



Sophie's Secret

Tara West

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This is an ACE for ISBN13:9781466084803 Sophie's Secret

After shedding 30 pounds of baby fat, Sophie Sinora has grown into a pretty, but insecure, teen in bloom. To make her life more complicated, Sophie can sometimes read minds.

Sophie's BFFs, AJ and Krysta, are also 'gifted' with paranormal abilities. Keeping their gifts secret proves difficult, as their powers are strengthening, making them feel more and more like freaks.

When Sophie falls for Jacob, she hopes he'll ask her out to the Freshman Formal. But when she's forced to cheat and lie for him, she wonders how far she'll have to go to make him like her. Add to her growing list of problems - her teacher's suicidal thoughts, a locker bully who wants to kick her butt, the hot school flirt who won't stop teasing her, her pregnant sister who boots Sophie out of her room, and the growing tension between Sophie and her best friends.

Sophie's got issues. Hopefully, she can fix them in time to save her teacher's life and her social life.

Sophie's Secret Details

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From Reader Review *Sophie's Secret* for online ebook

Jennifer says

I generally avoid reading self-published works, particularly those on Smashwords. The few I have tried have been full of grammatical and spelling errors, and their plots and characters have suffered from not having had a professional editor's pen taken to them. For example, read the first few pages of Addison Moore's self-published book, *Ethereal*. Moore uses many words incorrectly or inappropriately – preface, preclude, pliable, to name a few in the *first* paragraph -- creates meaningless sentences, and contradicts herself from paragraph to paragraph. An editor would have sorted out her messes and the final product would have been far superior. But some writers have better editorial instincts than others, and one of those is Tara West.

The writing in *Sophie's Secret* (a more original title would have been nice – at least six other books titled *Sophie's Secret* have been published in the past few years) is more polished than in most self-pubs, likely because the author is a former high school teacher. Still, though the book is free of errors and reads easily, and though the main character is likable, I wasn't swept away by the story. Several things grew tiresome: the nose-picking incidents, the constant reminder that being 30 pounds overweight is a tragedy – yes, I understand how image conscious teens are, but usually when someone loses enough weight to become attractive in their own eyes, they don't continue to beat themselves up over what they *used* to look like – and the fact that the supernatural powers of the three girls rarely contribute anything of significance to the plot. In most cases, Sophie, the mind-reader, can't act on what she sees in someone's mind because it would violate their privacy and/or expose her "gift". So like anyone without the ability to read minds, she simply waits until there's an opportunity to have a heart to heart private talk with someone. And sometimes, it's just plain unnecessary: When a teacher starts to cry and races from the classroom, you don't need special powers to know she's upset. I also wasn't fond of West's use of the name "Jacob Flushman" for Sophie's big crush. While it's a legitimate last name, "Flushman" immediately prejudices the reader against him and, given the negative opinions of her best friends and later, Jacob's own actions (including repeatedly manipulating Sophie into cheating for him), the reader never develops the least amount of sympathy for him, and Sophie's lingering crush makes her appear clueless and not a little pathetic. (Speaking of names, when Sophie transfers from one class to another, she goes from having quirky Mr. Steinberg as a teacher to having Mrs. Stein. Sure, that could happen, but it would have been better to have more cleanly separated the oddball from the normal teacher by giving the latter her own name. As it was, I was expecting Mrs. Stein to have her own set of loopy idiosyncrasies.)

Overall though, and strictly as a young teen romance, *Sophie's Secret* does fairly well. It's lightweight yet still has several satisfying tender moments (like the gradual thawing of Sophie's relationship with her sister and the resolution of Mrs. Stein's problem). Not being a big fan of Sophie's two best friends, the other girls with supernatural powers, I might not read the sequels (*Don't Tell Mother* and *Krysta's Curse*), but I would recommend *Sophie's Secret* as a way to pass a few pleasant hours.

A final comment: The cover for this book (and its sequels) was designed by the author herself. It is very attractive and far nicer than most self-published works. In fact, it turns out that Tamra Westberry (the author's cover artist name) is quite an accomplished designer with dozens of book covers to her credit. Visit her website to take a look through her galleries or to have her design your book's cover: www.tarawest.com.

Nour Sharif says

Okay, I get it. The book is supposed to reflect a reality that we have in our highschools and which make me hate highschool A LOT (more than I already hate it), then why would I want to read a book that talks about that - during my vacation - that would remind me of how much I fucking hate highschool? Well, I guess that means it is my problem and I shouldn't be rating the book so low if I have problems right? But people don't escape reality into books just to read more about it, especially into paranormal books like this one. People escape reality to read so they won't be reminded TOO much about it. Let's face it, I don't like to read books that don't have that realistic side, but seriously, this book was too much. It just drove me crazy.

First of all - the slut shaming.

Apparently, these kids think that sleeping with a guy qualifies a girl to become a slut while the guy can fool around all he wants and gets cheers from his friends. This has GOT to stop. And I don't think that putting this slut shaming in a young adult book helps at all. People have to refuse the idea that sleeping with a guy makes the girl a slut. It is none of anybody's business. If she wants to sleep with someone, it is her fucking vagina and then it is her business. NOT YOURS.

Second - the sexism, and the gender issue.

"A girl shouldn't be on a football field" Seriously? I said it before, and I will say it now. These things have GOT TO stop and putting it in a young adult book (meaning it is designed for teenagers) does NOT help at all with this issue. It only encourages it. And trust me, everyone within my age range who drools over young adult books (I do not drool over YA books, except maybe the pretty covers) is NOT mature enough or responsible enough to know that these things are wrong. He/she might go and do that in their community. The gender issue? Well let's see, if a girl has a rough voice and short hair then her gender is not known anymore? That she isn't feminine enough for everyone? That you fucking need to go around labeling her as "he" or "it" ? Seriously? How does that fucking help? Being like that is NOT wrong. not everyone should just rise up to our twisted society's standards.

Third - the confidence issue, and the revenge.

So Sophie is a girl facing a confidence issue whose friend AJ always has to defend her and stand up to her, but I fail to see why getting back at someone is her way of getting over her fear. What she did was loooooow. Very **LOW**. Instead of teaching kids that they have to stand up for themselves, you are teaching teenagers that it is better to avenge and to stoop low towards your aggressor's level? ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME? Instead of teaching them to defend themselves, you tell them to fucking throw the first punch and deal with the consequences later? LOL YOLO, right? Is that how you make a person responsible? Is that how you shape a kid? I know that life is full of disappointment and getting back at someone tastes really good but there are better ways than what she did. She was right, and now she becomes the wrong one.

Throughout the book, Sophie only wants to become "popular" and "cool" and that's how the book ends, with Sophie getting what she wants. Seriously? That's your advice for teenagers? That you should aim high for popularity? I fail to see where that will lead her. Only a huge social life with her grades going low because she has no time, only time to fucking fix herself, and go out with people who won't remember her when she's in need.

Fourth - The fat issue, and the you-are-fucking-wrong-if-you-think-that-you-should-be-yourself issue.

This is just like the slut shaming. The author is only trying to teach kids that being herself IS WRONG. That she needs to dump a lot of what she herself is to stand up to people's expectations, and to be noticed. Okay, maybe losing weight is good. Less diseases bla bla bla. but putting this one aside, I fail to see how not being herself can really help her. It would just MAKE HER FAKE! And if you are a mother, would you want your

child to become FAKE? Seriously? You told her to lose every part of who she is - even if Frankie complimented her on being her later (which wasn't actually her anymore) - just to be able to be noticed and rise on the food chain. Is that what you want to teach your kids? She highlighted her hair at this young age - which I would never approve of especially for my own children - she lost weight, changed her dressing habits, wore lots of make up to hide a bruise that she got for not paying attention to the ball (NOT HER FAULT), and eventually, wait... where is the point of the book? That popularity is better? That trying to be "cool" is better? Let us see how that will shape Sophie in the future, how much a better person that will make her in 10 years time. Okay, Sophie is a character that doesn't exist, but any idiot reading this book and working by it (since teenagers today are really stupid) will fail to have a proper future. Okay, I am probably blaming the author too much... but seriously. After all of that venting, I think I have rated the book a bit too much.

Oh, and the writing style sucks as hell. Too lame.

Jessy says

I pretty much love this book. It's about a girl named Sophie who can read minds. She spends most of her time with her friends who have gifts too, AJ can see visions and Krysta gets visits from the dead. After losing 30 pounds Sophie wants to reinvent herself for her crush, Jacob. After watching her sister make a mistake by dating Chad and after her friend told her that he wasn't right for her she finally forgot about Jacob and moved on to Frankie. In the end she goes with him to a dance where they kiss. The only problem I found in this book is that the ending was extremely predictable. I didn't see many twists and turns that took me by surprise. But over all, this is a great book for pre-teens, teens, and anyone who likes happy endings.

Tracy Ehlers says

What a great teen read.. The author wrote a realistic and believable story about 3 teenage girls and their secrets.. Although the secrets are in the fantasy/ paranormal genre, The author was still able to write with awesome details about the life of a teenage girl her bff's the highs and lows of High school, not to forget the HOTTIE, the Nottie or the Snottie...

I enjoyed that the author didn't just write about the normal teenage angst but actually included some great morals (things I want my daughter to learn).

A fantastic quick read that has left me wanting more.. S+F = more please...
Would recommend this book to all fans teen and adult alike..

***?❁❁ Maki ❁❁?* says**

I thought I would like this book a lot more than I actually did. It just didn't sit right with me.

For starters, the main characters have magical powers (telepathy, foresight, and the ability to see ghosts), but they don't control when their powers activate. Granted, over the course of the book they sort of grow into their powers and gain more control over them, but accidental telepathy?

I didn't like a single character in this book. They were all terrible people. Even Sophie, who's supposed to be the character we're rooting for. She gets bullied by the most popular girl in school, so her reaction to make everything right is to one-up that bullying. It didn't even feel like vindication. It just felt mean.

The depressed teacher should clearly have been in some sort of therapy. It doesn't take mind-reading powers to know when someone is depressed. Any human with any amount of empathy should be able to notice when a person is that depressed. But nobody stops to ask her what's wrong, or if she needs help. And the solution to all of her problems is not to ask the teacher to get help dealing with the death of her family, but to throw more responsibility on her in the form of a pregnant college student. Because stress is exactly what severely depressed people need!

The one thing I liked about this book was the relationship between Sophie and Frankie. Frankie might actually be the only character I didn't want to bludgeon. He was incredibly mature for only being 14-years-old, and was able to recognize the effort Sophie put into changing her image. However, even THAT doesn't matter. The book ends, and the very first chapter of the next one you're given as a preview completely obliterates anything that might have been built towards Frankie making Sophie a better person. So much for that.

I understand what this book was *trying* to do...it just kinda failed at that. Completely. This book doesn't show kids how to be understanding about others' differences. How can it, when all of the "different" characters (Mr. "Pick-and-Flick", "the Beast", etc...) spend the entire book being ridiculed by the main character herself?

Kenechi Udogu says

True rating - 2.5

I hate to give this book a poor rating especially when the idea is pretty good but I couldn't lie to myself and say I liked it. The characters were so fickle, it was worrying at times. When Sophie inferred that she was better than someone in her school because her parents didn't work at KMart, then went on to call Tyler a beast (especially after Sophie had been bullied before for being overweight), I prayed West would write some redeeming qualities for the girls but this never happened. Real shame though because, as I said before, the idea was good and a lot of the scenes were sweet and made me smile. I just couldn't get over how obsessed they were with being pretty or how awful they were about other people. Also some explanation about how three friends could develop visions, mind reading abilities and ghost seeing powers out of nowhere (thankfully not all the same person) would have been good.

Leanne says

Just read this today. There is a story there but I'm still waiting for something to happen! When I finished it, I was left wondering was that it? Not sure if I'll move onto the second book!

Wanda Hartzenberg says

The plot moves fast and smooth and that is a major plus for the story.

However...

Most of the book is written to establish the characters for the rest of the series, nothing wrong with that.

However....

Sophie at times together with her friends seems mean. In fleshing them out they come across as bratty.

This is not continual and in fiction it is a given that three girls with powers will end up in the same town, school and be bff's.

Their personal dramas is the pivot point of this book and at times I would have preferred more bang and less drama.

The way the story is written though I am convinced that the rest of the series will produce exactly that!

WaAr

Mandy says

I really like this book. I finished this book within two days. I love how the author engaged me into the story. There are moments in the story where I was like, why, Sophie, why, that's just stupid! Being able to make the reader feel something, even if it's anger, is an achievement for the author. I feel that as the story reaches its climax and turning point, Sophie started to learn what is important and to be able act rightly. I love that the ending turned out to be perfectly romantic as I like it to be. One point that I dislike about this book is when Sophie turned around and said was being mean to Jacob. Sophie could just treat Jacob as normal, and just stop cheating for him, and not say the mean things about him, or tease him.

Jodi Brooks says

I highly recommend this series of books.

In Sophie's Secret, we meet Sophie, her two best friends AJ and Krysta, her major crush Jacob, who turns out to be a jerk and her new love Frankie, which takes her a while to realize she really like him, more than she knows or thought.

Sophie has telepathic powers, while AJ has foresight and Krysta can see ghosts. The girls powers are secret and only they know of each other powers and they are growing stronger.

The scene is set in junior high school. With Sophie having trouble with a bully, boys, teachers, self esteem and all that goes along with a 14 yr old girl and junior high.

It is well written and makes you read and keep reading to find out what happens around every corner.

New fiends, New crushes, New enemies, standing up for oneself, growing confidence, sisterly love, motherly love, jealousy and more.

This is book 1 in the series of Whispers with "Don't Tell Mother" Book 2, Krysta's Curse book 3, Visions of a Witch Book 4 and Sophie's Secret Crush Book 5.

These are great books for teens and young and old adults alike. Some laughs and some sadness in this well written book.

I highly recommend this as a great any time read.

Tara West is an awesome writer and she leaves you wanting more and needing more.

Heather andrews says

So Frankie, he's a character I loved him was totally Team Frankie through out the whole book, did I like Jacob no, so let's focus on Frankie and how much I was Team Frankie. "Don't worry about him." He winked and handed back the bottle. "He'll get over it." Why was I not Team Jacob you ask well let's see him wanting Sophie to do his test is a no-no that is totally a turn off, "Use my pen if you need to change anything. Try not to write like a girl." What an a** right? Now let's talk about Sophie's sister, would I give up my room for mine that is a hell to the no people, "Yeah. I have to give up my bedroom." No I wouldn't do it, I would say suffer. I like when Sophie starts questioning certain feelings for certain boys it shows that the girl does have a brain and can I don't know make smart decisions, "I quickly pulled my hand away and arched back. I saw why so many girls had fallen for Frankie Salas. The boy was magic, pure magic." Also Sophie has a temper and I truly enjoyed watching her crack and break when it came time, "Not my concern?" I couldn't contain the bitterness in my voice. "I gave up my room. She wakes me up all night with her bladder. I can't even do my homework in peace! And this is none of my concern." Frankie really got brownie points in a certain scene, "Frankie has the hots for you. He was the first one to get to you when you were hit." I really did like this book.

Amy says

Although it was mostly written well, some bits didn't seem to make sense. It's like West just wanted more words. Things Sophie wouldn't know, such as the fact AJ (halfway through the book) swore when she put the phone down crop up. And it's from her point of view.

I can't put my finger on what was lacking in characterization. I really did expect the gifts to have more of an impact on their characterization & to play quite a part. Maybe I was expecting tons of action? I didn't get it. It's a real example of a book that is passive for more than half of it. I do love Lara though...

The second half does redeem the book & I shall read the other Whispers books because I think the action won't be quite as belated in them! Bring on a stunning climax (or two)!

Jenna says

2.5 stars

Sophie Senora en her Buff's all have a gift they don't know how it works or how they got it.

Now Sophie has lost 30 pounds and but she still feels like she's overweight.

Sophie sometimes get's glances off people thoughts, she can't control who she hears and lately her gift is developing.

She is in love with Jacob but he wants her to cheat on the tests for him. Is he really that nice?

This was an o.k. I feel that the paranormal aspect could have been more worked out. More special just more. The characters were kind off plain, yes they have lots of emotion but I still didn't feel it.

Jailen Bernier says

Sophies Secret by Tara West is about a girl named Sophie who over the summer she lost 30 pounds of baby fat and became pretty but her and her two bffs AJ and Krysta have more problems she can read minds and her friends can see in to the furture and the othr one can see dead spirtes..She likes this guy named jacob but he doesn't like her back and he makes her cheat on tests for him. But finnaly she relizes what he's doing and puts a stop to it and then in her algebra class she doesn't get the equtions so the teacher has the hottest guy in school toter her and he falls in love wit her and he invites her to the dance and she excepts.so they go together. I really liked this book because there's romance in it and I would recommend this book because its a good book.

Richard Sommary-Gade says

This is a great coming of age book for young adults. It deals with all the problems that kids making the transition from grade school to high school encounter especially if they are the youngest member of the family of high achieving girls, who have gone on to be both popular and successful in school and work. Daunting enough in those things alone, but add a weight problem during middle school with the attendant name calling, it's enough to make it an almost impossible mountain to climb, even though you have turned into a swan in the transition.

Even though our heroine has special talents that her steadfast friends enjoy as well, all of them have troubled home lives which shows that these extra gifts are not, in and of themselves enough to overcome the trials of emerging into the adult world. A great book that is thoughtfully written, by someone who I believe has probably experienced the pain that is portrayed here so vividly. This would be a nice gift to any teenager who is struggling with the normal drama that life throughs at them, that they feel their parents simply wouldn't understand. 5 Stars in my book without any hesitation.
