



A Stunning Accusation

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Adelaide Scott is a 25-year-old relationship advice columnist for Stunning! Magazine. Her new boyfriend, Jordan Johnson, is a renowned photographer for Sports Unlimited. Their relationship seems perfect, until his ex-girlfriend confronts them at a bar - and accuses Jordan of raping her, turning their world upside down. It doesn't help that her best friend and editor, Kiersten Sharp, sees rape as a black-and-white issue, with no shades of doubt. Addie is about to discover that the truth - in all its forms - is complicated, and not at all what she expects.

A Stunning Accusation Details

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From Reader Review A Stunning Accusation for online ebook

MaryAnn says

A Stunning Accusation made me think and question on several different levels. The main character, Adelaide, goes on quite the journey, eventually questioning things that I think many women struggle with, namely where do you draw the line between what is and isn't rape and what is and isn't acceptable in a relationship.

I would highly recommend this novel to any woman of dating age, especially ones that are in their late teens and early 20s. I found that is when I always second guessed myself and my choices, but the lessons in this book relate to any age, really. There are so many nuances around the topic of rape and consent or lack thereof, and this novel deals thoughtfully with a lot of them.

I was immediately sucked into the story and didn't want to put it down because Adelaide, her doubts and quest for the truth stayed in my head, always letting me know that there was more to read, more layers of this story to unfold. This is a novel that is one of those in which you discover more little details and fine points each time you reread it.

I received an early reader copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Lauren says

A Stunning Accusation by Sarahbeth Caplin is an interesting book about relationships and the idea of date rape. What classifies date rape? Is it rape or just a misunderstanding? The book has a noble purpose, in helping women understand that date rape exists. Whether it is caused by the man, power, or societal ideas date rape does exist. In this book a popular photographer is accused of rape. He is loved by women, spends time with his family, and is classified as a gentleman. Could he really be a rapist? That is what his current girlfriend tries to figure out by talking to his ex-girlfriends.

The book itself was alright. The idea behind the book was good and it definitely has a deeper reading. At times I had problems relating to the characters and connecting to the reading. Date rape is present in our society, but it is rarely talked about.

****Received this book free from Goodreads Giveaways.****

Lindsay Duvak says

I liked this book and think that it was very well written, however, I just had a hard time with the main character. I felt like she was an intelligent woman and strong and independent but as the story went along, I found her to be weak and letting multiple things slide. I just wanted her to be more of a strong woman throughout the book and to stand up for women's rights a little more. I do think that the story brought to life some of the struggles that a lot of women face when it comes to the subject of rape and it definitely pulled on some of my heartstrings for them.

Melissa Simmons says

Insightful, thought provoking and extremely well written.

A Stunning Accusation by Sarahbeth Caplin is a masterpiece. Honestly, the blurb does not do this book justice at all. I didn't expect to be completely taken in from the very beginning. I didn't expect to be riveted and unable to put my kindle down until I'd finished. I read this in one sitting, I just HAD to know what truths Addie would learn and what decisions she'd make for herself in the end.

Sarahbeth Caplin has taken a sensitive topic and tackled it with grace and intelligence. Through the main character, Addie's perspective she asks us what is consent and how do we view it? I will admit that I spent a good portion of the book wishing violence upon Addie's supposed best friend and co-worker, Kiersten. She made me want to shake her with her constant semi-bitchy and condescending ways towards Addie. Never was she truly supportive or understanding, she only ever seemed to want to push Addie into seeing things the same way she did. Ick.

Addie is an advice columnist at a women's magazine- think Cosmo, etc- and she's cultivated a certain persona in order to fit in at the office and keep her job. She's never really thought a whole lot about the content she's putting out there for other women to read, though. One of the best parts of this book, in my opinion, was Addie's journey of self-discovery while she was uncovering the truth of her boyfriend's past relationships through interviews with his ex-girlfriends. She grows so much by the end of the book and really blossoms into a strong, dynamic character. I want more Addie, SB. Please?

I consider this to be an important book. One that I will be giving to my nieces to read when they get a little older. In a nutshell, consent is always black and white, even when the truth is complicated and women everywhere should know that. I highly recommend this book and will be looking for other titles from this fantastic author.

Beth says

This is my 1st book read, written by Sarah Beth Caplin, I enjoyed getting the chance to read it. Accusations, they are a tough matter (or a subject to chat about anyways) in real life or in book life, he said, she said kind of talk. this is not mushy gushy book, no hearts and roses here. I think if you are one to shy away from reading about rape, rape issues, the end result after an accused rape might not or did occur, this book might NOT be the one for you. These characters are raw, believable & well rounded. I was clueless about the ending, funny (maybe that is not word for my point, but?) that I was totally not correct for the ending, Sarah Beth had me there, the ending was well done. I enjoy when a author has you that way, that you are unsure of their destination for the end result. I will be reading more from Sarah Beth in the future. (:

C. says

I have to admit, I didn't know what to expect from Caplin's A Stunning Accusation. I began reading it with some hesitation and was then immediately taken in by the storyline. This is an important story to tell and this

is an important time in which to tell it.

Adelaide, in fact, is a character who could be any woman we know and probably do. She is a professional columnist yet is going through what many women do in their early professional careers -- do what she is told and don't rock the boat. She's just trying to fit in. How many of us can think of other women like Addie, even maybe ourselves? When she meets her new boyfriend JJ, however, she is forced to begin reexamining what it means to be herself. Not only that, her journey forces the reader to reexamine what is and isn't consent, what is and isn't coercion, abuse, manipulation, etc.

This is an incredibly timely issue and one that can often end in a shouting match between groups of people. However, Caplin handles it with great aplomb in her crafted novel and brilliant characterization. I would not hesitate to recommend *A Stunning Accusation*.

Peggy says

WOW!!! Is about all I know to say of this book! I will say this much, it's a sensitive topic (Rape), so I recommend to read at your own risk as it may trigger emotions. Well written, the characters are amazing. And the plot of the story was wonderful. Not at all what I was thinking when I first started reading this book, it took a turn I don't believe that I seen coming.

Received for an honest review

Jenna says

This book was nothing like I expected. It was refreshingly different. I went into this thinking it would be a love story that was thrown a curve ball. But really it was so much more. I mean what would you do if the guy you just recently started seeing was accused of rape? Would you take his word for it? Or would you investigate?

I think what I like most about this book is that it's very informational in a way. This book explains that rape is not a black and white thing. There are so many things that can count as rape.

I just have to say I really liked Addie. However, from the beginning I hated Jordan. I also hated Kiersten. But everything else in this book kept me pulled in. I read this book in a matter of hours and I really like the way the writing flowed. I do wish there would have been a little more elaboration on some things but found this to be a good read.

ARC provided in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!

Elizabeth says

This is an important and timely book. I really enjoyed reading it.

It covers the topic of rape and sexual assault in a way no book I've read before has. It's a book that I think everyone, male or female, should read.

Linda Munro says

I received this book via a goodreads giveaway.

This novel asks one question; what would you do if your boyfriend was verbally accused of rape?

Twenty-five year old advice columnist Adelaide Scott, known to her friends as Addie, has landed the perfect boyfriend, renown photographer Jordan Johnson, a man admired by his friends and wanted by women everywhere. Their relationship is perfect, or is it?

When Jordan's ex-girlfriend confronts him at a bar; in front of his sister, his young niece and Addie with the allegation that Jordan raped her, what will Addie do? Will she stick by Jordan, demanding proof or will she examine all of the facts as an investigated reporter would?

Some accusations bind a couple together in a relationship so strong that nothing can break it. Some accusations tear a person apart? What will happen to Addie & Jordan?

Lydia Thomas says

I give A Stunning Accusation by Sarahbeth Caplin 4 out of 5 stars.

This latest from Caplin is an important work on rape culture – namely, coercion and consent. It's about the fine lines and balance that accompany this topic. Ultimately, it's a search for truth, and how complicated it can be. As with all of Caplin's work, it leaves you thinking.

Addie is a columnist for Stunning! magazine, where she mostly writes fluff pieces, though she'd much rather be writing about more serious topics. Stunning! just isn't that kind of magazine. It's been done before (How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days and Trainwreck come to mind), so I wasn't necessarily thrilled with that aspect of the story.

I found Addie a little too-good-to-be-true. She doesn't seem conflicted enough when her boyfriend is accused of rape, or maybe she doesn't seem as conflicted as I would be. She keeps an open mind, and sets out to find the truth. How many people would have that kind of courage if a loved one was faced with that kind of accusation? That's not to say they shouldn't have that kind of courage, I just don't know how realistic it was. She was judgmental of her friend and even her boyfriend's family when they expressed differing opinions, like everyone needed to move at her pace. I felt like she formed conclusions about consent and coercion – good conclusions, by the way – a little too quickly. I would have liked to see her come to those conclusions.

This is where I liked Caplin's earlier work on rape culture, Someone You Already Know, which is (sadly) now off the market, better. It felt like more of a journey, and I think that's important, especially for those

who are not familiar with the concepts of consent and coercion. Stunning felt like an opportunity to express wholly-formed opinions of these concepts, and didn't leave much grace for differing ideas, if any at all.

While I didn't care for Addie, I found Jordan interesting. Jordan raises the question of intention, not because intention changes anything on the receiving end of assault and some of the other things that happen in Stunning, but because some men really may not have malicious intent. Like Jordan, they may genuinely think they're being helpful, that the women want it, or that it's some kind of game. They're wrong – of course, they're wrong, but ... how do we help these men understand that regardless of intent, we may not welcome or accept their behavior? That there's nothing wrong with us when we don't?

In turn, the question of empowerment is raised in Jordan's ex-girlfriends. Do I – do we understand that we don't have to welcome or accept unwanted attention and behaviors, regardless of intention? It doesn't always come from strangers, sometimes it's from people we have to rub shoulders with every day, so how do we set up boundaries in a professional way? (Because as much as we might want to, we can't always flip them off or block them.) Have we given ourselves agency to say, "No," and be respected in that?

This is not about blame. Blame for assault always (always, always, always) lies with the perpetrator. The perpetrator is responsible for modifying his or her own behavior.

But. Once we start claiming our own bodies, our ability to walk away (which is always harder than it sounds, but it can be done), our ability to say no and follow through, we take control away from those who would use and abuse us, and we give it to ourselves.

You see what I mean about Caplin making you think? (And okay, I'm dealing with a situation right now that's making me think about this stuff more than normal, too. But yeah...)

In Stunning, Addie writes an article about the line between flirting and harassment, but her editor changes it to make it more magazine-appropriate. I'd be interested in reading what she had to say.

I recommend A Stunning Accusation for anyone interested in learning about the nuances of rape culture. I can't tell you enough how important Caplin's voice is on this topic, and how much she'll make you think.

Drewseph says

"A Stunning Accusation" by Sarahbeth Caplin is a stunning accomplishment. It took me a while to write this review because I was so taken by how masterfully this story was written.

Adelaide Scott is a popular dating columnist for a women's lifestyle magazine. A free-spirited young woman, she has never felt herself falling for a man, but that might be changing. Jordan, the handsome sports photographer with whom she's been spending many of her nights, is making her think about getting serious. He's so charming and such a caring uncle to his little niece. So she finds it hard to believe the stunning accusation leveled by one of Jordan's ex-girlfriends, "You raped me."

After Jordan insists Addie contact some of his ex-girlfriends, she decides to do exactly that but not exclusively from the list he provided. Her interviews bring her profound confusion. She starts to believe the accusation is likely true, but her feelings are continuing to deepen. Even worse, one interview causes her to

realize her very first sexual encounter was in fact a rape.

Caplin brilliantly navigates the often fuzzy subject of sexual assault, particularly when it happens with an intimate partner. Is it rape if there wasn't full intercourse? Is it rape if we were already having sex? If there is no consent, then the answer is yes every single time, an answer that is often hard to accept.

In our present culture, we often focus on legal definitions of guilt and doubt sexual assault survivors when their stories don't match our ideas of rape. "A Stunning Accusation" is a powerful reminder to us that supporting survivors does not require a conviction or for their stories to fit a comfortable narrative. Sexual assault happens in many different ways, and the people who commit rape rarely fit our preferred image.

"A Stunning Accusation" is a fantastic novel full of uncomfortable truth about sexual assault and rape culture. So often these attacks are committed not by strangers jumping out of bushes. They are frequently committed by people with whom we share ourselves intimately, people we love. This is one incredible novel, and you should read it right away.

Kelly Chandler (Krebill) - Kelly's Book Blog says

4.5 of 5

A Stunning Accusation by Sarahbeth Caplin

Copy provided for an honest review.

Warning! This book covers sensitive topics/issues, specifically rape. I found this book very serious, believable and informative. I also believe that this book handles the details very respectfully and gives great perspective for both sides of the issue and both parties involved.

Wow. A Stunning Accusation has been one of the few books this year that I have read that really forced me to think and reflect on the many different issues throughout the whole story. It is engaging and captivating. This story took me for a ride. One moment I was agreeing with the heroine and the next not. I was pointing fingers and trying to do my own detective work. I was formulating my own thoughts and inputs as she, Addie, was as well. I think the great writing really made me submerge myself into the plot and these difficult issues. Although I have never personally experienced these things directly, I could easily understand and I could sympathize. I am so glad I read this book.

The characters are well rounded and believable. Adelaide "Addie" is a strong and determined woman who is forced to deal with her boyfriend, Jordan, being accused of raping one of his ex-girlfriends. She decides to take on her own investigation to find out if Jordan is guilty. She learns and grows so much from the things she hears and the people she encounters. She does a great job of staying neutral, although her feelings do play a role, while searching for the facts. She is a columnist for a women's magazine, the type that publishes articles like "how to flirt" "how to keep a man's attention" and "how to please your man...in bed", so as a writer she knows the importance of the facts. I really liked Addie's character. She was the perfect person to dive into these issues. Sarahbeth does a great job of making her relatable. Jordan, a photographer for a sports magazine, is the man in question. To please Addie, whom he seems smitten with, he gives her a list of all his exes so she can confront them individually. Jordan was "all over the board" for me. I liked him, I didn't, I liked him, and I didn't. I did like Jordan's role in this story. His character is complex and his words/actions

are essential to the plot. Like Addie, Sarahbeth created a “relatable” character in Jordan. (To a certain extent).

Overall, this book took me for a ride. I enjoyed the investigation and trying to put together all the information with Addie. I really enjoyed reading her thoughts and comparing them to my own. The only minor thing was a few moments that lost my attention for a second. Not a lot though! Also, the relationship between Addie and her best friend and coworker Kiersten was rocky. I really wanted Kiersten to fill the “best friend” role...and I wanted more reactions from her. I wanted her to invest more into the well-being of Addie.

Check this book out. It’s a read that will stick with you long after you are done. Sarahbeth does a wonderful job of building complex characters and a captivating plot/investigation!

Melissa says

A Must Read!

When I read the blurb for this book I was interested at how Addie would come out of this... well... stunning accusation. What I didn't expect was how complex things would turn out to be. I have honestly always been a black and white kind of thinker when it comes to subjects like this one, but I realize now that there are many people who don't think the way that I do... The author really sucked me into the story, and had me reading straight through, and also very much considering things that hadn't really occurred to me before. I have read books that deal with this subject before of course, I read TONS but never have I seen it portrayed at all like this. I will be giving this to my daughter to read in a few years, and have a few older girls and a few older boys that I know who I think may already benefit from it. I definitely recommend this and highly commend the author on the grace and very smart way that she tackled this issue. I was generously offered a complimentary copy of this book for an honest review.

Natacha Guyot says

Caplin does an outstanding job at depicting rape culture. The way she shows how everyone can participate to it, even when they don't realize it, is particularly compelling and thought-provoking. It isn't an easy read and can be quite triggering; but it is a very worthy one.
