



Sketchy

Olivia Samms

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Bea's life has been a mess ever since she got kicked out of private school and sent to rehab. Now clean, Bea is starting over at Packard High School, in a city shaken from two assaults on young women. The latest victim, Willa Pressman-the one who survived-doesn't remember a thing. But Bea has a disturbing new "skill": she can see-and then draw-images from other people's minds. And when she looks at Willa, Bea is shocked by what she sketches. Bea might be the only one who knows Willa's secrets-and who can take down the killer before he strikes again.

Sketchy Details

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Author : Olivia Samms

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From Reader Review Sketchy for online ebook

Emma Lohman says

Pros:

I appreciate good stalker murder mysteries. If you were wondering, this is not a reflection of my other pastimes.

Finally, a mixed-race heroine that puts an emphasis on her being mixed race. I've been waiting for that to happen.

And a gay supporting character. I've been reading about overly perfect straight white people for far too long. I think the mind-reading/drawing skill is very original. Points for that.

I don't know if I should be happy or sad that the main character's name is Beatrice. At least it's not a Lily, Sara, Katie, Haley, or any other stereotypical name you could come up with.

Cons:

Are there any books where the recovered addict DOESN'T fall in love with their recovery group? It seems whenever I read about that situation, the character goes from hating the tackiness to reveling in its cheesiness in 3.5 seconds. Is that realistic?

I wish the book was a bit longer and more detailed. The reason I didn't like it more was because the other didn't seem to go into as much detail as I would have liked, and didn't fully succeed in meshing her past with the present. Plus, Agatha happens and she doesn't seem to focus on it at all. Not very fluid.

Wybredna says

Instrukcja rysowania portretu psychologicznego mordercy.

Czyli zapraszam na recenzj? ksi??ki "Szkic"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTrf8...>

Bianca says

I don't know why but I just couldn't put this book down. It was not the perfect novel, but I think the humanness of the novel was what drew me in. This book approached people as they really are when faced with life, flawed. Every character was flawed and in that sense they were perfect. Samms in her first book captured what life is really like, what family is like, and what humans are like. No character in this novel overcame their challenges without trouble. Bea struggled with her obstacle of addiction and Willa struggled with facing the truth. Bea was a character realistic and yet fantastical. She was the hero who had a kryptonite, addiction. I think what makes her so interesting is somehow Samms made Bea live, live like non-fiction people. Bea's family is another wonderful example of how Samms perfectly infused humanness into the

story. Raw but real, Bea's family is one that argues, cries, and struggles but is loving and caring. This was a family that I could see existing in real life. Altogether, the mystery played more of a backdrop to the characters. I can't wait for the sequel and hopefully more of Samms' wonderfully real characters.

Faye, la Patata says

Olivia Samms Bares It All! Check out my blog for my interview with the person behind Sketchy. Such an honest, fun woman! Get a chance to know her [HERE!](#)

I am giving away a copy of this book on the blog. Join now and get a chance to win!

An ARC was provided by the author in exchange for a thoughtful and honest review. This, in no way, influenced my opinion re: this book.

A few words first: **this book is made up of pure, utter amazeballs. And awesomesauce. Damn, son.**

When I first read the synopsis of this book, I felt this fire and craving within my heart commanding me to read it as soon as I can. I mean, dude - an ability that allows you to draw the images from other people's minds?! Holy hell, sign me up, s'il vous plaît! I was interested in interviewing Olivia Samms, the author of this lovely novel, and she generously gave me an ARC of this. Needless to say, I was ecstatic. You can pretty much tell that I quickly dove in and devoured this baby in 3 sittings (it could've been finished in one if only there were no distractions >.<). Ladies and gentlemen, I fell in love with it hook, line, and sinker.

Bea, the main character, is not only full of spunk, she's also fun to read

Bea is a girl who used to be someone a lot of us would want to get away from - an alcoholic, a drug addict, an intense party-goer... pretty much someone who could've gotten into the Bad Girls Club effortlessly. But after certain circumstances, she's changed - for the better. For three months now, she's been clean - nada in her system, but her past comes with a lot of unfortunate and unwanted consequences. She's shunned by her peers - her ex-best friend included -, her parents become a bit cautious and wary when it comes to her, temptations come to seduce her every now and then, and worse, she suddenly has this ability to draw the truth from other people. What's a girl to do, right?

Truth be told, I love how the heroine was portrayed. While it may be true that she has a lot of flaws and things to be ashamed of, it was her courage and determination to make a change that made her so endearing. We see her struggle not only with herself, but with other people, too, and it was a journey that I found myself fascinated with. While the high school drama involved may have been quite unrealistic (but then again, I've never seen anything like that in schools where I live), it was still a pleasure to read a girl that has a lot of spunk while at the same time going "Eff you, biatches" to those who dare insult and gossip about her. I was there with her all the way through thick and thin, cheering, "Go, Bea!" You may find her doing questionable things (which aren't really what they are further in the storyline!), but you appreciate the things she does out of good intentions, and this, I believe, makes her such a wonderful heroine. Right now, I am definitely looking forward to how more her character will grow in the succeeding books.

The ability Bea unlocked is pretty sweet, too!

As I previously stated before, Bea's newfound power is hella cool. It's something I'd definitely love to have

myself! This skill of hers gave the book an intriguing and thrilling touch, where we become enthralled into an exciting mystery whodunit episode. Girls are disappearing and then found dead, and it would seem that Bea holds the key to solving the missing piece of the puzzle. The book is filled with a lot of fun twists and turns, with a nicely done written escalation and build-up of events.

Parents are present!

I remember ranting sometime ago that there's this trend in YA fiction where parents are oftentimes absent. They're either not there because they're dead, alcoholics (and therefore too high up there to even bother with the kid), workaholics (and therefore has no time to interact with kids), or are out of town because of business matters or, heck, because they're on a honeymoon trip. I assumed two things: a.) there are no parents present because it gives the main character an excuse to do whatever they want conveniently; and b.) the writers are too lazy and/or are trying to avoid to write child-parent relationships. Which makes me a sad potato, because in my opinion, making a great storyline while also incorporating such an important factor present in the teen's life is an indicator of an awesome writer.

And once again, truth be told, I wasn't expecting to see any parent-child relationship once more here, so imagine my *very pleasant* surprise when I saw there was one - and Ms. Olivia Samms wrote it very, very well. I think this is what I appreciated the most in the storyline - a mother and father's love for their children that knows no boundaries, their acceptance of what their child used to be and an eagerness to see what they will become in the future, their desire to protect you from all that is harmful, their yearning to give you the best in life - these are the things that I definitely love reading about, because honestly, such messages are not oftentimes seen in real life AND in YA fiction nowadays. So, yes, bravo, Ms. Olivia Samms! :)

The romance at the end was so... <3 <3 <3

Don't you just love a romance where you don't need to say "I love you" to let the other person know you do? That a gesture here and there like an eye contact, a brush of the hand, and a knowing smile will simply say it for you? Ever found yourself looking for a romance that isn't there, and then BAM! the ending gives you one that totally makes your heart fly to the clouds with the butterflies? I won't spoil you what it is, but it's definitely something I *am* super looking forward to. Please bring the next book already!

There's one setback, though...

I only regret that there weren't enough internal narration. While it was already good, I wanted to know more of Bea's thoughts. I also regret it wasn't longer, because it could've been dragged out a little more, resulting to a 'rushed' feeling. It was still very, very good, though! Here's to me hoping more surprises, and longer books will be waiting for us! ^.^

All in all, this is a book to keep an eye on come April 30. You definitely won't want to miss this riveting and thrilling episode of a teenager whose newfound power allows her to finally not only make a difference in her life, but in the lives of other people as well.

Christal (Badass Book Reviews) says

See this review and others like it at BadassBookReviews.com!

3.5 stars - **Sketchy** by Olivia Samms didn't quite knock it out of the park for me, but I did think it was a promising beginning. Bea was a likeable character and Ms. Samms' writing drew you into her world and made you care about the people in it. I look forward to more of Bea's adventures and watching her develop her gift.

Beatrice "Bea" Washington is a recovering addict, teenager, and artist. She is trying to restart her life after a stint in rehab, but is having a hard time fitting in at home and at her new school. She has always been an accomplished artist, but now that her head is clear, she has developed the ability to draw what people are thinking. When a serial killer begins abducting local girls, Bea finds herself drawn into the investigation when she draws the killer's face from the mind of his only surviving victim, Willa. With Willa unwilling to identify him, Bea must find a way to bring the killer to justice on her own.

I really liked Bea's character. She was funny, with a very distinctive voice. She was strong, but had her faults and struggles like everyone else. She could get a little whiny sometimes, especially at times when her parents questioned her about any recent drug use, but it did fit in with her being a teenager. I thought her gift was unique, as I don't think I have seen that idea used in a book before. Bea had a very well-developed and interesting background and I can't wait to see how she continues to develop and learns to live with her addictions.

The supporting characters in this book were pretty fab. Bea's artist parents were kooky and dysfunctional, but you could see the love and concern they have for one another. I absolutely loved her best friend, Chris. He was fantastic and just oh so funny. There is one scene in Bea's bedroom that is just beyond hilarious. I hope we get even more of him in the next book. The only character I didn't really buy was the detective. He was very nice and understanding of Bea, but he is just too much older than her for even a hint of romance to not feel icky.

The plot was interesting, if a bit predictable, and very quickly paced. I liked seeing Bea's attempts to adapt to her new life intermixed with the mystery aspects. The killer's identity was pretty easy to figure out, but his motivation behind the murders was a high point of the story. I liked how Ms. Samms was able to incorporate multiple art disciplines throughout the novel in a way that felt very organic. I also enjoyed seeing aspects of Bea's previous life and how she fell into drugs and alcohol. Many parts of the story were very dark and concerned some adult situations. Because of this, I think this novel is best suited for an older YA crowd.

Sketchy had some really great elements and a nice, clean writing style. It was a solid beginning to this new series and I am looking forward to more adventures in the Bea Catcher Chronicles. (Cute series name, right?!)

Thank you to Netgalley and Amazon Children's Publishing for providing an ARC copy of this book!

Chris Mclean says

Really glad that this is the first book in a series, because I like it so much!

Bea is a former druggie who has an unusual problem: when she listens to someone while sketching, she is able to uncover their secrets in an illustrated form. Right now she is trying to fit into a new high school at the same time she and others from her high school are reeling from a series of rapes and a murder. Bea is able to see a lot of what happened, but not everyone appreciates her help.

Bea's family seems realistic: they are dealing with a child who just got out of rehab and they are suspicious of her actions. They love her and they want to keep her healthy.

There are enough threads that are still loose to make this a great series.

Not a good book for immature young adult readers...there is rape, a homosexual character, drug use and lots of language that may be inappropriate. This is the kind of book that I would have loved when I was in 8th grade. Any teacher who want to share this story should know her readers' maturity levels.

Amanda says

I was thrilled to win this book as part of a first reads giveaway. This sounded right up my alley. Whenever anyone asks me what supernatural power I would like, often my answer is something along the lines of to be able to read minds. I checked the mail everyday for weeks and it never showed up. Never pressing the "I received this book" button prevented me from ever winning another Goodreads giveaway. Because hey guess what, there is no other option. It just left me pissed off because i got all excited for nothing. I would never read this book now.

Shay says

I was initially happy to see a young adult novel with a mixed race protagonist and a gay secondary character, but Samms' treatment of the characters quickly demolished any enjoyment. She repeatedly refers to Bea's "nappy" African American hair, and casually uses the term "tranny" not once, but twice. In the first instance, Bea describes her gay friend as a "tranny" for wanting to check out her closet, which almost caused me to set down the novel then and there. [Read More](#)

Haley says

4/24/2014

The pros:

- *Bea isn't a standard female, YA protagonist.* She was a serious druggie, has a black father and an Italian mother, and she isn't a virgin. And, so far, she's not cowed by anything. She does what she wants.
- *Bea's fashion sense.* There's sometimes just a little too much reminding how retro her clothes are, but I love the fact that they're retro and mismatched and kinda crazy.
- *The plot.* Her power? So far, so cool.
- *The mystery.* I love a good mystery, and rape and murder as a backdrop to a story about a girl coming into her powers is being very well handled. The author and the characters aren't just brushing off what's going on as nothing, and the characters aren't unaffected by the tragedy.

The cons (these may become subject to change as the story goes, but currently this outnumbers the *pros* list):

- *Gay best friend already.* Let's be clear—I have *nothing* against gay best friends. When done right, they're usually my favorite characters. But a lot of YA?NA authors I've read recently feel the need to stick a gay "BFF" in with the heroine. I don't know if that's to try and stop too much masculinity from overshadowing the heroine (which is stupid), because gay guys are fun to write (not a great reason, but understandable), or because authors think a guy and girl can't be friends and straight without eventually having to jump each other (also stupid, but even that route would be more interesting in my opinion), but either way I'd like to see that handled differently. (*Except for Just One Day, in which I think the gay friend was masterfully handled, ie his gayness was not the driving feature of his character*)

- *Bea is crazy judgmental.* She got off-her-face trashed, went to rehab, kicked out of her private school, but she hasn't had a single positive reaction to the sight of anyone. The people in AA with her? Unkempt losers. The kids at her school? Stereotypical douchebags. Her parents? Too overprotective/concerned/strict. Well, Bea, you aren't exactly golden yourself so far, so tone it down.

- *The "teen" language in this.* It feels a little too much like someone writing how they think high schoolers think and talk and it's a bit much. The high school itself is a "penitentiary" from the day she walks in, with cafeteria food that's unrecognizable in its current state, and with tables of nicely segregated tables of "jocks, bros, stoners, pretty girls, nerds, and loners" that save her a nice empty table by the trash cans at which to eat alone while they all judge her for having been in rehab. Doesn't happen in real life. Then there's the way they treat gay Chris, kicking his backpack and calling him a "limp-wrist homo" and no one cares or steps in to stop it. This, by the way, from a jock (obviously) who, like the rest of his teammates does bleacher runs during lunch hour while chanting "hut hut hut". Also doesn't happen. People at my equally large high school were totally and completely chill with gay classmates. (*One year our one male cheerleader (and super nice but definitely gay) was homecoming king. Fred Phelps protested our school for it. THE WHOLE STUDENT BODY TURNED OUT TO PROTEST THEM IN RETURN. No exceptions based on cliques. Anyone at that school would have stopped anyone from being a blatant homophobe to his face.*) Since this whole book is centered around high schoolers, it's getting to be too much.

- *And I'm also pretty sure that all the instant judgment upon hearing Bea went to rehab is unrealistic.* Some judgment from some people? Oh yeah. Definitely. Everyone in school calling her "the druggie" (like she's the only one there whose done anything like that), everyone at a school of two thousand kids *knowing* about her stint in rehab, and the parents of her old best friend blacking her out of photographs AT THEIR DAUGHTER'S FUNERAL SLIDESHOW just because she got schwasted and hospitalized? I don't think so.

Considering my second "con" point, that all probably sounds highly judgmental of *me*. But I'm getting hung up on that while reading, and I had to say it. The book is by no means bad, however, and I am definitely going to finish.

Still 4/24/2014, but finished.

So not my favorite. I think I just had higher hopes for the depth of the characters and for the use of Bea's power and everything. And I'm sure that's explored further in the sequel(s), and honestly I do think I'm going to read those. So that's something, because while I may force myself to finish a bad book rarely will I chase down what comes next if it was truly terrible.

However, the cons still outweigh the pros. Let's go in reverse order this time, shall we?

The cons:

- *The ease with which Bea convinced Willa to try and identify the killer.* Willa had been ADAMANT that she knew nothing, that she would mess Bea up if Bea ever told anything she *did* know something, and that speaking out would ruin her completely. And while I definitely, definitely, like that she chose to go and to speak up and to use the knowledge she had to try and stop this guy from being able to hurt another girl, Bea got her to give it a go without meeting a lot of resistance.

- (view spoiler)

- *Bea's family dynamic made no sense to me.* I truly thought her parents were headed for a separation given the first half of the book, but then they one-eightied and totally had their acts together by the end, laughing and being lovely and not fighting. And while both felt fairly genuine, they didn't go together.

The pros:

- *Maria.* Loved her.

- *Chris.* So yeah, I'm tired of the gay best friend, but I loved Chris and thought he was probably the strongest character in the book.

- *The pacing.* This mystery did not drag on and on and on, which was spectacular because it wasn't something that could have without serious consequences. It was all quick and on-point and kept you on your toes wanting to read more, but everything was still handled carefully and cleanly and given the content of the book that's saying a lot in favor of it.

- *Bea's character development.* I might not have thought there was a ton of character *depth* to be had, but I definitely think the characters developed as the book went on. Bea got much much much more tolerable, less judgmental, more determined and focused. Willa got a little stronger. Chris became more of a person than a stereotype, Bea's parents actually had some issues dealing with a rehabilitated daughter... So while I continued to have issue with a lot of the assumptions/stereotypes the book caved to (the pervy principal, the jackass jocks [I am not trying for alliteration], the stuck-up cheerleaders, the cop who won't even listen to a seventeen-year-old because he's the *po-lice* and knows best), many of those became okay because there was development.

The... I don't know:

- *Sergeant Daniels.* I definitely liked him. And I even like the idea of he and Bea; I think that could be awesome. But I could not get a grip on his age, so while I was picturing him at about 30, he was (I think) supposed to be much, much younger. Maybe 24 tops. And I didn't get that, not only because he didn't act young and fresh out of the police academy, but because he was often the one giving orders and he would have had to rise *fast* in the ranks to pull that off and still be young enough to like a high schooler and have it be chill.

(Note that I am someone who really likes books like student-teacher romances and oddly large age gaps, but THIS didn't feel like it was supposed to be that kind of book so that's why I couldn't make it work in my head.)

(I received a free copy of this book in the Goodreads First Reads giveaway)

Melissa Powell says

So I got this book from a giveaway on Goodreads. I have had it for a few weeks and really kept putting it off because I was unsure about it.

The cover description made me feel like there was going to be a lot going on, and the book just isn't that thick so I was worried about how the author was going to cover all the topics. So last night I picked this book up and read it cover to cover in four hours. It wasn't really the fact that I needed to finish because it was just that good but I knew if I sat it down without finishing it I might not pick it up again. Really the book is fine, the story is kind of catchy but it just doesn't sink its hooks in you like a suspense novel is supposed to.

I also just had tons of questions when I finished.

Why did Bea have to have the power?

Why did Bea have to be a recovering drug addict?

Why does Bea even care about helping Willa solve the case?

Why did Bea have to be in high school?

Those questions just made me not like the novel very much. It was a lot going on and I just felt like the story could have been told without a lot of the angles that were added, they weren't very relevant at all and didn't add to the overall outcome of the story.

The book is in the POV of our main character Bea; she is fresh out of rehab and only 3 months sober. Ever since she has cleaned up she has developed the power to draw the truth out of people literally. (Nice play on words) She is in a new school and there is also a killer/rapist on the loose. When she encounters the latest victim, a cheerleader that has survived her attack, she sees glimpses of the killer in the girls mind and now after seeing him she is on a hunt to find the killer no matter what the cost.

Okay so let's go over some of my questions in lengthier detail.

Why did Bea have to have the power?

So Bea has suddenly started realizing that she has this power to draw thoughts from people's minds. She just gets flashes and then she is forced to draw, this gives her headaches and she passes out a few times from it. Okay so my biggest problem is I just don't think that she needed the power to solve this case. She draws this guy because of something she sees in Willa's mind but it's not like she couldn't have drawn the same person from the description that Willa gives her verbally. (Plus the cops straight out tell her that they would have been able to use a sketch artist to draw the killer but Willa will not admit to remembering anything) It's just a matter of her connecting with Willa in the first place, but that could have been made possible in tons of other ways that would have made more sense than Bea having this Power. There is just not really any reason that she needs this power, it kind of takes away from the overall story because it's just not described in enough detail or use significantly enough to truly be valuable to the readers. For me I hope that she uses this so called power more in the sequel otherwise it's just seems like it is something the author used to get people to buy the book.

Why did Bea have to be a recovering drug addict?

So just like the power I just find this to be so irrelevant and really under developed characterization. We are supposed to believe that Bea just got out of rehab and is having a difficult time being sober. I don't see it that way at all; she doesn't seem to struggle with the drugs at all. She is a compulsive liar that is true but as for a drug addict she doesn't act like any drug addict I have ever met. Plus again this just doesn't do anything for

the storyline. If maybe she would have met the killer at a meeting then started talking to him then ba-bam he would have drawn her into his craziness nearly killing her that would have made her becoming a recovering addict more relevant but really it does nothing. It just gives her parents a good reason not to trust her. But really do parents need a reason to not trust a seventeen-year-old? If this would have been tied in better and more developed it may have been okay but really I just don't see how it related to the story.

Why does Bea even care about helping Willa?

Willa is a bitch! And really she is just pathetic; she needed to learn how to help herself. I don't feel bad for Willa and that is again just a writing issue, I feel like if this had been written differently I would have cared about Willa but it just didn't work. Also I feel like if something had happened to Bea personally it would have made more sense that she was so obsessed with finding the killer. I know that supposedly she feels like she could have stopped the whole thing because of something that had happened when she was tripping out but I just feel like if the killer had been a bigger threat to her throughout the whole novel it would have created some suspense. I just wish Willa would have been likable because then I would have seen why Bea wanted to help her.

Why do Bea and the girls being attacked have to be in high school?

Okay so I get that this is probably because of the whole parental thing. But it just makes so much more sense for this to be set up in the college. My whole point is full of spoilers, plus don't hit to read on unless you're okay with knowing who the killer is because I am going to rant about it. (view spoiler)

Those were my main thoughts while reading but there was a lot more. I just found for a story that should have been suspenseful this book was rather dry. I guess the biggest thing that was a kill joy for me was that there isn't really a love story, come on I need a love story to be interested. Over all for the whole book in general I wish there would have been more detail, I think that everything that bothered me about the book was just because it wasn't explained enough for me to think it was relevant to the overall storyline.

I hope that the next book will be a little bit longer and The Power that Bea has will be described to a great extent so I actually believe that it is worth something to the story. However this book wasn't horrible and is a really fast read; so I guess if you like giving new authors a try maybe you want to read this book.

Heidi says

Three and a half stars: An engaging dark YA thriller.

Exasperated, Bea waits for the urine stick to turn color and reveal to her weary mother that she is indeed still clean and sober after three months. Bea just recently returned home after a stint in rehab. She is picking up the pieces and reentering her life. However, she is not attending her former all girls school, instead she is enrolled at the local public high school. Bea knows that her bushy chia type hair and reputation will leave her on the outside of the popular social circles. No matter, she meets up again with Chris, a former acquaintance, and they strike up a solid friendship. Just when Bea thinks her life will be normal, her strange artistic talent rears its head. Bea can inexplicably draw what is in other people's thoughts. Once she captures and draws a face from Willa's mind, Bea knows she must do something. Willa, the popular Queen Bee, was

recently raped and left for dead. Bea is convinced that her drawing is the face of a killer, but who is going to believe her especially since she is a former drug user?

What I Liked:

*I was pleased to find that I enjoyed Bea's character. Granted, Bea is no angel. She is a recovering substance abuser and she is unrefined, snarky and rebellious. Even though she is rough around the edges and lacks polish, she is a lot of fun. I liked her funny commentary and I appreciated her courage and strength as she fought to overcome her addiction. Add her in her unique artistic talent and you have an entertaining and memorable character. Not to mention her chia pet hair and penchant for thrift shop clothes. Bea is one of those characters that will stick with me as I very much enjoyed her voice.

*I appreciated that the author is not afraid to tackle some very tough subject matter. There is no glossing over the dark stuff in this one. There are plenty of references to drug use, and it is very revealing as far as the depths that one can sink and the tough road one must follow on the way back. I appreciated going on the journey with Bea and seeing how she had to fight every single day to stay clean and sober. This is a good reminder of the dangers of drugs. I loved the way the author pointed out in the book that drug users can and do come from all types of life. Don't get caught up in the stereotypes for drug users because a substance abuser can be anyone, even the popular, smart kids. While the drug use and recovery are an important part of the story, they are not the main focus, so don't shy away from this thinking is a book about the dangers of drugs, it is much more than that.

*This book has an intriguing little mystery. Bea inadvertently finds herself caught up in a murder mystery once she accesses and draws the face of the rapist from Willa's thoughts. Girls are going missing and being murdered and Bea is the only one with a solid lead. I loved the suspense and the thrill as the mystery takes control of the plot.

*I loved that this book is a quick entertaining read with a focus on something other than your typical high school romance and such. This is an entertaining thriller with a heroine fighting to overcome substance abuse who has a special talent that helps track down a killer. If you are looking for a romance be warned there is not a romance in this one. I personally liked that this book did not have any romance. It is nice every once in awhile to not have a romance.

*I liked that there are a few drawings sprinkled throughout the book.

*I was pleased that this book came to a nice conclusion and that was not a cliffhanger!

And The Not So Much;

*While I loved Chris, I was a bit disappointed that his character was stereotypical. Chris fast becomes Bea's best friend. He is gay and he fits into that mold we see far too often in the YA genre. He is a girl's best friend, he is a bit flamboyant, he likes fashion and shopping, he is in the closet when it comes to his family, and he is everything you have come to know in the typical YA gay boy. How I wanted his character to move beyond that stereotype and be something different. I am tired of the gay boys being the girl's best friend and fellow shopping partner.

*There was a niggling thread that was left undone. There is a brief flashback in the book when Bea remembers a time when her father, a former artist, wanted to draw picture of Bea and her mother when Bea was little. For whatever reason, he crumpled the paper and refused to draw after that point. When Bea questions him, he doesn't answer and I was left wondering why did he stop drawing? Does he also possess some kind of talent like Bea?

*I completely enjoyed the fast and thrilling plot, but the ending with Bea and the showdown with the killer felt a little off. It was perhaps just me, but I thought the book kind of fell of course and I didn't like how that final confrontation played out. Basically, I was not expecting Bea to end up in that position. I thought perhaps she would utilize her new connection at the police department or Chris, especially when she grapples for the hand print drawing.

*Even though this book is labeled YA it is for mature readers only. There are several serious subjects in this one such as drug use, sex, rape and murder. It is definitely a darker read and is best suited for the older teens. Sketchy was a quick and entertaining YA thriller. It does have some dark content so it is best suited for older

readers. It features a likable main character who is overcoming substance abuse. I enjoyed the story and the characters and I would definitely like to read the next installment.

Favorite Quotations:

"Rule number three: stay away from the dudes in the shop class. They all have woodies!"

"Name-calling is worse than a broken bone----it can't be set in a cast and healed in six weeks. I would know. It hurts!"

Posted @Rainy Day Ramblings.

Erin Lynn says

Oh my goodness. I did not want to put this book down when I was reading it today. It's that good. It's almost like a drug, which is quite ironic because Bea is a recovering addict and alcoholic.

Anyways, *Sketchy* could definitely be a standalone novel, but it's not. It is a part of the *Bea Catcher* series. I can only hope that Samms next novel(s) in this series are just as great.

Bea has a gift. She can see what people are thinking, but only when she is drawing. This gift at first makes people think that she's insane and still using, but she finds ways to convince people that she is telling the truth. Eventually the thoughts she sees help redeem her bad reputation, and she is able to save the day.

I could totally see ABC Family or The CW adapting this into a television series. It's totally written that way. I would watch it.

Per regulation, I must state that I won this book through the Goodreads First Reads/Giveaway program.

Alex says

(1.5)

Krystle says

Here's a long overdue review. I'm so sorry for putting if off this long. I'm gonna get in and get out really fast for this. Short and to the point, maybe.

Things I liked:

o1. Bea's ability.

- I thought her drawing out the truth from people was really neat, new, and rather original. Her manic thoughts as this need overcomes her and as she goes through this process is fascinating to read and the

number one hook to this book. I think this is what will make people keep reading onwards in the narrative.

o2. Dealing with darker themes.

- Things such as alcohol addiction, drugs, teenage pregnancy, rape, murder, are all included in here. But I thought the focus on how Bea and her family deals with her alcohol and drug addiction was strong. Bea's constant struggle to deal with her desire to have something that's so bad for and her parents' constant worry, anger, desperation, and fear are all palpable, emotional, and realistic.

o3. The fast and quick pace.

- Reading through this book is a breeze. The chapters are short, actively further the plot without too much filler, and are usually packed with an interesting tidbit of information, action scene, or character/emotional development either with others or their own self-growth. It helps that the actual length of this book is short as well.

o4. The attempt at diversity.

- I appreciated that the author tried for diversity with having a mixed main character and a best friend who is gay. He does come off as being a token character but I'm happy that she at least gave him a halfway sort of life in the context of the story with his own personality. Down sides are that these are pretty much the only characters in this world that get much showtime.

Things I didn't like:

o1. The heavy emphasis on the “dark” themes.

- Okay, sure I commend the book for tackling some difficult subjects but, yet, at the same time I feel it was quite overdone. So much of the darker aspects of the story: drug dealing, addiction, murder, rape, sex, pregnancy, etc felt overdone and forced. Like the author was trying hard to make the book more distinct and edgy from other books that the end result felt more forced than anything.

- Yeah, sure, I do not doubt the fact that these issues do occur in real life but in such a short novel, there was just too much of it. Girls doing crack in the school bus while in middle school, having their own drug dealers and what not, and using sexual advances to get what they want just did not work cohesively with the story. It was very distracting to the core plot. Not to mention the whole tone that this story is written is probably better suited for a character who is in college versus her senior year in high school.

- Also, the constant use of foul, crude, and crass language bothered me quite a bit at times. It felt more there for shock and reaction and not very natural in the context of conversation.

o2. Trope-y elements.

- Okay, I'm tired of the “perfect, beautiful, but bitchy” popular girl as the ones who get the shit end of the stick in books. Could we do away with this overly used method to use as a marker of distinction (is that even a word?) between our normal, average, but yet somehow special main characters? I do not like the comparison it creates and creates a subtle antagonistic and competitive viewpoint in both the readers and characters. We do not need to continue this portrayal.

- The female-hate. Bea is an angry person, I get it, but it wouldn't hurt to help her foster positive relationships with other females of her age. I don't know why it's so popular nowadays to shun friendships of her own gender and focus mainly on the other.

o3. The unconvincing romance.

- For the majority of the book, Bea has no real romantic interests pursuing her, (okay there was that one guy but he's a bad seed which is made very obvious) and all of a sudden she has one. I'm sorry but the ending hints of the pairing for the next book is just not gonna do it for me. Sure he was very nice, patient, and supportive of her but really. There isn't many scenes of them together to establish much of a connection or personality. Not too mention the many other OBVIOUS variables that aren't even alluded to (age gap, imbalanced positions of status and power, his previous background relationship that have a constant and pressing effect on any relationship he has in the present and future).

Okay maybe this wasn't so short of a review but these are my thoughts. Some very good ideas and concepts in here that I think could've been developed from a different angle for better execution but this is a decent enough effort. I quite love Bea's ability though, I think it's really neat. There are some good scenes later on that kept me glued to the pages.

Very late but better late than never.

I want to thank Goodreads's First Reads program for sending me the book. I would never have heard of or read this book without them.

Charlie says

Sketchy by Olivia Samms is a winner! Finally, in a sea of awkward teen heroines, Bea stands out! Samms got it right when she imagined lead character, Bea, creating a truly unique girl. Bea is not your typical cookie cutter misfit. She is unapologetic but not glorified, flawed and saddled with a distinct voice, which maintains a consistent dialogue. Her reaction and actions clearly fit with the set up situations and behaviors. She's smart, chaotic, and a mess of sorts, but nothing is so over the top to make it unbelievable and by doing so, I believe a wide audience will be able to easily connect with the character. The support characters are also individually depicted and provide just enough for the mind to create a sharp image.

Sketchy is a perfect example of how character development enriches plot. It simply adds a dimension that elevates a good story to a great story. This one stuck with me because of the care obviously taken to maintain the honest tone, stay true to character development and the attention to detail. If a writer was to ask my advice on how to construct a misfit teen character that doesn't fall into the cliche culture we are being buried beneath, I would refer them to this particular book. The delineations are not huge, but just enough to separate it from the masses and own the originality.

Thematically and relevancy, the plot is multi-layered and takes on several topics/concerns without being overwhelming. Issues of drug abuse, recovery, and even rape are important elements, but they are delivered in a way that is neither too graphic or shocking. Using this approach does not diminish the seriousness, but rather approaches the subjects through a different form. I felt the heart of the issues, while at the same time being able to digest without shredding my sensitivities to abuse and rape.
