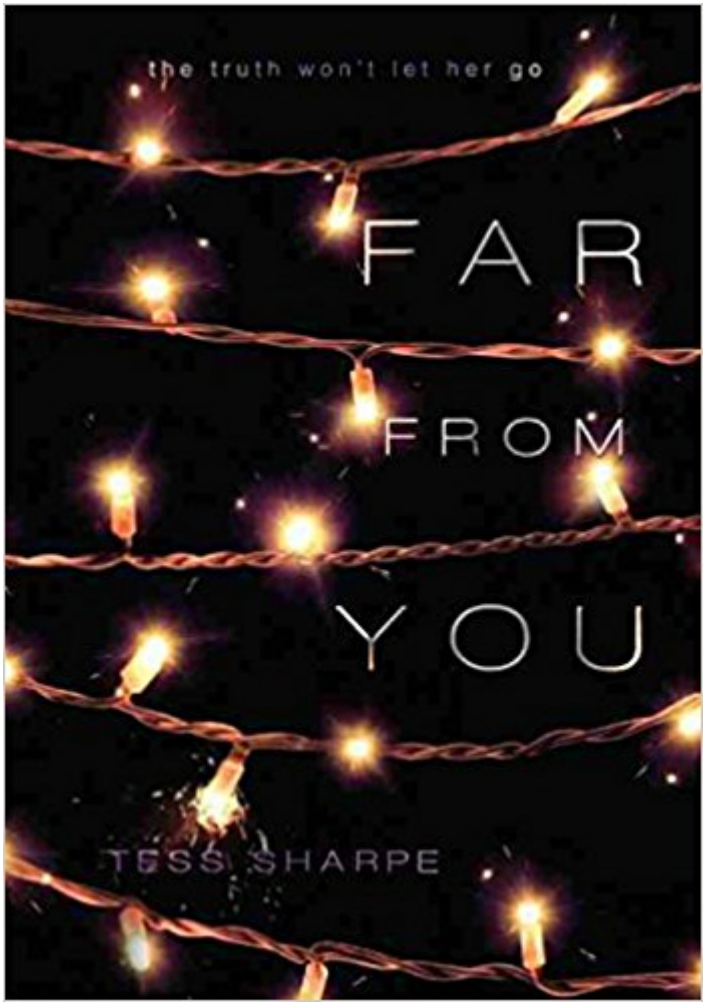
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Far From You



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Synopsis

* "This beautifully realized debut delves into the emotions of a girl recovering from drug addiction and grief, all wrapped up in a solid mystery." -Kirkus Reviews (starred review) * "Sharpe creat[es] a lacerating picture of grief and regret. ...The murder mystery is compelling, and its resolution serves as a reminder that love is irrevocably tied to loss and that few people get out of it unscathed." -Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (starred review) "This romance is full of struggle and strong emotions, likely to find an appreciable YA audience." -School Library JournalSophie Winters nearly died. Twice.The first time, she's fourteen, and escapes a near-fatal car accident with scars, a bum leg, and an addiction to Oxy that'll take years to kick. The second time, she's seventeen, and it's no accident. Sophie and her best friend Mina are confronted by a masked man in the woods. Sophie survives, but Mina is not so lucky. When the cops deem Mina's murder a drug deal gone wrong, casting partial blame on Sophie, no one will believe the truth: Sophie has been clean for months, and it was Mina who led her into the woods that night for a meeting shrouded in mystery.After a forced stint in rehab, Sophie returns home to a chilly new reality. Mina's brother won't speak to her, her parents fear she'll relapse, old friends have become enemies, and Sophie has to learn how to live without her other half. To make matters worse, no one is looking in the right places and Sophie must search for Mina's murderer on her own. But with every step, Sophie comes closer to revealing all: about herself, about Mina and about the secret they shared.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 UpÃ¢â ¬â •The day Sophie is released from rehab starts the "now" of this story, which alternates with flashbacks from the past. Readers learn that the teen has had two close calls with death, the first in a crippling car crash with her friend Mina and Mina's brother Trev. The second was when Mina was murdered in front of her in what is assumed to be a drug deal gone bad. Because Sophie is a recovering drug addict, even her parents don't believe her when she says that the murder has nothing to do with drugs, hence her stay in rehab. Now that she's free, Sophie is obsessed with finding Mina's killer. Somehow she must overcome everyone's belief that her relapse caused Mina's death and enlist help in solving the crime. The mystery is a major theme of the book, and the author gives no clues before the revelation. This kind of plot twist is sometimes successful, but here the ending is so out of left field that it lacks believability. As readers follow Sophie's sleuthing, they learn that Mina was more than just her best friend; she was also her first love. This romance is full of struggle and strong emotions, likely to find an appreciable YA audience.Ã¢â ¬â •Genevieve Feldman, San Francisco Public Library --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Debut novelist Sharpe attempts a delicate balancing act between past and present in this murder mystery about secrets and truth. The story begins with the crime, which is then unraveled by our narrator, Sophie, as she describes how she got to the point where her best friend, Mina, was murdered. Sophie alternates between telling her current story and relating past events, starting with the car accident three years before, which ravaged her physically and led to an OxyContin addiction. It will not take the reader long to realize that Sophie and Mina were not only best friends but in love with each other; SophieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s heartbreak is as much about this as it is about MinaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s death. Despite SophieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s eagerness to find the killer, the hunt for him feels a bit abandoned as past events are continually revisited and analyzed. Fortunately, SharpeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s writing is beautiful and her characters are fully realized, which should carry readers through to the bookÃ¢â ¬â„¢s sorrowful finale. Grades 9-12. --Kara Dean --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

No one believes Sophie. She's a recently sober prescription pill addict, so everyone (even her parents and friends) thinks that she was involved in a drug deal gone wrong, that left her best friend dead. But she's determined to find out who really killed Mina, and bring the killer to justice.I really liked this book. This is as much a love story as it is a murder mystery, and I appreciated how well bisexuality was represented here. I think this will definitely be a read-again for me.

I do not read YA very much but as I am from northern California I wanted to check it out. Extremely good word of mouth from advance copies.I wasn't disappointed. I liked the timeline changes, eschewing a linear story; the characters felt lived-in and not contrived. They spoke like teenagers actually speak. Sometimes I roll my eyes when a character in a book goes off on a lengthy, impossibly articulate monologue that is anathema to their age/upbringing/class/region/etc. Northern california is portrayed accurately. I knew people like these characters. I know the late 20s-early 30s versions of those people now.The love story is beautiful, and -- unfortunately, considering it is 2014 -- unusual in that a character actually self-identifies as bisexual and that is mentioned as *one of* her characteristics, rather than the defining one. Refreshing and hopefully a sign of things to come.This is clearly not a debut novel. I think this just happens to be the first one she has published. I'd venture to guess there's a file cabinet (or a laptop, considering she's not 1000 years old) with half a dozen books or more in it in various states of excellence.I look forward to her future work.-K.E. DeFoer

Name: Far From YouAuthor: Tess SharpePublisher: Disney HyperionSummary: Sophie Winters nearly died. Twice.The first time, she's fourteen, and escapes a near-fatal car accident with scars, a bum leg, and an addiction to Oxy that'll take years to kick.The second time, she's seventeen, and it's no accident. Sophie and her best friend Mina are confronted by a masked man in the woods. Sophie survives, but Mina is not so lucky. When the cops deem Mina's murder a drug deal gone wrong, casting partial blame on Sophie, no one will believe the truth: Sophie has been clean for months, and it was Mina who led her into the woods that night for a meeting shrouded in mystery.After a forced stint in rehab, Sophie returns home to a chilly new reality. Mina's brother won't speak to her, her parents fear she'll relapse, old friends have become enemies, and Sophie has to learn how to live without her other half. To make matters worse, no one is looking in the right places and Sophie must search for Mina's murderer on her own. But with every step, Sophie comes closer to revealing all: about herself, about Mina...and about the secret they shared.Review: Far From You is the first novel from debut author Tess Sharpe from Disney Hyperion. This book had me rapidly flipping the pages to find out what happened next. It is the story of teen Sophie Winters whose life changed in an instant. That moment is when her best friend Mina is murdered. At seventeen she has endured a lot. At fourteen she narrowly survived a car accident, but she escaped with an addiction to Oxy that controlled her life and took her a couple years to defeat. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s because of this addiction and because of her past that nobody wants to believe

what Sophie is trying to tell them: she was clean and has been clean for months. She was not using and she did not drag Mina along for a drug deal. MinaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s death is not her fault. She cared too much for Mina to ever drag her into that part of her life.The way that Far From You is written is one chapter is written in present-day and the following chapter is a flashback, though these are at various times throughout the last few years. At first I wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t sure that I would like this formatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •but Tess Sharpe knew what she was doing, it worked perfectly for the type of novel that she was writing. Without being told whatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s happening, you are given the chance to actually see what happened. You get to live in current day with Sophie as she tries to discover what has happened, but also see the past unfolding.ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a combination of contemporary and mystery/thriller. The balance was absolutely perfect. I canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t lieÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •I am a total contemporary junkie! But the added mystery behind what happened the night that Mina was murdered heightened the impact as well as my interest. I couldnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t wait to put the pieces together and figure out the puzzle of what happened in SophieÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s past along with Sophie who was trying to figure out what happened the night that Mina was murdered. I thought this would inevitably lead to what happened on the night that Mina was killed and Sophie survived and I was right. The plot twists were unexpected and this has easily become one of my favorite reads of 2014.--Jen, [...]

Very amazing story that will keep you at the edge of your seat. The characters were well done and it really shows the struggle.

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