



A Murder of Magpies

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Winter in Black Orchard, Wisconsin, is long and dark, and sixteen-year-old Vayda Silver prays the snow will keep the truth and secrecy of the last two years buried. Hiding from the past with her father and twin brother, Vayda knows the rules: never return to the town of her mother's murder, and never work a Mind Game where someone might see.

No one can know the toll emotions take on Vayda, how emotion becomes energy in her hands, or how she can't control the destruction she causes. But it's not long before her powers can no longer be contained. The truth is dangerously close to being exposed, placing Vayda and her family at risk.

Until someone quiets the chaos inside her.

Unwanted. That's all Ward Ravenscroft has ever been. To cope, he numbs the pain of rejection by denying himself emotions of any kind. Yet Vayda stirs something in him. He can't explain the hold she has on him--inspiring him with both hope and fear. He claims not to scare easily, except he doesn't know what her powers can do. Yet.

Just as Vayda and Ward draw closer, she finds the past isn't so easily buried. And when it follows the Silvers to Black Orchard, it has murder in mind.

"Richly written, A MURDER OF MAGPIES isn't a book to be read, but one to be devoured by the light of a dying fire. Sarah Bromley will pull readers in and have them glancing constantly over their shoulder, where the ghosts of the past await them."

- New York Times bestselling author Heather Brewer

"A MURDER O MAGPIES is one of those books I couldn't put down... a little bit mystery, a little bit horror, a little bit love story--there's something for everyone on these pages. Rich, well-written, and different in a genre desperate for something a little bit different..." -- Hillary Monahan, author of MARY: THE SUMMONING

A deliciously, dark Gothic tale of lies, manipulation, and forbidden love. A MURDER OF MAGPIES will haunt you long after the last page is read. --Cole Gibsen, author of the KATANA trilogy and THE SOCIAL MEDIA EXPERIMENT.

A Murder of Magpies Details

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From Reader Review A Murder of Magpies for online ebook

Meredith says

I want to preface this review by saying that I'm a member of this book's street team. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. And my opinion of the book does not change the fact that I love being on this street team because Sarah is awesome!!! I will continue to help promote this book to the best of my ability.

With that said, A Murder of Magpies is not the type of book I typically read, though it definitely intrigued me. My curiosity and desire for answers prevented me from putting the book down until the very last page. Though there were many things that annoyed me, I found it to be an overall fun read with an interesting, unique plot.

Vayda was a frustrating character. At times, I really liked her and felt bad for the hand life had dealt her. At other times, I wanted to smack some sense into her. Her abilities were interesting, though I was a bit confused on what, exactly, said abilities were and how they worked. I also couldn't figure out how they worked alongside her twin's powers - though, if I understood correctly, they're basically like opposites - push versus pull; hot versus cold.

Jonah scared the bejesus out of me. When I first heard Vayda and Jonah were twins, I thought they would have epic twin powers. And they did. But Jonah used his powers for evil.. Well, maybe not "evil" evil, but he definitely walked a very thin, fragile line between good and evil. He used Vayda a lot, which wasn't cool. And he got his family into a LOT of trouble SEVERAL times. He just wasn't very rational about things and he often did things without thinking through the potential consequences.

Ward really ticked me off. He was more frustrating than Vayda. Sometimes, he was awesome and adorable and I loved him. He was SO CUTE with the dog! ("Like I could resist hurt doggy kisses." I mean seriously!!!!!! THAT'S ADORABLE! This is a guy after my own heart!). And at other times, he was such an ass, especially to Vayda. He would get angry with her over the stupidest things and say some pretty jerky things to her, stalk off and not talk to her for days. And then out of nowhere, they were holding hands and acting like it never happened. Uhh... *Scratches head.* I mean, I know Ward must have had trust issues after everything he went through when he was growing up.. But he overreacted like a giant drama queen so many times!

Chloe and Marty were both bat-shit crazy. And there's one scene with them and Vayda near the end that made me go all ragey. Also, there was a thing with Ward's dog that almost made me DNF... I mean, these two were certifiable! Though at times I wanted to slap some sense into Vayda, most of the time I just wanted to slap Chloe and Marty because they were mean, rude and crude. I couldn't believe some of the things Marty said!!!

No one ever explained their actions in this book, which made for pretty confusing scenes. One second they had no friends and didn't want any, the next moment they were friends with Ward because he showed up at their house with no invitation or warning and continued to do so until Vayda and Jonah befriended him. One minute Chloe despised them, the next she was showing up at their house and inviting Vayda over to her house. In some cases, the "why" was explained later on in the book. But until things were explained, I was left incredibly confused. Plus, the characters would get into fights and then, out of nowhere, be friends again, like the fight never happened. No (or very few, very brief) apologies.

Those issues aside, this was still an enjoyable read. It was dark and creepy and left me guessing until the

very end. I loved the overall concept of the books; gypsies are something I haven't seen a lot of in YA books. The fear and paranoia over what they could do felt realistic - people rationalize the things they don't understand. When that doesn't work, they use fear and anger to suppress those they find odd and abnormal. So that felt realistic and made complete sense.

The ending was pretty interesting. Like I said, a few things happened at the end with Marty and Chloe that really upset me. Like, ragey raging upset. One character sort of redeemed him/herself, though, which softened the blow a bit. One character I thought was completely untrustworthy, turned out to be incredibly trustworthy, which totally shocked me. And then one character I never suspected of anything, who seemed completely loyal and trustworthy, turned out to be behind SO MANY THINGS. Talk about epic craziness!

Overall, though there were definitely some parts that really turned me off and upset me, A Murder of Magpies was an overall fun, interesting read with a unique (to me, at least) concept. I'm on the fence with how I feel about most of the characters, but the overall premise and plot held my interest. I needed answers so desperately, I refused to put the book down until I had said answers. Would I still recommend this book? Absolutely. Though I had some issues with it, I still enjoyed it and I think others will, too. And others might enjoy what I didn't. As I said at the start of my review, I still adore Sarah and still intend to remain on the street team, promoting the heck out of her and this book and any books she does in the future. She's just that awesome!

You can also find more from me on my blog: Pandora's Books

Jen Halligan says

I really enjoyed this debut from Sarah Bromley! It's the perfect fall/winter read. A Murder of Magpies is dark and mysterious, as you learn about the abilities Vayda and her twin brother Jonah have, and the motivations for the characters. I loved the relationship between Vayda and Ward. Their romance was sweet, and they balanced each other out. I have to say I was a bit thrown by the ending and I think there could easily be a sequel. :)

Beth says

This book was written by a friend and as such, let me tell you, I am always wary of reading and reviewing such novels because who wants to be in the position of giving their opinion on a creation that is very dear to the friend's heart. C'mon seriously, it's like stabbing that person in the heart essentially if you give the novel a bad review.

Thank GOD I am not in that position at all!

A Murder of Magpies has a gorgeous cover that speaks of the elegance of the writing inside. Eerie and atmospheric but detailed with visuals that sharpen its picture and plot in ways that you may or may not be fooled by. The POV switches leads between Vayda and Ward and allows you a varied perspective on persons that interact with the Silver Twins on a spectrum that runs from ambivalence to deliberate malice and raising awareness of the yet-to-be-overturned caste system high school still runs on. Sadly, more often than not, it carries over into adulthood since so few adults seem to mature past a 9th grade level of

interaction in the real world. Hostilities as they are from those years, remaining and perpetuating the belief that some people will never fit in.

Those people are the Silver twins and not just because of their familial heritage but because they ARE different. Their connection strong and empathetic, they feel for those around them even as these humans treat them and their belongings as something cursed. In a world where kids are committing suicide to get away from the hate of bullies, the Silver twins plights feel all too real and scary even when the level of evil their peers are punishing them with is way beyond anything I can imagine a teen doing. It's awful what hate and prejudice can prompt people to do.

Entwined with the above life lesson is a mystery that connects all the characters in ways that are hinted at but not revealed until the very end. Once you get immersed and start connecting with the leads: Vayda, Ward and Jonah... it's hard to stop reading til you know exactly how the end plays out. Give 'MAGPIES' a go, because if you read fast, you won't have long before you're wondering when the second book in this series is coming and wishing it were already out.

Jaime Lester says

A Murder of Magpies is an intriguing, mysterious tale and it is one that I highly enjoyed. Even after finishing the story, I feel there are mysteries that still need to be unraveled. I loved the setting, the fantastically written characters and the incredibly unique story.

Vayda, our MC and one of the two POV's and Jonah are brother and sister. Twins, to be exact, They each have their own individual "mind games" that they play, and these "games" must be hidden at all cost. Vayda is calm and quiet, always trying to stay in control of her game. Jonah is a wild one, quite the opposite of his sister. They balance each other out well. The twins and their father are always running, looking over their shoulders, and trying to stay below the radar because of something that happened with their mother, something that she died for.

Ward is our other POV. He has had a troubled life, and at the beginning of the book, he is waiting to be seen in the office for getting involved in a fight started by Jonah. Ward was a great character, wonderfully written. He is guarded, and thus I still don't know enough about him, but I want to!

I love these types of stories, that introduce mysteries from the get go. And a mystery it shall remain, until you read it for yourself. I will only say that this is a great read, full of mystery and suspense. It is all very dark and deliberate. You will not want to put this book down until the very last page, and when you absolutely must put it down, you will be thinking of nothing else but returning to it as soon as possible. I cannot wait to delve into the twins world again.

One more thing that I absolutely have to mention? That cover. It is stunning. One of the best covers of the year, and it captures the essence of A Murder of Magpies wonderfully. Fantastic fonts, awesome tagline, and an air of mystery... My kind of cover!

Jennifer Bardsley says

I was blown away by how much I loved "A Murder of Magpies" by Sarah Bromley. It's "Wuthering Heights" meets present day Wisconsin.

Sixteen-year-old Vayda Silver's life is full of secrets: the truth about her mother's death, the terrible deeds her twin brother Jonah might do, and even worse, Vayda's own dangerous powers as an empath. Jonah expels energy and Vayda collects it. If she's not careful Vayda's capable of rupturing every light bulb at school. No wonder she and Jonah are social pariahs.

The one guy who isn't wary of either Silver twin is Ward Ravenscroft, who has his own past to hide. After years of surviving with his junkie dad, Ward is now living with his sister Heidi's family--minivan, baby, doggie, and all. Ward's penchant for foul language, ditching school, and crafting metal sculptures in the front yard don't exactly fit in with his sister's perfect life.

But as Vayda and Ward become closer, Jonah grows increasingly out of control. The family curse that haunts the twins is paradoxically their worst enemy and only defense.

Watch out for the end on this one, because it is full of surprises. "A Murder of Magpies" is so creepy it will make you want to turn on every light in the house.

Precy Larkins says

So this was my first read this year and it's a YA Gothic Paranormal with Romani siblings (Vayda and Jonah Silver) for protagonists. The atmospheric writing is deliciously creepy, and the incredible (but dangerous) powers of the Silver twins amps up the stakes between life and death. I loved the mystery that surrounds their past--a mystery that has murder in it--and the way it creeps back into their present lives, no matter how hard they try to hide from it.

The story is told in two POVs, one of them from Vayda's perspective, the other from Ward Ravenscroft, a boy who's just as lost as the Silver twins--and just as secretive about his past. Ward gets drawn into the Silver family affair, especially with his connection to Vayda, which is much more than physical attraction but something deeper, and possibly something sinister.

Beautifully written, A MURDER OF MAGPIES is a page-turner that will keep you up late into the night. I cannot recommend this highly enough!

Courtney says

This is one of my favorite books. Sarah Bromley is one of those authors who has it. She just does. She creates this creepy atmosphere that makes you feel like you're there in the story. I laughed. I cried. I was angry at the characters, but I love them so much. Please read this book. It's amazing, and I can't wait for the world to read it.

Christina (Ensnoced in Lit) says

I was excited to read A Murder of Magpies by Sarah Bromley because I love dark mysteries and just look at that cover! Bromley doesn't disappoint.

This book stars Vayda, who is Romani, and her love interest, Ward, who is "gadjo" or an outsider. Vayda has a twin Jonah, and both of them have powers that they label Mind Games. Something bad happened with their mother who died in a fire and they've been on the run ever since. Vayda is scared of her powers and tries not to use them, but Jonah loves his powers and tries to use them to his and others' detriment. Bad things start happening and Vayda suspects that maybe her brother is behind some of it. Can she figure out love, life and what's going on in the town before it's too late?

Things that I loved: While the first half was a little tough for me to get into, one thing I could not doubt was the skill Bromley wove the Gothic, dark and brooding feel into the text. It was creepy from page one, and my favorite character was the Sister nun who is always lurking behind the next corner. I was glad she was as three dimensional as I suspected. Vayda is also a likeable character, and I enjoyed seeing the world from her eyes, especially as she struggled to deal with her powers and feeling like an outsider, which is really a universal experience in high school. The last half of the book is just wonderful and builds steadily upon itself, keeping you guessing to the very end. I was very satisfied with how it all played out, and loved all of the surprises, most of which I did not guess.

I had a couple of small issues, mostly from just personal preference. First, I felt like the first half was a bit slow for me. While the beginning was awesome setting up the premise and setting the mood really well, I wanted the plot to move a little more in the beginning. Also, the fact that the twins were Romani didn't really work for me, and distracted me from the story. In particular, the way Vayda kept calling Ward "gadjo" (which is an insult) was disconcerting to me, especially since it became a term of endearment for both of them.

That said, I thought the overall book was a strong addition to the YA world with its brooding tone and strong finish, and while I did have small issues with them being Romani, I applaud the expansion of diversity, which is sorely needed in the genre.

i. says

This is a novel on how special powers may not be a blessing but a curse . Don't expect a typical action-packed YA story; it is slow-paced but well written and the characters are anything but shallow teenagers. In my opinion it is a sad book about loss, betrayal , narrow-mindedness , neglect, misunderstandings and poor judgement with a glint of hope .

www.theleisurediaries.blogspot.com

Naznin Azeez says

The book cover, simple as it is, has an alluring quality to it, coupled with the interesting title. The solitary

bird under the glaring light from the street lamp post, featured on a sepia toned cover with a touch of color only for the title, makes this cover one of the most intriguing book covers I have ever seen. Readers could interpret it in many ways. The font of the title is beautiful. Also, the title is very cleverly formed. It has the word 'Murder' in it since there is a murder in the story, but clearly it indicates a group of birds, particularly magpies, which is also a nickname, the protagonist of this story, Vayda goes by!

Vayda Silver is a girl with a lot of power that she herself underestimates. She can read minds, calm people down, feel what others are feeling or even burst overhead lightings when the feelings become too much to handle and the energy rises. Her twin brother, Jonah Silver is the opposite of her. He riles up people and push out his feelings, moving objects by a mere flick of his wrist. He is like fire while Vayda is like ice. Together they are like Ying and Yang, balancing each other. I love their relationship. It is imperfect and that's why I can relate to it. Their love is unconditional yet they do fight each other at times. Jonah always looks out for Vayda and protects her.

They both, along with their father, Emory Silver are on the run. Their mind games have earned them names like freak, gypsy and witch. So, they keep moving, always looking over their shoulders, afraid they will be recognized by someone from a previous place they have stayed at. Vayda is lonely, scared to commit to someone but that changes when along comes Ward, a damaged boy with a disturbed past of his own, who somehow calms Vayda down and makes her experience peace, which she rarely does otherwise.

The unspoken attraction between Vayda and Ward and then their love story as we move deeper into the story, is very nicely depicted. It's very sweet. Each chapter is written from either Vayda's or Ward's POV. Other important characters in the book are Rain Killian, Vayda's and Jonah's godfather, Marty Pifkin and Chloe, who are their classmates and ones who are always looking out to fight Vayda and Jonah and, Sister Tremblay, someone who seemingly exudes hatred towards the Silver family.

Vayda and Jonah's late mother, Lorna was someone who quite enjoyed the power the mind games gave her over others. But that got her killed. Now, would her family too suffer and perish like her?. You got to read the book to know more!

The author has really created an amazing and powerful world, with her words!. I am in awe of her work. The situations all tie in well. There are certain situations though, which needs a tad more clarity / explanation. That's the only fault I could find in the book. Otherwise, it's an engaging read, which will have you craving to read all of it in one go!.

Emily Crow says

Vayda and her twin brother Jonah have to deal with bullying, ostracism and hiding from their sullied past because, like their late mother, they can work powerful "Mind Games"--telepathy, telekinesis and mind control. It looks like they might be chased away from their new home in Wisconsin just as Vayda finds a love interest--an emotionally damaged but likable boy named Wade.

What I liked: interesting and well-written enough to keep me reading all the way through; a great canine character (an elderly schnauzer I wish I could adopt); awesome cover. But it just wasn't compelling enough to lift it over my default three-star setting, and I'm not sure why. The story, like Vayda's untutored mental powers, seemed a bit all over the place. I didn't dislike the characters, but I didn't really connect with them either.

Finally, while I think this is a young adult title, the dialogue was occasionally a bit crude and there was a

scene towards the end that, while not explicit or disturbing, seemed a bit too heavy-handed and unnecessary (view spoiler).

Overall, while I thought the novel was just OK, I will also be the first to admit that I'm probably not the target audience for it either.

Shawntelle Madison says

I've had a chance to read this book during its earlier drafts and I must tell you, I can't wait for everyone to read A MURDER OF MAGPIES.

Paula M. of Her Book Thoughts! says

You can also read my review [HERE](#).

"Cardinal Rule: You never know who's watching, and I promise you someone is always watching"

Well, how do I start this? I guess by saying that I completely fell in love with that cover! I just know that I have to read it. And I am so lucky to be part of this tour and to review A Murder of Magpies.

Vayda and Jonah are twins. Everywhere they go, they can't escape the fact that people find them strange. Well, they kind of are. Both of them has their own mind game that they got from their mother. And as much as they try to fit in and hide their abilities, **some people can't help to notice.**

I really love the atmosphere in this book. I think I need to read more books with gothic theme because if they are as good as this, I WANT TO READ 'EM. The author really got the intriguing and mysterious vibe. **The setting and the characters was fleshed out.** I love how every time I get back to reading it, I feel like I am being transported to where Vayda and Jonah is. This story is on dual Pov's. One is from Vayda, which I absolutely adored. There's something about Vayda that is so badass. But she's also so nice and caring. She's a well written character and I can't wait for more of her in the following books. (i don't know yet if there are following books, but I AM HOPING) the other Pov is from Ward's. Oh, this boy confuses me still. I have a feeling that there's more to him. I CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT. And Vayda isn't the only character that I loved, **Ward and Jonah are incredible.** They have their own characteristic that makes them unique and distinct.

I'm a fan of the authors writing. It bothers me sometimes when the genre of the book doesn't match the way it was written. Well, this is brilliant. **The tone, the pacing and like I mentioned above, the atmosphere was perfect.**

Reading A Murder of Magpies will really make you think that the author thought everything through. **It's haunting, mystifying and not to mention, totally sexy.** This book is full of intrigue with dark and rich characters that I can't get enough of. It's hard to believe that this is Sarah's debut novel. We all better watch out for Ms Bromley.

Erika Messer says

A thoroughly enjoyable trek through the dark depths. Vayda and her family have special powers but can't let others find out. They are called names like Gypsy and Witch because of their gifts. Their mother was murdered and all they know is that they should not go back to where it happened. But something is trying to find them, and Vayda has to be very careful at all times to hide her past and her present from the world. I have never been through anything like what Vayda goes through in the book, but she is such a sympathetic character that you feel bad for her having to always look over her shoulder. And the chemistry between Vayda and Ward Ravenscroft is amazing - but I wanted Vayda to be able to tell Ward all about her past SO badly! I also loved the sharp contrast between Vayda and her brother Jonah - even though they are twins they are so different but the same because they are both going through the same problems. The cover of the book really encompasses the dramatic events that unfold in the book, I really love the title and the single magpie that is in the light but the darkness is all around, kind of like Vayda's family is surrounded by darkness and they must stay within the light to keep going. If I remember correctly magpies have always been associated with gypsies, which made this all the more tantalizing :) I found this to be a very intriguing read and hope for a second installment very soon!

Heather Reid says

A dark debut that will keep you on the edge of your seat. Bromley is a master of creating creepy atmosphere that will send chills down your spine. Each character is beautifully written, real, flawed, and beautifully broken. Couldn't put this one down. A fantastic read!
