mennään jyrinällä eteenpäin. Jokainen tämän sarjan kirjoista tuntuu menevän samalla kaavalla.

Aluksi haluan antaa tälle vain 1 tähdet, mutta sitten tapahtuu jotain ja viihdynkin viimeisten kappaleiden parissa, enkä voi enää antaa sitä yhtä tähteä. Hirveitä cliffhangereita nämä loput.

Ehkä mun pitää silti jatkaa tän parissa, viimeistään kun seuraavan osan deadline lähestyy.

Tämä saa 2.5 tähteä.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Killer (Pretty Little Liars #6), Sara Shepard

Sophie says

Killer is the sixth book in the *Pretty Little Liars* series, and this one definitely isn't my favourite of them.

This instalment of the series made my love for these books waver. I have to admit that it pretty much annoyed me and I got a little bit fed up. It seemed to get a tad repetitive. Aria falling for inappropriate guys, Spencer getting tangled in lies and mistakes, Emily having serious girl/boy issues and Hanna battling to be Queen Bee. It's been that way since the first book.

A was the only one that wasn't the same. He/she seemed to have a new agenda, focused less on the girls' exploits and didn't play such a large part in *Killer*. A's texts and emails brought up so many new questions and answered hardly any of them.

But any ill will I had towards *Killer* had evaporated by the last few shocking chapters. Sara Shepard really does know how to deliver an explosive cliffhanger! I was left staring blankly with shock and confusion for a good five minutes after turning the last page of *Killer*.

After *Killer*'s shock ending, I'll be reading book seven, *Heartless*, as soon as it's released next January. I will definitely be seeing this series through to the end, if only to find out what's really going on!

Brooke ♥booklife4life♥ says

At A Glance

Genre: Young Adult; Mystery

Love Triangle/Insta Love?: Slight Love Triangles

Cliff Hanger: Yes!!

Rating: 5 STARS!

Score Sheet

All out of ten

Cover: 8

Plot: 8

Characters: 8

World Building: 8

Flow: 10

Series Congruity: 10

Writing: 9

Ending: 10

Total: 9

In Depth

Best Part: The ending!

Worst Part: Girls can be dumbbb.

Overall Feels Felt: Nail biting; Why you so dumb?!; Oh shitttt.

Conclusion

Continuing the Series: YES

Recommending: YES

Misc.: Trigger Warning; eating disordered talked about.

Short Review: Spencer, you dumb b, you should have done wayyyyy more research. Aria, Xavier is gonna ruinnnn shit, get out now! Hanna, Kate seems like the queen b now, best get working on that. Emily, your boy's mom is crazzzyyy, maybe the apple doesn't fall far from the tree? :D

Overall, i liked this book better than book 5. There was a lot more building going on. I was on the edge of my seat reading this one. I was waiting for the pin to drop since ending book 5 and i feel like i got that. And that ending?!?!? AHHHH. I can't believe it ended like that. Cliff hanginggggg. I have a good idea on a theory of who dun it, and i'm waiting to see if I'm right. I am reading into everything while i read this one!!

Review In GIF Form

Vanessa says

At this point, the formula that all of the books follow is way too repetitive. If I didn't already own all of the books, this is the point where I would definitely give them up. There is going to be some sort of memory of when the girls were younger and Ali was still alive. The girls will flashback to this a million times throughout the book. New information will only be revealed half of the time. There will be at least one party. Aria's story is going to involve her getting involved with an older guy. In at least one of the girls' parts, a previously established character is going to start acting really weird so that suspense can be maintained during their sections even though nothing is really happening. The last chapters will be super exciting and have a major cliffhanger, so that readers will not mind how boring the rest of the book was.

While this is a problem to some extent in all of the books, this one relies on the girls being stupid to maintain the usual pattern of the books more than any of the rest so far. For A to continue blackmailing the girls, A has become involved in more and more mundane parts of their lives. At some points, A is speculated to be a criminal genius. The only way for this to be an excusable part of the plot is if the point is supposed to be that these girls are just getting paranoid.

These books really rely on the ending, and this one just did not do it for me. The ending was half as much of the book as it usually is, and it just wasn't long enough to generate as much suspense. The only part of this book that I enjoyed in comparison to the rest of the series is that Mike is getting a slightly bigger role, and Mike is one of the only members of the supporting cast that I still really like.

Gaby (lookingatbooks) says

Book six in the Pretty Little Liars series

Can someone please explain to me what just happened? Because that ending was insane.

Each book gets better and better. And I'm not quite sure I can pick a favorite yet.

I give Emily props. I like what she said to Isaac. He didn't give her a chance to explain herself when she told him what his mother had done.

Aria, as always, is my favorite. She's staying away from Xavier, but unfortunately at the cost of spending no time with her mother. I believe, shortly, there's going to be a blowout where Xavier tells Ella what's happened because Aria won't spend time with him and Ella will refuse to talk to Aria. But on another note, I wish Aria would have stopped taking to Jason. He's no good and crazy.

Hanna always knows how to push everyone's buttons. And now she's dating Mike. Which surprised me the most, because they're so different. But I guess popularity is what they have in common. I'll bet money that the relationship won't last long because Hanna will drive Mike nuts.

Spencer thought she could just move out of her parents house, move near her "birth mother", and live happily ever after. Well that didn't happen. Now she's broke because the supposed mother she thought she had, cleaned her bank account out by partnering with a fake real estate agent. And now she's got to tell her parents this news. And I think they won't take it well. She's bound to have nothing left to loose soon.

I still don't think Jason killed Ali. He's crazy, but maybe not enough to kill his sister. And why would Wilden do it? Sure Jason and him were friends, but come on. They'd try to kill Ian and then kill Ali? It just doesn't make completely sense. I'm still going with my theory of long lost twin. Especially considering that ending. But now I've thought about it a bit. Maybe Ali didn't have a twin. But a doppelgänger. It's possible because how would her parents not know they had another daughter alive. Unless of course she was stolen. Hmm...

5 stars

Haley says

This series seriously gets on my nerves. I love reading this series but I hate how I have to wait so many months till the next one comes out. (I guess that is what makes the books so good and frustrating at the same time) This book was really good and it gave a lot of clues about Ali's 'murder.' (notice that I put quotation marks) There weren't that many A notes but the book still fulfilled its mission. Btw, (spoiler alert) I always thought that Ali was still alive, so I can't wait till the next book to find out if that really was Ali.

Tiny Pants says

To get ready for reading this book, I looked back on my reviews of the earlier books and flipped through my copy of *Wicked*. Just doing that was enough to convince me to go online and buy a copy of the seventh book, *Heartless* without having even yet cracked open this book (the sixth in the series).

I'm glad I did, because having read this book in one delightfully lazy day (I think I read it in three sittings total), I'm practically panting for the next one. Part of me is always expecting this series to fall off -- for the plotting to get lazy or simply less dense, for me to stop caring what happens to Spencer, Aria, Hanna, and Emily -- but it just keeps bringing it. Admittedly, there was some frustration in this book as many of the clues are more transparent to the readers than they were in earlier volumes, and it takes the characters kind of an excruciatingly long time to make the same links.

But even that was hard to be too bothered by as the plot twists just keep coming! Toward the end of reading this book (having stayed up well past my usual bedtime to do so), I started feeling really physically uncomfortable. At first I just thought I was really tired, but then I realized -- I'd gotten so into the action of the book that the suspense was *literally making me sweat*. I don't know that I've ever had a reaction like that to a book before, but suffice to say when *Heartless* shows up on my doorstep (hopefully tomorrow!) I am going to dive right in.

Kim says

3.5 stars, actually.

Well... Hanna never fails to disappoint me. The word 'pathetic' often comes to mind when I read about her and her little ridiculous adventures.

Spencer is the perfect example of how 'being smart' often means 'being able to learn lots of stuff by heart'. She obviously isn't able to use her brain in a more useful way. Smart people don't handle the entire inheritance fiasco and everything that happened because of it like she did. The outcome was something so obvious it even had a parade and everything.

Emily and Aria... I don't have a lot to say about them, but that's a good thing.

The ending was something I expected to happen 2 or 3 books ago, but better late than never, I guess...

By now I'm expecting something in the lines of the entire town being in on the joke and Aria, Emily, Spencer and Hanna are 4 puppets in the Rosewood Show.

I can't say I'm still looking forward to what's coming as much as I did when I was reading the first books, but I'm still curious. So, as always: Next!

Tylah Marie says

Another one done! *Killer* started off VERY slow in the first 50 pages and I found myself a little bored but

thankfully the rest of the book was entertaining, like always. I loved reading Spencer and Emily's parts the most. Hanna's character in these books frustrates me. I loved her in the show but in the book series.. I just can't find myself loving her. I saw the ending coming... but maybe that it because I have seen the show and I know that these kind of "twists" are bound to happen.

I can't believe I still have another 10 to read.. ?But.. on to the next one!

Stacy Ivashkov says

THIS IS THE BEST BOOK IN THE SERIES!

SPOILERS

SO I WILL START WITH HANNA, AT FIRST I WAS SAD THAT SHE AND LUCAS BROKE UP BUT NOW I LOVE HER WITH MIKE. THAT IS SOOO CUTE. HE BETTER NOT PLAY HER! LOL. AND I DONT CARE IF KATE TRULY DOES WANT TO BE HER FRIEND, SHE IS A BITCH!

ARIA- I CANNOT BELIEVE XAVIER IS SUCH A JERK. I FEEL SO BAD FOR HER BUT NOT TELLING ELLA ABOUT THIS IS SO GOING TO BITE HER IN THE ASS. I WAS SOOO EXCITED ABOUT HER AND JASON DILAURENTIS, I CANT BELIEVE HE IS SUCH A PHYSCO! POOR ARIA! WHERE IS EZRA AND WHEN IS HE COMING BACK FOR HER?!

SPENCER- OMG! HOW BAD DO I FEEL FOR HER! HER FAMILY ARE ALL ASSHOLES! IS SHE ADOPTED OR IS THERE SOME OTHER TWISTED THING GOING ON WITH THEM? HER PARENTS ARE GONNA FREAK WHEN THEY SEE HER BANK ACCOUNT.

EMILY- WHAT ARE YOU DOING? ARE YOU GAY OR NOT? EVERYTIME I START TO LIKE YOU THE NEXT PAGE YOU PISS ME OFF. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE ALL HER SKELTONS ARE OUT OF THE CLOSET SO WHATS NEXT WITH HER?

AS FOR THE ENDING- WTF!!!!??????!!!!!!????? IS ALI BACK OR ARE ALL THE GIRLS GOING CRAZY? AND WILDEN AND JASON ARE THE KILLERS?!WTF

Kate ? says

Killer by Sara Shepard

Book six in the Pretty Little Liars series

First of all, **that ending** oh my goshhhh! Now I'm even more excited to continue with this series!

Giving this one three stars because not a lot was going on throughout it, until the end of course, but the girls individual stories weren't particularly that interesting in this one. Especially compared to the last book, which has been my favourite so far!

I did guess who A, or in this books case A's, would be, but I wasn't really expecting the ending, despite having watched the TV-Show! I also saw that Spencer thing coming... I mean it was way too good for her to

be true, right? I hope Kate and Hanna's relationship grows more into friendship in the next book...

I'm in love with Sara Shepard's books, and can't wait to see where the story goes now, after that ending!!

Geraldine O'Hagan says

I suppose I'd better continue with the series. After all, the quicker I read them the quicker they're all gone. My difficulty is not so much with how bad the books are (after all, there's no harm in a bit of trash every now and then) as how incredibly boring. It goes against the tenets of trash writing, which should be so entertaining in its drama that you forgive the ridiculousness. If you're going to read something bad, it should be absurdly, histrionically bad. (See *Flowers in the Attic* or *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane* for example) Sadly there is no Grand Guignol horror or grotesque excess here, as there should rightfully be. Just mundanity and handbags.

The prologue flashback is even less interesting this time, since it's yet more information I do not want about the bloody flag-hunt business (see all of the last book). We also learn that Rosewood is the type of place that turns 6-year-olds learning to read into an official competition. Because if you can't be the best at something, it's not worth doing it at all. It also turns out that all 4 of the girls turned up at Alison's house to steal her flag-piece at exactly the same time, independently of each other. I know there's somewhat of a herd mentality at Rosewood, but that seems pretty impressive. Hopefully this psychic-bond all the children share will be developed later and the books will take a more *Midwich Cuckoos* (*Village of the Damned*) direction. Otherwise we learn nothing knew, and have some old and boring information hammered into our heads once again.

Back in the present we pick up exactly where we left off. Ian is still dead. We are clumsily reminded that we are now supposed to be suspicious of Officer Wilden, because Shepard says so. She neglects to say why, but that's as standard. Then Ian's body disappears, as tends to happen in these type of stories. Everyone immediately panics. Then the process of obsessive recapping begins.

There isn't a great deal of forward momentum in the plot for the main bulk of the book. We learn that Aria has moved in with her father to avoid being sexually harassed by her mother's boyfriend, failing to warn either her mother or anyone else about the borderline rapist who they all trust. Then Aria's father suddenly declares that he has bought a house in the middle of the Rosewood Murder Triangle, but forgot to mention it earlier because it hadn't occurred to Shepard yet. Emily's boyfriend teaches her to eat peanut butter and honey butties, which are indeed nicer than peanut butter and jam, but don't really add much to the story. We are reminded to suspect Jason, Alison's brother, because he's vaguely shouty and looks just like Alison. Hanna fondly reminisces about the time when the time when they were all children and Mike deliberately lurked about in the dark in the middle of the night to sexually assault Alison, but accidentally groped Hanna instead; she appears to find this sweet. Spencer's dull essay storyline and her dull Andrew –the-obvious-boyfriend storyline continue to coalesce into one single lump of boredom. Everyone keeps going on about how much they want Ian to fry for Alison's murder, which is not only cruel but inaccurate since although Pennsylvania, disturbingly enough, is one of the US states that still insists on the death penalty, their preferred method is lethal injection. Shepard keeps telling us what every boy in the series smells like in weird detail. We learn that only old ladies drink mint tea, which added to last book's revelation that lesbians all drink jasmine tea makes me presume that there's a very strict hot-drink hierarchy in Rosewood, which will hopefully be revealed in full in an exciting future volume of this series. Also, the Warhol banana appears again. I'm beginning to think it's some type of a clue, it appears so frequently. Maybe Nico killed Alison?

The most exciting development is that it's flag-hunt time again! Whilst we wait to find out how that thrilling saga will unravel, we are treated to endless scenes of Emily and her perfect boyfriend, who even loves the smell of chlorine in her hair, and who lives in a house with "*Prayer Changes Everything*" embroidered on the cushions. They possibly have sex, although it's hard to tell because Ms Shepard never goes any further in her descriptions of these things than the boy involved touching the edge of the girl's bra, which seems to be a bit of a fetish in Rosewood and also means another chance to describe clothes. Meanwhile Spencer arranges a meeting with a woman who the internet has told her is her birth mother, even though she hasn't even asked if she's adopted yet. To fill in time whilst waiting for this meeting she copies her father's entire hard drive onto what is a very capacious CD in order to search it for adoption documents. Meanwhile her mother continues to disown her for being stalked and having had her best friend murderer, which constitutes top-quality parenting in Rosewood.

After a while the girls get together and conclude, pretty much by making it up as they go along, that Ian faked his own death in order to distract them whilst he escaped from Rosewood, but then stayed in Rosewood anyway. This makes no sense whatsoever. My theory is that Ian faked his own death because Sara Shepard needed a cliffhanger ending for *Wicked Pretty Little Liars 5*, which I think hangs together a lot better (the theory, not the awful book). Then everyone proceeds with their lives, eating branded foods I've never heard of and constantly just catching in the corner of their eye what might or might not be a stalker. Emily does that bad-drama scene where the heroine finds a picture of herself with the head cut off and panics, presuming that the photo's owner is out to get her. She also receives an annoying 'clue' photo from 'A', which no one can be bothered with.

Spencer goes off to New York on her own to meet a stranger called Olivia who claims to be her birth mother, and they immediately go shopping for designer clothes. No questions are asked about this alleged adoption, which so far exists entirely in Spencer's imagination, until they have thoroughly exhausted all the best shops. Eventually Olivia tells some vague story about giving Spencer away because as a rich and privileged eighteen-year-old she wasn't sure she could cope with a baby. Immediately thereafter Spencer offers to finish school a year earlier and move to New York so they can be closer, and Olivia suggests renting her an apartment. I don't know if this kind of behaviour is normal for rich people, but it's definitely incredibly stupid. Then Olivia flies away in her personal helicopter, as you do, accidentally leaving Spencer with a mystery folder which sadly turns out to contain nothing interesting.

Aria becomes more proactive about her fetish for inappropriate men, deliberately hanging around a train station until she meets potential murderer and weirdo Jason and propositioning him. He immediately takes her to a bar named after the Bates Motel from *Psycho* Robert Bloch, which means that it would be too obvious if he were 'A'. They immediately exchange secrets and flirt heavily. Hanna is meanwhile impressing Aria's brother by her amazing knowledge of music, specifically that she has heard of Led Zeppelin. This is apparently quite impressive in Rosewood. More amazingly still she knows two of their songs and is able to sing along to them, which obviously makes her pretty cool. Mike is as creepy as ever, taking Hanna on a date to try on some tiny bikinis he has already picked out for her and then deliberately bursting in when she is changing. Luckily Hanna is flattered to have any male attention, since she is an idiot, and so doesn't do anything about this. We also learn that whilst Mike was in Europe he learned how to say "underwear model" in Mandarin, which makes sense as long as you consider "abroad" to be one big place where all the people speak in the same set of funny languages which you can use to impress girls. Even though he is vilely sexist and is dating Hanna and Kate at the same time both of them continue to fight over him as though winning his brief approval of them as a sex object will validate them as a person and cement their victory over the other. It's quite difficult to believe that two people could be this simultaneously stupid.

Plot becomes even more sparse as the book continues. Spencer's parents horrify her by suggesting that she get a job. Hanna remembers something, but can't remember what she remembers. In a particularly

impressive show of idiocy Spencer decides to steal a large amount of money from her parents in order to rent a massively luxurious New York apartment. This makes sense because a man she has never met, who is married to the possible birth mother she has met once, will definitely reimburse her fully as soon as he finds out. Plus she feels *entitled* to the apartment because...actually, I'm not sure why. Just because. Many characters suddenly become emotional, start stuttering and leave the room for reasons not explained for several chapters. Isaac's mother threatens Emily, but she doesn't tell him for a while in order to drag matters out for a few more pages. When she does he immediately admits that his last girlfriend said the same thing, but is still certain that both his ex and Emily are crazy liars and the fact that they came up with the same fabrication is coincidence.

Hanna has yet another Haunted Oracular Dream which yields the first clue which sounds even vaguely interesting, Alghost's: "*Sometimes, I don't notice I'm singing*". Which reminds me of a combination of Laura Palmer's two dream clues "*Sometimes my arms bend back.*" and "*Where we're from the birds sing a pretty song, and there's always music in the air*" A finger-snapping dwarf and a mynah bird would really liven the story up around now, but sadly it is not to be. Instead we move on to some fluff about proms and dating, which takes a long time to go nowhere. Also at around this time the obsession with clothes reaches such a pitch that we're informed that exact outfit a UPS delivery man is wearing as he makes a one-line appearance delivering organic baby booties. Meanwhile Jason, Jenna, Melissa and Officer Wilden continue to behave "suspiciously" whilst not actually doing anything that unusual or interesting. Somebody uses a Rottweiler to trick Aria into breaking into Jason's house, which doesn't seem to make any sense or achieve anything. Spencer's supposed birth mother turns out to be a con-artist and steals all her university money, which I don't care about and which entirely serves Spencer right. Mike finds out that Hanna is only using him, and hypocritically finds this offensive; simultaneously Hanna decides she is actually deeply in love with Mike after all. Then they make-up because they are both too vacant to hold a grudge. The whole thing is ridiculous.

As the end mercifully draws near everyone attends yet another of these benefit things that seem so popular with the rich and vain, delightfully enough held at what used to be a home for mentally ill children but is now a luxury hotel. Although it's now refurbished the decorators have helpfully left a few rooms untouched, in order to allow a suitably overused gothic background for events. This is possibly another set stolen from the US Ring Ring 1 remake, although with clichés this ingrained it's hard to identify a particular bad horror film. Emily blunders into one of these rooms, blunders upon an old inmate ledger full of sensitive information which has been left lying around in public view, and 5 seconds later finds Jason's name. The whole thing is so far beyond terrible that there's no criticism worth making .

Hanna however has decided that the murderer is Officer Wilden, on the basis that he has a hooded top and keeps singing the Elvis Costello song "Alison", although sadly not the most appropriate lines:

*Sometimes I wish that I could stop you from talking
When I hear the silly things that you say*

Then it's the usual conclusion, where the girls get together and voice their suspicions by reciting every single thing that has happened to them in this book, before racing crazily about in a panic because one of them is in danger. The potential victim is once again Spencer, who is at home in her barn reading The House of Mirth and demonstrating that she has failed to understand it by identifying with the heroine. However she quickly tires of her efforts to centre a classic work of literature around herself and starts to read her sister's notes from school instead. Immediately she finds one with clues relevant to the drama currently occurring. Directly

afterward the other girls arrive, and fugitive Ian turns out to be online at that exact moment waiting to answer their questions. He accuses Wilden and Jason whereupon Spencer, the world's least credible witness, immediately changes her "memories" to fit this story. Then someone sets the barn on fire, just for a bit of drama at the end of the chapter. Everyone escapes this rather inefficient murder attempt instantly, and the four of them then run directly into the plot-twist I have been hoping for 6 books wasn't coming. I reach new heights of despair, and the book ends.

Most Ridiculous Local Shops

Either

"the eco baby store ...that sold organic baby booties made out of recycled soda bottles for a hundred dollars."

or

"a pet store that sold homemade dog food and costumes for cats."

Character Having the Most Difficulty Keeping Up

" "Just because the A notes weren't coming from Ian's phone doesn't mean they weren't coming from Ian... he could have gotten a disposable cell or a phone in another name." Emily put her finger to her lips. She hadn't thought of that."

Why not? It's exactly what A#1 did a few months back. It's simply not possible Emily could be that stupid, surely?

Least Psychological Understanding Demonstrated

"There was no way Jason abused Ali.... In fact, Jason had always seemed fiercely protective of Ali."

Clearly indisputable proof of his innocence.

More convincingly, there's no actual evidence or indeed indication that he did, beyond the fact that some of the girls like to imagine so. Which seems to me to be a more reasonable argument in favour of giving him the benefit of the doubt.

Worst Date Talk

Mike suggestively complimented Hanna on her sucking abilities and advised her to save some sucking power for later.

Most Random Physiological Reaction

“Emily swallowed hard. She tasted peanut butter in her mouth, the sensation she always got when she was about to have a fight-or-flight reaction.”

I know that peanut butter is very popular in the US, but I had no idea that their citizens were able to spontaneously produce in times of stress. Must be very useful in times of potential starvation.

Worst Attempt at a Hotel Theme

A Palace of Versailles motif featuring a DJ dressed up in a Louis XIV wig and a large tapestry of Napoleon. The whole thing is apparently based on the vague ideas that every single French historical figure lived in the same building, a giant gilt hall of mirrors, during the era “Old-Days France”. And since the décor also includes *“a stained-glass window that featured a portrait of a pie-faced minstrel and his lute”* it would appear that Medieval Europe has somehow got mixed up in there somehow.

Most Unnecessary-Sounding Beauty Treatment

“an oxygen facial”

Can’t you get oxygen on your face by walking around outside?. For free? I guess I’m missing summat here.

Worse and worse. The whole last part of this book is too terrible even to be a joke. Even if everything turns out to be some type of elaborate set-up it wouldn’t excuse the clumsy execution or the complete lack of sense or realistic behaviour exhibited by any of the girls. The moment when Emily casually wandered through a doorway leading straight from the luxury hotel set into the cobweb-strewn gothic asylum set was the breaking point for me. Unless the whole series turns out to be some sort of meta-textual story-within-a-story taking place in the mind of a mad girl running about in a movie backlot then it’s irredeemable. And I’m pretty sure that’s not going to happen.
