



A Girl Named Digit

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Farrah "Digit" Higgins may be going to MIT in the fall, but this L.A. high school genius has left her geek self behind in another school district so she can blend in with the popular crowd at Santa Monica High and actually *enjoy* her senior year. But when Farrah, the daughter of a UCLA math professor, unknowingly cracks a terrorist group's number sequence, her laid-back senior year gets a lot more interesting. Soon she is personally investigating the case, on the run from terrorists, and faking her own kidnapping-- all while trying to convince a young, hot FBI agent to take her seriously. So much for blending in . . .

A Girl Named Digit Details

Date : Published June 5th 2012 by HMH Books for Young Readers (first published June 3rd 2012)

ISBN : 9780547668529

Author : Annabel Monaghan

Format : Hardcover 187 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Romance, Mystery, Contemporary, Spy Thriller, Espionage, Adventure

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From Reader Review A Girl Named Digit for online ebook

Briana Yanson says

The cover suggests that the story is going to be about a girl in school with the stereotype of a "nerd". It isn't like that at all though. Digit has the character strengths of critical thinking and social intelligence. She shows social intelligence when she thinks that popularity is important and she becomes a part of "The Fab Four" very quickly.

Laurence R. says

What a funny read!!

Robert Beveridge says

Annabelle Monaghan, **A Girl Named Digit** (Houghton Mifflin, 2012)

Full disclosure: this book was provided to me free of charge by Amazon Vine.

If you ever wanted a stark example of how small changes made by professionals can help a book, pick yourself up (assuming you can find one on Ebay or the like) an ARC of the book now known as *A Girl Named Digit*. Which isn't the most eye-catching title in the world, I know, but it towers over the title on the ARC: *Digit: She's Got Your Number*. Oh, good lord. That's vanity-publishing-level title, right there. That one simple change will probably at least triple this book's readership. Which in my estimation is a good thing—a very good thing indeed. I picked this up, I have to admit, because from the product description I expected it to be an easy, fluffy read—teen chick-lit, Jennifer Weiner meets *Spy Kids*. And the book in no way disappoints on that front; it's just as fluffy and easy-reading as I expected it to be, but Monaghan goes way above and beyond the call of genre fiction in a number of respects.

The Digit of the title is a high-school-aged math prodigy who has been keeping her light under a bushel in order to fit in with the crowd. It's working; she's part of the popular-girls clique, to the delight of her method-actress mother and the chagrin of her UCLA-math-professor father. She's not really all that interested in the latest heavy-teen-drama TV shows, but watches them in order to be able to discuss them over the cafeteria table with her pals. And that's how she notices, three weeks in a row, a series of numbers that flashes at the beginning of one of them that, when decoded, results in a cryptic message. She soon discovers what it means in the most tragic way possible, and as a result finds herself being chased by a murderous TV station employee right into the arms of a young, hunky FBI agent. (There's an undertone of sexuality in their relationship that is both entirely realistic and potentially bothersome to those people who believe pedophilia laws are there to stop couples where one person is one day over the age of consent and the other person is one day under. But then, if you're that person, please just stop reading my reviews altogether until you've reconnected with reality, thanks.) This leads to... well, it's a fluffy spy novel. You know what it leads to.

Yeah, plotwise it's exactly what I thought I was getting, and I have no problems with that whatsoever. If it really were as fluffy as it seems, I'd still be sitting here telling you I recommend it, whether you're a thirteen-year-old girl or a forty-year-old guy, because it's quick, it's easy, and it's a lot of fun. But Monaghan has a great deal more under the hood than that. Both Digit and John (the hunky FBI agent) are very well-drawn

characters who react intelligently to the world around them. Well, most of the time. And I can't get into the rest of the time without major spoilers, but since it's the crux of what I liked about the book, I'll have to dance around it. Even though Monaghan's setup for the novel's climax is utterly transparent and the denouement is as predictable as they come, by the time all this hits, you should be emotionally invested enough in these characters to actually care (and be kind of stunned by... that one's... utter stupidity despite the setup being so transparent even the characters can see it coming! which is actually kind of awesome, in a meta sort of way), because despite this being a book of less than two hundred pages, Monaghan has spent enough time building her characters' personalities that you *can* be that emotionally invested in them. Those TV shows Digit watches could take a few lessons from Monaghan.

The downside to all this is the the brevity of the novel coupled with Monaghan's taking the time to build characters that well is that the plot suffers occasionally. Points to Monaghan for having an ecoterrorist bad guy and not having them come off as misguided heroes (or just outright heroes), but the bad guys are just kind of nameless, faceless killers lurking in the shadows; we never get a bad guy we can really hate. Still, I wrote this off as it being a "cozy" (there are cozy mysteries, why can't there be cozy spy thrillers?) rather than it being a structural defect; your mileage may vary. One way or the other, though, I'm a big fan of this one, and I highly recommend it. ****

nick says

Read more of my reviews at Nick's Book Blog

A Girl Named Digit was one of my "Waiting On Wednesday" a few weeks ago. What initially attracted me to read the book was the cutesy cover and the interesting premise. Going into the book, I was expecting a light summery read and that's exactly what I got !

Farrah a.k.a Digit, is a Math prodigy. She is so obsessed with Math that she cannot help but find patterns in numbers wherever she goes. One afternoon when watching a TV show along with her friends, she notices a group of numbers appear on the screen and vanish. For the next 3 weeks, she notices it other sets of numbers. Soon after that, a terrorist group bomb the JFK airport and Digit realizes that the numbers she came across on the TV are somehow connected to the bombing. Along with her dad, she goes to inform the FBI, who don't take her seriously. Eventually, she decides to investigate the case herself, but when she finds her herself in the midst of danger, the FBI decide to fake her kidnapping and Digit finds herself with hot FBI hiding from the world.

Farrah was a very likable character. She was not only smart and brainy, she also had a very bubbly personality. You can't help but like her because she oozes happiness. What I liked most about her was how observant she was and she was the kind of character who thought about the consequences before taking any kind of decision. Her inner monologue was so hilarious at times that I found myself laughing uncontrollably. John Bennett, the hot FBI agent who was responsible of taking care of Farrah during her fake kidnapping, had a flirtatious personality. Constantly teasing Digit, he was a pretty swoon-worthy guy. I thought he was very adorable! There was a romance between Farrah and John, but it took them some time to give in to their respective crushes because after all, Farrah was still a minor. They made a cute couple though and I didn't have a huge problem with the 3/4 years age gap that existed between them. Farrah and John understood each other because in a way they were in a very similar situation. The plot of the book is without any doubt, very silly, but it was one that you could read if you're looking for something light and fluffy. There were numerous hilarious moments throughout the story, but while reading I kept thinking how unbelievable it all

was. Nevertheless, I did find myself enjoying the book because it was what I expected and it was quite entertaining.

At around 180 pages, A Girl Named Digit was definitely a short read, but it was also a fun read perfect for reading during a summer day. With its pleasant characters and cute romance, A Girl Named Digit will delight you!

Joy (joyous reads) says

Seventeen year old Math wiz solved a terrorist code while watching a teen soap opera. Priceless. Whoever says those shows dull the mind of our young 'uns must've been trippin'.

Farrah Higgins took painstaking means to live a normal existence at school. Born a Math genius and referred to as 'Digit' all through her young life, she worked very hard at changing that status when she started High School. She wanted to blend in and not to be treated like a freak show who knew the Fibonacci code better than most of her teachers. She dumbed herself down and made herself into a drone that followed everything the popular kids do at school. Things are looking up, er, normal. But when she stumbled upon a series of numbers while watching a teen TV show, the brainiac in her couldn't be stopped. Then, the unfathomable happened at almost the same time when she broke the code: a terrorist blew herself up at JFK airport killing a number of people.

There are a lot more things that happened after that; best of all is the introduction of young FBI agent in the person of John Bennet. They also found themselves on the run from an extreme eco terrorist group and uncovering a traitor in the bureau. This book was all kinds of win. Starring a quirky teen whose freaky Math skills can be attributed to her OC tendencies, and the equally freaky nerdy Princeton graduate FBI agent. Digit will have you in fits of giggles and holding on in utter suspense.

I think it's a daunting task to deliver a convincing character that's supposed to be a genius. The writer has to actually prove that yes, she is indeed a freak of nature. I think that Monaghan was pretty successful in that she introduced simple Math theorems (simple according to the people who are carrying card members of Mensa, anyway) and expanded on them. Admittedly, this was the initial draw for me. I was interested in how the author will present all the ways that Digit is a genius. I expected to be confused when formulae were introduced and if you're really patient or don't mind reading and re-reading them, you'll probably bound to get it.

I also love the sweet romantic involvement between characters. John Bennett is a twenty three year-old ambitious man who fast tracked himself into getting a two and a half-year college education. Their banter is funny and sweet and sometimes corny but they're not manufactured or forced by a long shot. Because their intelligence is off the charts, their social lives are stunted. And you can tell how socially inept they are but that's what made them even more likable.

The author wasn't stingy with her novel. In so little words, she spun a believable plot and well evolved characters. She even managed to give the antagonists some layers by showing us why they were the way they were. This book is packing heat and surprising since it clocked at only 192 pages!

Fun, fresh, ingenuous; A Girl Named Digit is a lovely bundle of smart but idiosyncratic characters, good but light suspense with an aww-inducing romance to boot. I'm so glad I stumbled upon this book in Goodreads. Definitely, one of my faves this year.

Mitch says

Digit may be a smart girl, but this book was just so full of stupid I think I've lost more than a few brain cells. I mean, I totally understand the appeal of *A Girl Named Digit*, it's sort of cute, definitely corny, cheesy, incredibly shallow, so bad it's good, one of those instant train wrecks that you just can't look away from ... heck I'd even call it a definite guilty pleasure. But in the end, after that last page, you just realize, it's not a great book.

Digit, for one, even though she's so smart, she's more cute than interesting. Everything from crying in order to get what she wants (unfortunately from experience, yes it really works) to those lame yet kinda funny bumper sticks. It's almost like she's an airhead who gets the occasional mathematical epiphany or two - down to the long paragraphs where she just talks on and on about herself - not that I minded, but it just sort of adds to that overall impression. And everyone else, from her really not that well developed friends to her little brother who gets maybe two paragraphs of a somewhat cute storyline to her parents to the love interest, it's all so incredibly shallow.

And the storyline, likewise, it's just so incredibly shallow. I know terrorists are pretty hard to get right in a dramedy, they're a serious subject unless you make them over the top incompetent, but they didn't feel quite right here. Monaghan tries a little too hard to balance the serious and the camp, and the most serious, solemn scenes near the beginning ended up feeling really awkward. And later on, there are some fairly good actions scenes, but they didn't balance out the fluff that well, leading to more awkwardness like a dead body in the middle of Digit's living room (don't ask) or the really vague way the terrorists are 'dealt with' in the end. Awkward, and kind of silly too. And the final two chapters after what should've been the climax, more awkward romantic tension.

I mean, there's nothing wrong with this book if you want a hour or two of brainless entertainment. Maybe crack a smile or two here or there. It's even better if you're looking for something really corny to occupy your time. But beyond that, there's really nothing here, just some light fluff.

Ipshita says

★★★★½

Farah a.k.a. Digit is a very adorable and really rather normal teenager. Sure she's what one would call a mathematical genius, but her witty narration and her addiction to bumper stickers make her seem so adorable. John is really more like a beta hero. He is very serious about his responsibilities and work. And we get a lot of glimpses of his actual self throughout the story. Also, I liked how he does act like a twenty-one year old guy around Digit and acts on his feelings for her without becoming brooding and trying to avoid her. They are both pretty straightforward characters. I do, however, think that the entire episode near the end when John gets a new job is rather insignificant. But maybe some would think it as necessary to test John's feelings. I mean, really, they are so young, I don't really care about measuring the depth of their feelings.

The plot is pretty much clear-cut, and it isn't too hard to make the dots connect. Also with this being a teen novel, I was more concerned with the teen than the mystery. Still, this proved to be a good book to unwind some pre-exam stress for me.

Amalie Howard says

"I knew very little about John (besides the exact outline of his jaw and the way it framed his mouth like rigid parentheses around a soft word that is too delicious to be spoken aloud)."

This teen spy thriller with its clever, beautiful writing is a breath of fresh air in a sea of same old, same old.

Farrah "Digit" Higgins is no ordinary teenage girl. She sees patterns in random numbers, aces the Math SATs and has an IQ that you would need the Fibonacci sequence to figure out. But despite her extraordinary mathematical talents, all she wants is to be normal and blend in. With life on autopilot and auto-response ("cool, me too!"), things are manageable, predictable ... and normal. But everything changes when she discovers a mysterious code on television that is part of an eco-terrorist plot, and suddenly becomes a target. Sucked into a violent underworld of terrorism and on the run with no one but an attractive young FBI agent on her side, Digit must use her gift to save hundreds of innocent lives. But while embracing her "true Self" is a no-brainer, putting her heart on the line may turn out to be the most dangerous choice of all.

Smartly written, *A GIRL NAMED DIGIT* is a fun, fast-paced read that will keep you turning the pages until the very last bumper sticker. Digit is an admirable but down-to-earth heroine, like the superhero next door or the best friend with the secret crime-fighting alter ego. The combination of teenage awkwardness and intellectual brilliance in this character just works. Your heart will soar at her first kiss, dive at her near death experiences, and tremble at the threat of discovery. Monaghan's writing is deliciously complex without being overly so, and her quirky turns of phrase as well as Digit's sarcastic but intelligent voice keep the narrative fresh. A lively mix of thrills, romance, action and humor, *A GIRL NAMED DIGIT* is definitely one to add to your beach bag this summer.

See this review and my interview with Annabel Monaghan in *The Loop NY*:
<http://theloopny.com/blog/local-lit-a...>

Melannie :) says

I wish this book could understand how much I love it, but since books have no brain I am going to tell YOU instead. I love this book! There, I said it, and I am so not ashamed because this book was amazing, it has everything I like: likable characters, fast-paced story line and some serious swoon-worthy scenes.

First of all I would like to point out how ingenious Annabel Monaghan is. I mean a character like Farrah (aka Digit) is not easy to create. Farrah is a genius, no kidding, she is so good at math she discovered a terrorist code hidden in MTV's most watched show, and now her life is at danger. Enter FBI agent John, the one guy chosen to protect Farrah while the others catch the bad guys, Farrah might think he is really cute but he is older and not to mention he could lose his position so yay for forbidden romance!

I loved Farrah, she's like Sheldon Cooper but a girl, and 17 years old, and less annoying. Farrah was incredible in the sense that she was so friggin intelligent yet she was just like any other girl, it was so funny to read about her cluelessness that unfortunately put her in the most embarrassing situations, but that was what made her so adorable, even though she had the weirdest habits. She was so hilarious and her voice was

the best, exactly the kind of girl I like reading about.

Now while John Bennett was definitely swoon-worthy (more than that, really he was amazing) and the fact that he was twenty one was REALLY hot, like I-can-day-dream-about-him-without-being-creepy-cause-he-is-older-than-me hot; Farrah is the one that made the book for me (which rarely happens I always love the guy more) because she was made of awesome.

Also, each chapter started with a bumper sticker, some of them totally hilarious, and there were chasings and codes, and terrorists, and safe houses and guns and it was just so entertaining, I swear I was laughing out loud at pretty much every chapter, I can't wait to read more from the series, I'll be waiting impatiently for book #2!.

WIN A SIGNED COPY OF THIS BOOK @ MY BLOG: <http://booksarevital.blogspot.com/201...>

Daiane says

I am so disappointed with this....

"Soon she is personally investigating the case, on the run from terrorists, and faking her own kidnapping-- all while trying to convince a young, hot FBI agent to take her seriously"

Not even I could take her seriously.... Didn't like the "FBI agent" either... Just too.... Meh...

Lucinda says

Spoilers

A spectacular young-adult read that is exciting, full of dynamic intensity and which will have you glued to the pages!

I am SO impressed by this delightful story that captured my attention instantly, as I was drawn into the most compelling, fascinating plot. Character-driven and cleverly crafted this inspired, original read is contemporary and fresh; like nothing I have encountered before. Full of wit, humor and laugh-out-loud moments this book is certainly entertaining, and makes for a light read that is idea for holiday reading. The catchy chapter titles are so cliché, with the author really projecting the teenage perspective perfectly as you are able to connect with and relate to this teen read. Exceeding and surpassing all expectations this brilliant book unexpectedly overwhelmed me, as I fell in love with the deep romance that grew as the intensity and dramatic narrative heightened.

Farah Higgins (aka. Digit) is a 'mathlete' who see's the world from a most atypical viewpoint as her obsession with numbers, solving equations and maintaining perfect numeric balance is astute (to the point of eccentric). At seventeen she is now preparing to leave her old life behind her and soon enroll at MIT, where

she can start a fresh and embrace her gift of intelligence. She certainly makes a 'geek' or 'nerd' cool and is someone who adds such flair, individuality and vibrancy to this intriguing story. Her collection of bumper stickers is a clear expression of who she is, although this sadly is all hidden away when she is at Santa Monica High School trying to 'fit-in' and be as inconspicuous and as unremarkable as possible. Her friends Veronica, Kat, Trish and Olive seem perfectly unspectacular as too does Drew Bailey, the School 'pin-up' boy without a brain and who is no more than an empty shell. Her seemly normal, dull life suddenly turns upside down in an instant, when she observes a strangely conspicuous number sequence during a TV show...

All of a sudden Digit is thrown into a world of terrorism, perilous danger and dramatic car chases as an organization called 'Jonas Furnis' are onto her. Her father (who actually works for the CIA) assumes that she is just, quote 'stressed-out socially and bored academically' whilst a hot, young FBI agent thinks that her theory is farfetched. However Digit is not one of those girls who lets things pass, for all too soon she is in the middle of a car chase and about to be killed by terrorists. Thrown together by fate, John Bennett (no, not from Jane Austen) and Digit must hide-out together for a week in an abandoned warehouse with only each other as company and soon lack of sleep, no shower and zero contact from the outside world takes its toll as their friendship grows...(Ron and Hermione moment). This thrilling, rollercoaster of a ride is full of twists and turns as they try to uncover the truth behind a bombing, finding the answers within transcripts that concerns something on such a far greater scale than either of them expected...

John and Digit's relationship was so 'real' as I was willing them to be together whilst absorbed in this intense, dramatic action/ adventure. This cute, teen read is just brilliant and which is something that I would highly recommend to those readers who love classics and are looking for a younger version of Mr. Darcy! Full of shocking unexpected moments and electric tension you will be sat on the edge of your seat throughout – as when you think you know what is going to happen, you are then proved to be wrong by something totally unforeseen!!

WOW, this really is a brilliant read. Some of my favorite quotes below –

"I quit. I've fallen in love and if I don't find out where this is going then I will regret it for the rest of my life"

"Terror-fighting, high-heel-wearing, code-breaking badass girl!"

"...in a nerdy-wasen't-cute-at-the-beginning-of-the-movie-but-was-super-hot-by-the-end-sort-of-way."

The Library Lady says

A pox upon whichever Kirkus hipster wrote the favorable review of this dreck that persuaded me to buy it.

Simply awful. I found the writing painfully fake from the beginning--the author was trying hard to sound like a teenager-- but decided to continue reading it anyway.

But the gorgeous, incredibly young (well he's a genius and in a top secret FBI division) FBI agent was already straining my believability meter when he turned out to have a posh secret hideout and CIA agent parents. And the instant love angle completed my inability to suspend my disbelief.

[Author:Ally Carter] writes this sort of book, only she keeps it real and believable. Read hers instead. This is more like a script from a bad Disney Channel/WB movie.

Booknut says

Normal girls watch TV shows and think "Gosh, he is such a babe," or "WHAT is she thinking?! Mauve top with that skirt - nuh uh!"

Normal girls don't let their attention stray, and they certainly don't use their genius Maths-wired brain to play with a set of numbers that just so happen to appear in the corner of the screen.

And normal girls definitely don't end up decoding a secret terrorist message - a message that becomes reality when JFK airport is bombed.

But then again...Digit isn't normal. With the birth name of Farrah (don't smirk), Digit has always been the class nerd. The Maths geek. The 'yep she's totally memorised the textbook' kinda gal. But just as she's managed to 'fit in', Digit's world goes topsy-turvy when her innocent number-play games expose a set of crimes that could very well put her, and many others, in danger. Working with secret agents - one named John Bennet in particular (nope, not related to Lizzie) - Digit has to set the score straight; crossing her fingers that she is the only genius in the equation.

Best quotes:

- "The stench that surrounded me suggested that the tarp over my face had been previously used either to transport fertiliser or as toilet paper."

- "Sorry," he said, kissing me lightly once more and brushing my hair from my face. I'd never seen a less sorry person in my life.

- "Her safety is my utmost concern as well..." John started.

"You have no idea," Mr Bennet said under his breath. John ignored him.

- "I got home from the FBI that day, put on my pajamas got a pint of Chunky Monkey, and watched 'The Notebook'. Five times. Everyone left me alone. I suspect they were a little afraid of me. I went up to my room and listened to Taylor Swift's 'White Horse' on replay, knowing she was the only person in the world who could relate.

Liz at Midnight Bloom Reads says

As soon as I read the plot description for A Girl Named Digit, I knew I would enjoy reading the book, but what I did not expect was absolutely falling in love with it! Annabel Monaghan's A Girl Named Digit was a fun, cute novel made of pure win! It's a perfect romantic comedy with laughs and adorable characters, but also balanced with tons of excitement and times of seriousness too.

For the past few years, Farrah has been pretending to be a perfectly normal high school girl, enjoying being one of the popular students for the first time in her life and the anonymity she feels blending into their group. What her friends and classmates don't know is that Farrah is actually a math prodigy nicknamed "Digit", bound for MIT in the fall. But when Farrah notices some numbers flashing during the opening credits of a teen drama, her brain immediately slips into Digit mode, working out the number sequence. Unknowingly, she cracks the code of an ecoterrorist group and puts herself in danger. To keep her safe, the FBI fakes her own kidnapping and hides her away so she can help catch the criminals alongside John, the hot, young FBI agent who's also been assigned to the case.

I loved Digit's rambling inner monologues and her absolutely quirky personality! I found everything about her character just so endearing and the rapid way her thoughts fired through her head left me smiling as I read along. I also really liked how John was more than just a pretty face and someone Farrah could truly feel comfortable to be herself around. He's very dedicated to proving himself as an FBI agent, especially since this was his very first field assignment. And you know what I also liked about A Girl Named Digit? The parents actually had an active role in helping their children solve the case when Farrah and John were starting to get in over their heads. I'm glad the young couple weren't above asking for help when they really needed it.

Despite being a quick, short read, I was very much invested in the storyline and kept wishing more pages would magically appear so I didn't have to reach the end. Sure, the novel may have had its predictable moments, but I simply did not care! I'm very happy to hear that Annabel Monaghan is also working on a sequel because I'm not read to say goodbye to Digit just yet!

Lynn says

Farrah Higgins has a unique mind - she is a math genius and can instantly see mathematical patterns. For most of high school she has hidden this gift completely from her friends who have no idea she tops the charts in test scores. Farrah works hard to keep her gift under wraps. But one day while watching TV, she sees a pattern of numbers that repeats three weeks in a row and Farrah's mind clicks into overdrive, solving a puzzle that is terrifying and important. When she finally convinces the FBI to take her seriously, Farrah finds herself on the run. Combining the elements of romance, coming of age and tense thriller, this clever and unusual book is impossible to put down.
