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Beware That Girl



Synopsis

For fans of *We Were Liars*, *Gone Girl*, and *The Girl on the Train* comes a powerful psychological thriller with a gripping pace and Hitchcockian twists. Set against the backdrop of New York City, this compelling novel delves into the dysfunctional yet mesmerizing world of the mega-wealthy elite and will keep readers guessing until the very last page. **• The Haves. The Have-Nots.** Kate O'Brien appears to be a Have-Not. Her whole life has been a series of setbacks she's had to snake her way out of—some more sinister than others. But she's determined to change all that. She's book-smart. She's street-smart. And she's also a masterful liar. As the scholarship student at the elite Waverly School in NYC, Kate has her work cut out for her: her plan is to climb the social ranks and land a spot at Yale. She's already found her “people” among the senior-class “it” girls—specifically in the cosseted, mega-wealthy yet deeply damaged Olivia Sumner. As for Olivia, she considers Kate the best friend she's always needed, the sister she never had. **•** When the handsome and whip-smart Mark Redkin joins the Waverly administration as head of fund-raising, he immediately charms his way into the faculty's and students' lives, becoming especially close to Olivia, a fact she's intent on keeping to herself. It becomes increasingly obvious that Redkin poses a threat to Kate, too, in a way she can't reveal—and can't afford to ignore. Mark has his own plan for a bright future and never doubts that he can pull it off. How close can Kate and Olivia get to him without having to share their dark pasts? **•** Combines a *Gossip Girl* milieu with the unsettled psychological terrain of *Gone Girl*. **•** PW **•** “It's smart, dark, entertaining, and unpredictable.” **•** Quill & Quire, Starred

Book Information

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Delacorte Press (May 31, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0553507907

ISBN-13: 978-0553507904

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.1 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 67 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #580,961 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #235 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Physical & Emotional Abuse #842 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Thrillers & Suspense #1544 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship

Customer Reviews

Gr 10 Up • Street smart and already world-weary, 17-year-old Kate is an admitted liar. She lies with the goal of one day attending Yale University, her dream school. As a new scholarship student at the prestigious Waverly School in New York, she relies heavily on her smarts, good looks, and experience to get by. Kate searches for a target, someone to befriend who has influence and money. She spots Olivia, a beautiful and rich girl who missed a year of school because of a mystery illness. Kate moves into Olivia's absent father's penthouse, with only a housekeeper as parental guidance. The friendship blossoms, until a mysterious man, Mark Redkin, enters their lives. The handsome Mark charms Olivia, but Kate senses that there is something terribly wrong. She discovers that he is a dangerous psychopath with a past as dark and carefully concealed as Kate's and Olivia's. Alternating chapters between the two teens keep the story fresh and make readers feel privy to secrets. Kate's tragic history is revealed with flashbacks. The plot develops at a steady pace until the game being played among all three characters finally blows up with tragedy and murder. In this book for older teens, the author skillfully reveals gritty and tantalizing details in meager bites, keeping readers captivated. VERDICT Complete with a disturbing yet satisfying conclusion, this is a must-have for teen fans of psychological thrillers such as Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*. •Mindy Hiatt, Salt Lake County Library Services

"Combines a *Gossip Girl* milieu with the unsettled psychological terrain of *Gone Girl*."--PW "Has all the makings of a crossover hit. It's smart, dark, entertaining, and unpredictable."--Quill & Quire, STARRED "A sharp narrative whose twists will demand an instant reread. Beware That Girl is a terrifying chess game, and Toten is the ultimate player."--National Reading Campaign (Canada) "A tense teen thriller."--Kirkus "The author skillfully reveals gritty and tantalizing details in meager bites, keeping readers captivated. A must-have for teen fans of psychological thrillers such as Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*."--SLJ "A solid page-turner with two compelling main characters. Readers will be absorbed by this gripping, sometimes disturbing drama."--The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

GRADE: A-ONE WORD: creepy (not scary creepy, psychologically creepy)Once upon a midnight dreary,while I pondered weak and wearyBEWARE THAT GIRL evokes the same chills I experience whenever I hear the first lines of Poe's The Raven. Although the stories are in no way similar, Teresa Toten's latest YA novel is that creepy good.Two damaged girls, the wealthy Olivia, returning for her senior year after an extended psychiatric hospitalization and scholarship student Kate, a self professed liar (and possibly worse) are a perfect storm of a dysfunctional friendship that can only end in tragedy. Add a creepy teacher/fundraiser and you've got a recipe for disaster.Told in Kate's first person POV and Olivia's third person, BEWARE THAT GIRL begins with one girl hospitalized, the other holding vigil and a cop with questions about the teacher. But which girl? And to which girl does the title refer?Toten pulled me in and didn't let go with her luscious prose. Can an admitted liar be a reliable narrator? I didn't know. Certainly Kate appeared sincere in her calculating, manipulative plans to achieve the prize, admission to Yale via a friendship with the fragile Olivia. I couldn't help to like and cheer for this unapologetic character. The cracks in her stoic facade and that she genuinely cared for Olivia made her rootable.I never got a true sense of Olivia until the last 10% of the story, but for the ending to work, that was planned. Do wish Toten had given more of each girl's psychiatric history, other than snippets and Olivia's brief report in the beginning. Seeing Kate's, even at the end would have been interesting. My favorite minor characters were Anka and Mrs Chen, and I also wish they had been more fleshed out.Although the plot was implausible, I was still drawn into the story and often felt as if the story could have been possible, due to Toten's writing. The end felt a bit rushed and confusing, which prevented me from giving BEWARE THAT GIRL five stars.This isn't a novel for everyone, judging by the reviews. I wasn't even certain I'd like it based on some of my favorite reviewers' lackluster comments. I'm going to reread BEWARE THAT GIRL this weekend, after I finish an ARC and I only reread books I truly enjoyed.

Seriously, save yourself some time and start reading in the middle. Everything important gets repeated. This felt more like young adult fiction and I wouldn't recommend it to actual adults.

I almost stopped reading this book before the halfway point. Rich private school girl befriends walking wounded scholarship student. Characterizations were as shallow as...well, the characters. Writing was okay but just okay. Plot seemed tedious. Mean girls fall for sexy administrator.Towards the middle the plot kicked in some more, the two girls developed some depth, and I began to care a little about what was going to happen to them. The ending was satisfying emotionally but way too

unlikely and unrealistic. The author seemed to just give up. Essentially the girls' plan had no chance of working and when it did, I felt cheated. This author apparently did no research whatsoever into police procedure or what would have been done and investigated in this situation. The denouement was unsatisfying as well, with no indication what was going to become of the girls. There seemed to be a hint that they were changing roles but if that is what it was, it was not enough for even a strong suggestion. Okay for a quick weekend read if you're bored, or perhaps for a young adult reader who is drawn to the lives of very rich, spoiled girls in private school.

I enjoyed the book but did not expect it to end when it did. The story kept my attention & kept getting better as it went along.

OMG! This is the best book I have read since "Girl on a Train". The ending was so unexpected; I did not suspect it at all. Book was so suspenseful, the method of going back and forth between characters is all too common but this really worked. Loved it!

This book is quite the thriller. There are lots of twists and turns. The character development is great, and you find yourself relating to some seriously troubled individuals. It was upset when it was over...

The book sucks you right in and keeps you guessing through the story. Strong young, female heroine captures your attention and the many layers keep you engaged through the quick read. Excellent for fans of young adult and Gillian Flynn.

The characters were comprised with layers of differing personalities, thoughts and emotions - calling upon them at will for each exciting and suspenseful scene to act accordingly.

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