

The background features a complex network of white nodes and connecting lines, resembling a constellation or a data network. The nodes are of varying sizes and are connected by thin white lines, creating a web-like structure. The background color transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The text is centered and rendered in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Saint X

Written by Alexis Schaitkin

Published by PDF Site

Table of Contents

Saint Xavier	1
Saint Xavier University	2
Saint Xavier University Mumbai	3
Saint X Book	4
Saint Xavier High School	5
Saint Xaviers College	6
Saint X Book Review	7
Saint Xavier's School	8
Saint Xavier University Football	9

Saint X

By Alexis Schaitkin

Saint Xavier

Claire is only seven years old when her college-age sister, Alison, disappears on the last night of their family vacation at a resort on the Caribbean island of Saint X. Several days later, Alison's body is found in a remote spot on a nearby cay, and two local men — employees at the resort — are arrested. But the evidence is slim, the timeline against it, and the men are soon released. The story turns into national tabloid news, a lurid mystery that will go unsolved. For Claire and her parents, there is only the return home to broken lives.

Saint Xavier University

Years later, Claire is living and working in New York City when a brief but fateful encounter brings her together with Clive Richardson, one of the men originally suspected of murdering her sister. It is a moment that sets Claire on an obsessive pursuit of the truth - not only to find out what happened the night of Alison's death but also to answer the elusive question: Who exactly was her sister? At seven, Claire had been barely old enough to know her: a beautiful, changeable, provocative girl of eighteen at a turbulent moment of identity formation.

Saint X

Saint Xavier University Mumbai

As Claire doggedly shadows Clive, hoping to gain his trust, waiting for the slip that will reveal the truth, an unlikely attachment develops between them, two people whose lives were forever marked by the same tragedy.

Wow! It was impressive! It was unique! It was different!

Well, I have never been a great fan of anything slow burn but this brilliant author achieved amazing job and attracted my attention with the detailed, objective, photographic depictions and perfectly rounded characterization. This book is not a big mystery about unsolved case of a young woman's dying. This is also not only about obsession of the sister she left behind or the grief of whole family recently changed their residents and trying

Wow! It was impressive! It was unique! It was different!

Well, I have never been a great fan of anything slow burn but this brilliant author achieved amazing job and attracted my attention with the detailed, objective, photographic depictions and perfectly rounded characterization. This book is not a big mystery about unsolved case of a young woman's dying. This is also not only about obsession of the sister she left behind or the grief of whole family recently changed their residents and trying their best to move on with their lives.

This story is mostly about racism, class differences and privileges. The story-telling captivates you and you just enjoy yourself to get lost in author's long, meaningful sentences. First she takes us to non-existent tropical by showing us photographic, impeccably visualized details and make you believe that island and its rich visitors are real. And of course don't forget to get your thickest coat and free your mind about the dirtiness, too much crowd, being hauled or bumped by several people because she also takes us a trip to show the realistic parts of New York (definitely found my New York at those pages !)

In the middle of 1990's, the family's vacation at a spectacular tropical island doesn't end well as they expected. Their 18 year old girl Allison is missing. A famous actor and his girlfriend accidentally find her corpse in the waters of Faraway Cay. The police interrogate several people including blond boy hanged out several times with Allison and they couldn't find any proper motive and let him go so this event turns into a local mystery that has never been solved.

Allison's little sister (only seven) watches every move of her sister during their holiday as like she is the responsible one. She doesn't care Allison promises her pineapples, shells or stars, she just want to have more time with her. One night, she falls asleep and when she wakes up she finds out that her sister will never come back!

So the story moves to the present time. We meet grown up Claire, living in the city never sleeps, trying to make her ends meet. One day she climbs into a cab and as soon as she finds out cab driver's name: Clive Richardson, her entire life changes because the guy is the very same blond boy who has

Saint X

been questioned and released during their holiday. Claire's™ obsession takes control of her to find out what happened to her sister.

What I truly like about this book: WRITING. WRITING. WRITING. Photographic, detailed, objective depictions. It questions the unfairness of privileges and inequality between rich and poor, races.

What I didn't™ like about the book: Both of the girls were so annoying for me. (Allison in the past and Claire in the present.) I want to slap them or scream their face: "Get a life!" They were privileged pretentious spoiled girls that I really detest so of course I had really hard time to connect with them. And about the ending: Of course it is not what I expected. But surprisingly I liked the conclusion. I know most of the readers won't™ agree with me but I always enjoy to get a few steps behind an author's™ brilliance, especially when it comes to solve a mystery or revealing a secret, big ugly truth.

Overall: Even though I hate the guts of the characters and fantasized to punch them 24/7, this book is promising, very-good written, highly anticipated, successful debut.

Special thanks to Netgalley and Celadon Books to share this one of the most anticipated books of 2020's™ ARC COPY with me in exchange my honest review. And I truly congratulate Alexis Schaitkin with her brilliant debut novel

[blog](#)

[instagram](#)

[facebook](#)

[twitter](#) ...more

Saint X

Saint X Book

"That night, Claire is awakened by the sound of a key rattling in the lock. As she surfaces from dreams, she watches the door to the hotel room open. Her sister tiptoes across the room and slides into bed. In the morning Claire wakes at dawn to find her sister's bed empty. She is on the balcony, her eyes fixed on something in the distance. It seems her sister is hardly sleeping at all."

The problem with reading a book and putting off writing the review for weeks is that the small details begin to fade. "That night, Claire is awakened by the sound of a key rattling in the lock. As she surfaces from dreams, she watches the door to the hotel room open. Her sister tiptoes across the room and slides into bed. In the morning Claire wakes at dawn to find her sister's bed empty. She is on the balcony, her eyes fixed on something in the distance. It seems her sister is hardly sleeping at all."

The problem with reading a book and putting off writing the review for weeks is that the small details begin to fade, but Saint X is the type of read that requires deep thought and pondering before discussing. I'm still not sure I can do a review of this book justice, as it is so many aspects put into one cohesive timeline. Part true crime style mystery, part delayed coming of age, Saint X provides a suspenseful investigation coupled with self discovery of the protagonist.

This was an eye-opening glance at how deep the ties between race and privilege run. The author did a fantastic job of creating a unique narrative while touching on themes as old as time, and bringing attention to just how far America, and us privileged folks in general, needs to progress. The pacing is very slow and detailed, which works well for this type of story, but is told in such a riveting voice. This isn't a thriller per se, but it does take on a few of the qualities that fans of psychological suspense find appealing. If you're interested in other recent literary fiction novels featuring social justice discussions, please consider giving your time to this worthy story as well.

*Many thanks to the publisher for providing my review copy. ...more

2.5 stars

Did you ever wish something terrible would happen to you so the world could see how strong you are? Alison was always the star of the family - beautiful, brilliant and absolutely perfect - and Claire idolized her.

But one Caribbean vacation on the island of Saint X later, their family of four became a family of three.

Even though Claire was only seven, that memory was burned into her mind. Their voices, though still friendly on the surface, have a coldness to them. No, she tells

2.5 stars

Did you ever wish something terrible would happen to you so the world could see how strong you

Saint X

are? Alison was always the star of the family - beautiful, brilliant and absolutely perfect - and Claire idolized her.

But one Caribbean vacation on the island of Saint X later, their family of four became a family of three.

Even though Claire was only seven, that memory was burned into her mind. Their voices, though still friendly on the surface, have a coldness to them. No, she tells herself. She is just imagining it. Her sister's body was found washed up on the beach and Claire's life was forever changed.

And now that Claire is older - and has moved out, gotten the job and has checked off the hundred other adult things she should be doing - she just can't let Alison go. "You can't bring the stars."

"Why not?"

"You can't carry them."

"I'll bring whatever I want." And then one day, Claire runs into Clive - one of the men who was accused of killing her sister.

And right then and there, Claire decides to NOT let this opportunity pass her by any longer.

The winter, these nights, this man - it stretched on and on. I could see no end in sight. So. I loved the premise of this one - I think that was really, really well done.

I thought Claire and the elusive Alison made an interesting set of characters. You learn about Alison through interviews, tapes and Claire's memories, which then gives you an idea of who Claire truly is.

I was intrigued by Claire's mission to solve her sister's murder and when Clive came onto the page - my pulse quickened.

And then, just as quickly, it went back to normal.

This is one of those books where early on you realize that you meander...a lot.

And sometimes, I absolutely LOVE that and makes the book one of my favorites...and sometimes it just doesn't work.

With thanks to the author and the publisher for a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

All quotes come from an uncorrected proof and are subject to change upon publication.

YouTube | Blog | Instagram | Twitter | Snapchat @miranda.reads ...more

Saint X

Saint Xavier High School

Thought-Provoking

Saint X is a fascinating character study that explores familial relationships, the boundaries of friendship, racial divide, and class privilege through the death of an 18-year-old girl on an exclusive Caribbean island resort.

Saint X is the story of Alison Thomas; a beautiful, witty and privileged 18-year-old girl who is found dead on an island during her family's vacation in the 1990s. Claire, her seven-year-old sister, is now an only child. Two native islanders are accused of

Saint X is a fascinating character study that explores familial relationships, the boundaries of friendship, racial divide, and class privilege through the death of an 18-year-old girl on an exclusive Caribbean island resort.

Saint X is the story of Alison Thomas; a beautiful, witty and privileged 18-year-old girl who is found dead on an island during her family's vacation in the 1990s. Claire, her seven-year-old sister, is now an only child. Two native islanders are accused of Allison's murder.

Fast-forward: Claire is now 25 years old and haunted by her sister's death. A random encounter puts her in the presence of one of the men accused of her sister's murder. Claire becomes obsessed with this man. She lives to find out about the truth about what happened to her sister one fateful night so long ago. Obsession leads to self-reflection and a startling truth about Claire's own life.

The narrative, told primarily in the third person, focuses on Alison, Claire, Clive Richardson, The Island of Saint X, and the people who call the island home. Schaitkin takes a multi-genre approach seamlessly blending these stories with interviews, autopsy reports, diaries, etc.

Saint X made for an interesting reading experience. I didn't love the characters, but I found Schaitkin's writing style hypnotic. I felt as if I were in a trance while reading this. The pace is slow but compelling enough to keep one reading. Themes of class, race, sexuality, and privilege (amongst others) had me constantly thinking. This is a book that I am going to remember! Saint X is an impressive debut novel, and I can't wait to see what Schaitkin writes next.

Thank you to Jaime Novan at Celadon Books for sending me an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

...more

If you are looking for a fast paced crime or thriller read, then I would advise you to steer clear of Alexis Schaitkin's remarkable slow and considered character driven debut, a tantalising, acutely observed

Saint X

study of grief, loss, class, race, family, privilege, memory and obsession. 18 year old American Alison Thomas is holidaying with her family, her parents and 7 year old sister, Claire, on the fictional Caribbean island, Saint X, with its friendly locals, staying at The Indigo Bay Resort. The If you are looking for a fast paced crime or thriller read, then I would advise you to steer clear of Alexis Schaitkin's remarkable slow and considered character driven debut, a tantalising, acutely observed study of grief, loss, class, race, family, privilege, memory and obsession. 18 year old American Alison Thomas is holidaying with her family, her parents and 7 year old sister, Claire, on the fictional Caribbean island, Saint X, with its friendly locals, staying at The Indigo Bay Resort. The apparently confident, beautiful, athletic and flirtatious Alison goes missing, only for her body to turn up on a beach later. Two locals, Clive Richardson and Edwin Hastie, are arrested but with insufficient evidence, they are released and the mystery of Alison's death remains a mystery through the years.

The young Claire was close to Alison, her lovely sister was everything she wanted to be, she and her parents lives were left indelibly fractured and broken, with the tragedy of what happened to Alison receiving intense media attention in the US. The consequences led to the family moving from New York to Pasadena, California and in Claire's use of the name Emily. Many years later in New York, the 25 year old Claire coincidentally bumps into Clive. She has never been able to forget and let go of her beloved sister, haunted by her death, so she follows Clive, her desperate obsession driven by her need to know the truth and perhaps more pertinently her desire to get to know who exactly Alison was. As it soon becomes clear that there was far more to Alison than her limited childhood memories had led her to believe, Claire becomes disturbed by what she discovers.

Schaitkin writes a thought provoking novel, beautifully written, with heavy rich descriptions, although there are occasional jarring notes, essentially about the wide ranging repercussions on a surprisingly large number of people of Alison's death. The effects of grief and loss run so deep in her family, particularly the young Claire who grows up unable to ever get over losing her sister, which in turn leads to the unforeseen consequences later of her decision to enter Clive's life. This is a compulsive read, with themes that had me immersed in this impressive and memorable debut. Many thanks to Pan Macmillan for an ARC. ...more

Saint X

Saint Xaviers College

Before I begin my review I would first like to ask everyone to stand for a slow clap in reverence for Celadon Books.

•••••

The new voices they are presenting to the literary world are beyond compare. I've no doubt that all of my friends on Goodreads Island of Misfit Readers has AT LEAST one of their authors books on their Best of 2019 list.

So, kudos Celadon, you've made mine and many others year in books among the best yet.

Ahem, ok here we go...

Simply stated, Alexis Before I begin my review I would first like to ask everyone to stand for a slow clap in reverence for Celadon Books.

•••••

The new voices they are presenting to the literary world are beyond compare. I've no doubt that all of my friends on Goodreads Island of Misfit Readers has AT LEAST one of their authors books on their Best of 2019 list.

So, kudos Celadon, you've made mine and many others year in books among the best yet.

Ahem, ok here we go...

Simply stated, Alexis Schaitkin was born to be a writer.

Schaitkin chose to open up this story using a third-person objective POV and it was a phenomenal choice. I felt like a literal fly on the wall as I took my first taste of the characters in Saint X.

From there I have somewhat bipolar feelings about this story.

~ f I loved the seamless weaving of the multiple plotlines along with the random chapters featuring POV's from peripheral characters.

Saint X

However, I didn't care for any of the characters themselves. I never felt any real affection or aversion towards any of them.

I loved that the author chose to build a fictional island for this story. I had no trouble picturing the resort with its privileged clientele and the surrounding destitution just beyond its lily white walls.

However, I was lulled to sleep by the over descriptive world building when it came to the NYC scenes. Maybe if you're a New Yorker this would appeal to you but for me it was relentless drivel.

For me, the most affecting part of this story isn't the grief or obsession that is at the heart of the story. It is the underlying messages about race and privilege.

I saw myself in the thoughts and actions of this overindulged white family. Things I've said and done in an attempt to show how woke I am only succeeded in showing my complete and utter ignorance.

Schaitkin has given me an entirely new perspective and shaken and changed me in a profound way.

Isn't that what great writing is supposed to do?

* I received an ARC (and some cool island swag 🌴••) from Celadon. All opinions are my own. *
...more

This book = BOOK CLUB GOLD!!!

There is so much to chew on and discuss here that book clubs across the globe will be talking about this book come February!

Claire is only 7 years old while vacationing with her family on the tropical island of Saint X. Claire is a quiet child, some may even say a bit odd, but one thing is for certain: Claire and her big sister Alison share a tight bond. She admires Alison's beauty, her wit, her intelligence, the way that she lights up a room, the way people gravitate toward her. This book = BOOK CLUB GOLD!!!

There is so much to chew on and discuss here that book clubs across the globe will be talking about this book come February!

Claire is only 7 years old while vacationing with her family on the tropical island of Saint X. Claire is a quiet child, some may even say a bit odd, but one thing is for certain: Claire and her big sister Alison share a tight bond. She admires Alison's beauty, her wit, her intelligence, the way that she lights up a room, the way people gravitate toward her. These are all things she feels she lacks herself so on a

Saint X

pedestal of her own making Alison goes. Alison on the other hand worries that the shy Claire is too vulnerable for this big bad world and likes to keep her under her wing.

On the last evening of their vacation Alison doesn't come home. A search is initiated and after several weeks her body is discovered in the waters of Faraway Cay. Two of the resort workers, Edwin and Clive, that Alison became chummy with, are questioned but are released due to lack of evidence. No one has ever been charged and this will go down as a local mystery that makes national headlines.

In the present day Claire finds herself making a living in NYC. One day when she flags down a cab she notices upon exiting that the cab drivers name is Clive Richardson. He was one of the young men at the resort that was questioned and released. Claire becomes obsessed with insinuating herself into his life determined to find out what happened to Alison once and for all.

The more Claire looks into the past she is beginning to discover that the Alison she remembers is not who Alison actually was. Being as she was only 7 she saw the 18 year old Alison as a shining star but it turns out that may not be the case and this unsettles her.

I'll be honest and tell you that I didn't really like Alison or the adult Claire very much. As we get to know Alison she comes across as self righteous and bratty. She resents her lovely and loving parents so much that I found it off-putting. I just wanted to scream in my kindle "YOU SPOILED LITTLE BRAT!"

Rich vs. Poor. Black vs. White. These themes run the entirety of the novel.

The ending will have people talking I'm sure. Personally, I didn't mind it but others may not like it.

As I turned the final page I was surprised to discover that the person who stole my heart wasn't who I thought it was going to be when I opened this book up.

Alexis Schaitkin, I bow to you. You can spin a tale like no other. The atmosphere she creates is truly incredible. I felt as if I had been transported to the beaches of Saint X and the streets of NYC while I was reading and that is a sign of phenomenal writing skills. This may also be the downfall of this book as well. It starts to get overly descriptive to the point that I would skim paragraphs just so I could return to the storytelling but, hey, if that's my only gripe then I'm a happy reader. Also, I can't forget to mention that cover is eye candy! ðŸ˜• 4 stars!

One final note: Celadon, keep up the great work! You have quickly become one of my favorite publishers. ðŸ˜—

Thank you to Edelweiss and Celadon for providing me with a digital ARC in exchange for my honest review. ...more

Saint X

Saint X Book Review

4.5 stars

Ooh, this was a good one! The book is being compared to Emma Clines *The Girls*, and Lauren Groff's *Fates and Furies*, and since I haven't read either of those books, I have no idea if that is a fair comparison or not. While reading this book though I kept getting Celeste Ng vibes to the story so if you like that author, I recommend reading *Saint X*.

During a family vacation on the Caribbean island of Saint X, college student, Alison, goes missing. A few days later her body is found and two

 4.5 stars

Ooh, this was a good one! The book is being compared to Emma Cline's *The Girls*, and Lauren Groff's *Fates and Furies*, and since I haven't read either of those books, I have no idea if that is a fair comparison or not. While reading this book though I kept getting Celeste Ng vibes to the story so if you like that author, I recommend reading *Saint X*.

During a family vacation on the Caribbean island of Saint X, college student, Alison, goes missing. A few days later her body is found and two male resort employees are arrested. It's a huge story in the United States and the mystery deepens when the men are released because the evidence against them is flimsy. Alison's seven year old sister, Claire, and her parents return home, heartbroken and devastated. Years later, Claire wants answers as to what exactly happened the night of her sister's death.

I went a bit light on my synopsis because I almost think the publisher's synopsis gives away too much. Such a significant part of the story is Claire and her desire to learn more about her sister and everything that happened on the island and I feel like as a reader you need to watch everything unfold naturally in order to get the most out of the book.

There's obviously a mystery element to the story but that part was almost secondary to me as Claire herself was the driving force. The aftermath of her sister's death and how it affected Claire and her family was the heart of the story for me. However, what makes this book special is the fact that each reader might cling to something different from the story. The author does show the perspectives from time to time of other characters and without getting into spoilers, some readers might find the strength of the story to be in the chapters towards the end of the book. There's lots of themes the author explores and the fact this is her debut novel is rather impressive. It's good people, I highly recommend checking this one out!

Thank you to Celadon Books for sending me an advance copy in exchange for an honest review!

...more

3.5*

Saint X

This book reminded me so much of the Natalie Holloway tragedy that I couldn't move beyond it to truly embrace the story-line.

Alison is a young, beautiful teenage girl on vacation with her parents and younger sister on the tropical paradise island of Saint X. Their lodging is an exclusive five-star resort where everything they could possibly want is brought right to them. Sounds like heaven, right? So when Allison vanishes, this beautiful island vacation quickly spirals into a nightmare.

The 3.5*

This book reminded me so much of the Natalie Holloway tragedy that I couldn't move beyond it to truly embrace the story-line.

Alison is a young, beautiful teenage girl on vacation with her parents and younger sister on the tropical paradise island of Saint X. Their lodging is an exclusive five-star resort where everything they could possibly want is brought right to them. Sounds like heaven, right? So when Allison vanishes, this beautiful island vacation quickly spirals into a nightmare.

The story-line follows the younger sister Claire years later as she moves forward in her life. And she's making great strides. Until that fateful day she crossed paths with a man she recognizes as one of the boys employed at the resort all those many years ago when her sister vanished. This sighting re-ignites Claire's memories, and now becomes an obsession to find the truth!

I wish I could say I enjoyed this more, but it just fell short. The pace seemed to crawl along. It's a short book but felt like it was a good hundred pages longer than it actually was.

There are many fabulous five-star reviews for this book, so perhaps I just wasn't the right reader.

A buddy read with Susanne!

Thank you to NetGalley, Edelweiss and Celadon books for an ARC to read and review.

...more

Saint X

Saint Xavier's School

Publication Date: February 18, 2020

Saint X is a strange book. It has so many long, wordy, overly done passages, in my opinion, that my will to keep reading was taxed. But behind that "too much" was a story that I could not put down. I enjoyed the character study aspect of the book, despite that the main character, Claire, and her older sister, Alison, were so unlikable. I wanted to know what happened to Alison and that is what kept me going, even though portions of the book were a slogfest. I

Publication Date: February 18, 2020

Saint X is a strange book. It has so many long, wordy, overly done passages, in my opinion, that my will to keep reading was taxed. But behind that "too much" was a story that I could not put down. I enjoyed the character study aspect of the book, despite that the main character, Claire, and her older sister, Alison, were so unlikable. I wanted to know what happened to Alison and that is what kept me going, even though portions of the book were a slogfest. I think this speaks to how much I enjoyed the parts of the book that I did enjoy.Â

Seven year old Claire, her parents, and her eighteen year old sister are on a winter vacation to the island of Saint X. Beautiful, popular Alison has so much going for her, everything really, but she's so unhappy with it, so miserable with her good fortune, that she seems determined to muck it up by breaking up with her longtime boyfriend that she loves, drinking and smoking with the two young men who work at the resort where the family stays, sneaking out at night, sneaking off during the day, flirting and teasing a male visitor and all the while, seeing everything through a lens of disdain and disgust. As the book goes on, and we are seeing so much through Claire's eyes, I realize that Alison's attitude has rubbed off on Claire, in the saddest of ways. Claire wasn't beautiful or popular and was a bit strange but she seemed to feel the same disdain for everyone and everything around her.Â

This is a story of how much Alison's life and especially her death, affected so many people, even people who didn't know her or barely knew her. For a long time Claire was able to set aside the mystery of Alison's death but when she is twenty-five, she enters a taxi and the driver is one of the two resort workers, both who were suspects briefly, of the murder of Alison. This starts Claire on a path of total obsession with this man, an obsession which destroys her not very happy life.Â

This book is dark and dreary and sad so I was surprised by how the ending became something good and hopeful. It could have been a quick read if not for the places that bogged me down like quicksand. I know not everyone will enjoy this book but I did, despite the drawback of wordiness. Thank you to Celadon Books/Macmillan and Edelweiss for this ARC.Â ...more

Many thanks to Celadon Books for sending me a copy in exchange for an honest review

Hello, my name is Tucker and I read a book. I did not like that book but unfortunately, I do not have

Saint X

enough thoughts to write a proper review so prepare yourself for my favorite type of review to write: A gif review.

Me when I started this book with Miranda:

Me when I started to realize I wasn't enjoying this as much as I hoped:

Me trying to tell myself I was enjoying this book:

Me when the twist was revealed:

But

Many thanks to Celadon Books for sending me a copy in exchange for an honest review

Hello, my name is Tucker and I read a book. I did not like that book but unfortunately, I do not have enough thoughts to write a proper review so I prepare myself for my favorite type of review to write: A gif review.

Me when I started this book with Miranda:

Me when I started to realize I wasn't enjoying this as much as I hoped:

Me trying to tell myself I was enjoying this book:

Me when the twist was revealed:

But in the end, this was how I felt about the gorgeous writing style:

Me when I found out that Miranda didn't like it either:

Me when I finally finished this book:

Saint X

PDF Site

Saint X

yikes.... 2.5 stars

I think my favorite part of working with Celadon is the creative and enjoyable unique swag that comes with the ARC

p.s. those glasses didn't come with the ARC. they're from my uncle's brewery

Buddy read with the one and only Miranda Reads!

| [Goodreads](#) | [Blog](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) ...more

Saint X

Saint Xavier University Football

Claire is seven years old when her older sister, Alison goes missing on the last evening of the Caribbean vacation on the island of Saint X. Days later, Alison's body is found but with no concrete evidence, the local authorities could not hold anyone (two employees of the resort whom she was last seen with) accountable for her death and the mystery of her death will remain unsolved.

Many years later, Claire, who now goes by her middle name, is living in NYC and has a chance encounter with Clive Claire is seven years old when her older sister, Alison goes missing on the last evening of the Caribbean vacation on the island of Saint X. Days later, Alison's body is found but with no concrete evidence, the local authorities could not hold anyone (two employees of the resort whom she was last seen with) accountable for her death and the mystery of her death will remain unsolved.

Many years later, Claire, who now goes by her middle name, is living in NYC and has a chance encounter with Clive Richardson, one of the men her sister was last seen with and was initially suspected of killing her. This begins her obsessive search for answers. What really happened that tragic night? Who (if anyone) is responsible for Alison's death? Will Claire ever get closure?

For me, the premise was extremely intriguing. I had high hopes for this book and although it does provide food for thought, I found this book to be overly descriptive and wordy at times. SLOW BURN says it all. Not all the characters are likable, but they are interesting. I enjoyed how Claire came to learn that she didn't know her sister as well as she thought she did. This was an interesting part. She knew her sister thorough her innocent 7-year-old eyes but learns more about her much later, through her sisters'™ journals. Another interesting part of the book, for me, was the small sections about how Alison's death affected others - those who knew her and those who only saw her at the resort.

I have found that I enjoy the book more upon reflection on it than I did while reading it. Again, too slow and wordy for me. I found myself struggling with this in the beginning and even though I found my footing with it, I found myself reaching for other books and putting this one down.

Enjoyable but had me wanting more.

I received a copy of this book from Celadon Books in exchange for an honest review. All the thoughts and opinions are my own. ...more

3 stars.

College student, Alison Thomas, is found dead after disappearing while on vacation with her parents at a prestigious tropical resort. Two employees of the resort are taken in for questioning but released due to lack of evidence. This story follows the aftermath of Alisons death showing multiple characters perspectives of the impact Alisons death held on them.

Saint X

The flow and narration of this novel is extremely unique. I was intrigued by how this story was unfolding for the majority of the 3 stars.

College student, Alison Thomas, is found dead after disappearing while on vacation with her parents at a prestigious tropical resort. Two employees of the resort are taken in for questioning but released due to lack of evidence. This story follows the aftermath of Alison's death showing multiple characters perspectives of the impact Alison's death held on them.

The flow and narration of this novel is extremely unique. I was intrigued by how this story was unfolding for the majority of the book, but closer to the end it became overdone and drawn out. I enjoyed getting a glimpse into multiple characters lives and views, however, I did find a lot of the detail to those side stories unnecessary and repetitive. The narrative became too wordy and overly descriptive which took away from my enjoyment. I did enjoy the feel of suspense throughout that kept me curious until the end.

Overall, I did enjoy the book and found it to be a unique reading experience, just not as gripping or impactful as I had hoped.

Thank you to Celadon Books for my review copy! ...more