



# Splinter

*Sasha Dawn*

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## **Splinter** Sasha Dawn

Sixteen-year-old Sami hasn't seen her mother in ten years—and neither has anyone else. The police suspect Sami's father had something to do with her mom's disappearance, but Sami's never believed that. Her mother chose to abandon her and start a new life. It's that simple.

Yet now, new evidence has emerged about another missing woman who used to be involved with Sami's dad. Coincidence—or evidence that the cops have been right all along?

As Sami investigates on her own, she's forced to question everything she thought she knew about the dad who's always been there for her and the mother who supposedly abandoned her. And if her dad didn't kill her mother, what did happen?

## **Splinter Details**

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Author : Sasha Dawn

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Genre : Mystery, Young Adult, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Realistic Fiction, Contemporary, Teen

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## From Reader Review Splinter for online ebook

### Rachna says

This book is mindblowing. It is an entrancing and captivating book that kept me on the edge of my seat. This is possibly the best young adult thriller I have ever read.

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### Mandy says

Where were all these talented YA authors when I was a teenager?

First you have the Hunger Games trilogy, which I read ages ago, but still remember fondly. Then, you have "Winning," which I read very recently and loved. Now we have "Splinter," which is even better than "Winning." All I had was the "Twilight" series, and that didn't even come out until I was 19.

Actually, I think I was still reading juvenile fiction when I was that age.

Anyway, "Splinter" is the story of a sixteen-year-old girl, Sami (short for Samantha), whose mother disappeared when she was six. The police, as well as most of the town, think her father killed her, but Sami is certain that he's innocent. But now, while her father and her stepmother are in the middle of a divorce, new developments on the decade-old case are springing up from here to Atlanta, Georgia. As Sami's world begins to crumble around her, she must come to terms with the fact that there's a lot she doesn't know about some of her dearest friends and family.

I'm a sucker for mysteries if they've got a good plot and a good author. I wasn't entirely sure how I'd like this one, since I'd never read anything by Sasha Dawn, and so many mysteries are hit-or-miss, even with a decent premise. But Dawn immediately drew me in with her descriptive and evocative writing. I could see the scenery and characters, hear the sound of the wind and footsteps on pavement, smell the scents of late summer and early autumn. Dawn has a gift for describing the world where her book takes places, and that is something I have always envied in other authors.

I fell in love with Sami and her mother immediately. It's hard not to like a woman whose favorite color is "sugar-cookie yellow," who calls her daughter "Sami-girl," and who loves sunflowers and caterpillars. Sami herself was also very likable and sympathetic, and I appreciate that she's vegetarian or possibly vegan, because I don't feel like there's a lot of good representation of people who don't eat meat for ethical reasons. They're either portrayed as overly self-righteous and constantly needing to inform everyone that they're vegan, or (in the rare positive portrayals) as *actually* being better than everyone else. In this story, Sami makes no qualms about stating why she doesn't eat meat, but she doesn't try to guilt-trip anyone into doing what she does, either.

There are some pretty frightening parts to this book, especially if you're going to be reading them at night during a thunderstorm. There's no explicit violence in it, however, so it's great for anyone who wants to be a little spooked out, but doesn't want to have trouble sleeping. There are times where Sami's short-tempered father might be scary to survivors of abuse, but aside from shouting and pounding a table or wall, he does not do anything abusive. He never hurts Sami physically, humiliates her, or calls her names. He does take Sami's phone at one point, but returns it to her the next day without having read any of her texts.

The other characters are interesting, if not as much as Sami's mother. There's Ryan, a childhood friend who

was also the boy who found Sami after her mother disappeared; Schmidt, the enigmatic next-door neighbor who had a close friendship with Sami's mother; Heather, Sami's New Age stepmother who owns a hippie store called "The Funky Nun"; Cassidy, Heather's daughter and Sami's sister in all but blood; Brook, Cassidy's bubbly, slightly ditzy friend; Sami's alcoholic, cantankerous grandmother; and Lieutenant Eschermann, who believes Sami's father knows more about his wife's disappearance than he's letting on.

We see the story through Sami's eyes, and there are a lot of possible suspects. I had fun trying to guess whether or not Sami's mother was still alive--and who either convinced her to leave or killed her--and as secrets and answers are revealed, nearly everyone who's not Sami's age has a turn at looking guilty. And while most of us can't relate to having a disappeared parent who may or may not have been murdered by our other parent, I still found Sami to be a relatable character. After all, haven't we all gone through a point in our lives where it seemed that nothing was what we thought it was, especially during our teen years? Every teenager must learn to re-examine things they assumed were true, and sometimes the results can be troubling.

"Splinter" is an excellent read, a real page-turning, with a plot and a mystery that kept me guessing to the very end. I definitely think that anyone who loves mysteries and emotional YA books should give this one a shot.

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### **Cheryl says**

I was drawn to this book by the book cover. From the book cover I thought that this story was going to be dark and suspenseful. This may still be the case but I did not stick around long enough to find out. I got about a third of the way into the story and could not continue. The conversations between Sami and the detective with the repeating back and forth or between Sami and her father were painful. I had no faith in the detective solving the case without Sami's help. It was like he was just waiting for Sami to feed him all of the information she found. Example is when Sami and the detective were talking about why he did not find a piece of evidence and it was suggested that it may have been because it was put there after the search was completed.

From the little that I knew about Sami's father, he was not the friendliest. You would think for someone that wanted to prove they were innocent that they would be more helpful and talkative. The investigation that Sami was conducting was slow. If some of the things that I mentioned had been present, especially the suspense than I probably would have continued reading this book.

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### **Sharon says**

16 year old Sami has not seen her mother in 10 years, although an occasional postcard will arrive in the mail. Her father has been under police scrutiny for years, but nothing has tied him to any crime. When new evidence appears that points to a missing person from her father's past, will Sami's faith in her father waver? Will her stepmother and stepsister be lost to Sami, just like her mother? Will a friend from the past return just in time?

Splinter is a good mystery suspense thriller, taking readers on a journey with Sami to discover the truth surrounding her mother's disappearance. I liked the progression of the story, in that the author realistically showed how an investigation would work. The testing of theories, the collection of evidence, and the constant rehashing of the timeline are methods deployed by police officers every day. Although I did find

some of the book to be transparent, there were surprises to keep it interesting. I would recommend Splinter to readers who like YA mystery thrillers and I look forward to the next book by author Sasha Dawn.

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### **Natalie says**

Not the best "thriller" I've ever read. As a matter of fact, there was nothing thrilling about it. It was very repetitive and more than a little dull the way the main character (I've already forgotten her name) spends most of her time alternating between suspecting her father and stepmother of the crime, and hating herself for suspecting them.

The ending is very anticlimactic. I was suspecting a big showdown with the culprit but there was nothing. It was more like "ok, we know who did it. Now what's for dinner?"

The romance seemed tacked on at best. I also don't think that the police would be so dependent on a 16 year old kid to solve a crime. Yes, she was a witness (at age 6) but they seemed to lean on her a little too much.

Underwhelming - 1.5

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### **grieshaber\_reads says**

Since I got behind on my review writing, it's been over two weeks since I finished reading the book, Splinter. Now, as I'm finally sitting down to write its review, I find I can't remember anything about it. Not a good sign. A quick review of the summary reminded me that Splinter is a mystery revolving around Sami's mom who has been missing for 10 years. When the police uncover evidence that ties Sami's father to another missing woman, Sami begins to question her father's innocence. Sami investigates on her own to find out what really happened. Meh. I really don't enjoy books that focus on a teen character's parents so, from the very beginning, my interest was not peaked. The last place Sami's mom was seen was at home (in the house that Sami and her father still live in) which housed a former speakeasy, complete with underground tunnels for liquor running. The parts of the book that had to do with the house, tunnels, etc., were my favorite thing about the book. I wish I would have read this one before I purchased it for my library. I do not think it will be popular.

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### **PinkAmy loves books, cats and naps says**

Samantha lives in the shadow of her mother's abandonment, her father as a suspect in her disappearance. Now, he's linked to another missing, presumed dead ex, and she begins to question his innocence.

#SPLINTER has everything I love in a thriller: a compelling main character, interesting minor players, an interesting plot, multiple viable suspects and a conclusion that lives up to the story.

Samantha is so sympathetic. Is her father as guilty as he looks or a red herring? Her soon to be ex-stepmother, as much of a mother as Sam's own, yet Heather never tried to take her place, is she too perfect? What about the kind neighbor who blamed Sam's father? Or someone else?

Sasha Dawn has become a new must preorder writer. I loved #BLINK and can't wait to read #OBLIVION tomorrow.

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## Elle's Book Blog says

**Release Date:** January 1, 2017

**Genre:** Young Adult Mystery

There seems to be some confusion on the release date of this book. Amazon says the kindle version will be available on January 1, while goodreads and even netgalley says March 1. But, I am going to go with amazon on this one and say January 1.

With that being said, this is a really good YA thriller novel. I was pretty much glued to the pages all the way through until the end and I was unable to figure out the mystery that is involved in the story. Towards the end when all the pieces finally come into play and we do figure out what happened, I was shocked! So expect the unexpected because you will not guess "who dun it".

This story is about a girl named Sami whose mother went missing 10 years ago. To Sami, her mother just abandoned her but others (like the police) think that something more sinister has happened. This is because there has been no trace of her since she has been missing save for a few post cards here and there (anyone can send postcards though). So the case stays open because so many questions remain: Is Sami's mom alive? Is she dead? What happened? The number one suspect has always been Sami's father, but because officers can't place him at the scene or even find any clues or forensic stuff to link him to her disappearance, he stays out a free man. Sami of course doesn't think that her father had anything to do with it, but then again, the secrets he keeps and prior issues in his life leads her and everyone else to wonder... Did he do it?

Overall, this is a great story with a well rounded plot and interesting characters. However, I have to admit that the entire police investigation that goes on throughout the entire book got under my skin a little bit, and here's why. Sami is underage and the police seem to have no problem just showing up at her house and asking her questions whenever they need too. This also occurs whether she has a parent or guardian around or not. To me, this makes the story a little unbelievable because this wouldn't fly in the real world. And, because I like my stories to be as believable as possible, I had to downgrade my rating because of it. Other than this though, I would definitely recommend the book to fellow readers ESPECIALLY if you enjoy young adult novels and mystery or thrillers.

**Rating:** 4 stars

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## Kassandra (A Spectacular Reader) says

[ There was a huge build up to who the culprit was, but the way the person was revealed kind of fell short. (hide spoiler)]

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## Jessica Arnold says

I debated between 3 and 4 stars but ultimately went with 4 because I liked the way the author so easily

convinced me that whatever theory I had at the time was totally off-base. I liked constantly questioning what I thought I knew! Not super action-packed but definitely a page-turner. Recommend for mystery fans!

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### **Alicia says**

She's holding out hope that her mother, who disappeared years ago, is still alive because she gets mysterious postcards every so often with 11/7 or 7/11 on them that was a "thing" between her and her mother. But she's doing pretty good for herself with her step-sister, stepmother, and father. It's about uncovering where her mother is.

What happens to unravel the story is a bit of a slog, but the resolution ended up making this a decent thriller. I'd have to have a few teens read it to really decide whether it's a good read to recommend versus an okay thriller just to have a thriller on the shelf. I wouldn't compare it to April Henry who is a bit more fast-paced (and more my speed) for a thriller. Tragic end.

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### **Sue Holmes says**

\*Review copy received from publisher\*

As a thriller, I thought the story is predictable and over-descriptive. This disrupted the flow of the storyline and build-up to the climax.

Sami has an incredible, and totally unrealistic, memory of her first six years. This fact kept nagging at the back of my mind spoiling my enjoyment of the book.

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### **Jessica says**

Review will also be posted on my book blog, [www.addictedtonovels.blogspot.ca](http://www.addictedtonovels.blogspot.ca)

My rating for this book went up the farther I got into it. I LOVE mysteries, so Splinter quickly became one of my favorite mystery novels.

Originally I had thought that Splinter was going to be super predictable and easy to figure out but it wasn't! The author did a really good job of making it seem like it was totally obvious that it was this one character that was the reason behind the main character's mother missing, when really, it turned out to be someone nobody expected. At all. Even when I was SO SURE it HAD to be one of the characters, I was so wrong!

The farther I got into this book, the more entranced I became, and the more I HAD to know who actually did it! I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves a good mystery!

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### **Creel Unbelove'D says**

Yes there was the prerequisite good looking boy next door, but I honestly stayed up til three in the morning

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to finish this. Definitely worth the read. The suspense was well and truly done! A teenager comes to suspect her father and then step mother in the possible abduction of her mother when she was very young.

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### **Kristi says**

This book had me thoroughly entranced from very nearly the first page. It's a freebie I picked up somewhere and was a bit uncertain of it. I took it on vacation and if it weren't for the fact that I'd been so busy during vacation, I would have finished it a couple of days earlier. The mystery is a good one, the characters are realistic and likable. The family dynamics are nice and when I thought I had it all figured out, there was a piece I was missing. If you're looking for a YA mystery that isn't too dark, this one is a good one.

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