



As You Lay Sleeping

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I did it all for you...

Cara's boyfriend is dead. When fingers start pointing at her, she knows she's in more trouble than she originally thought. Because Cara can see that something isn't right. As her carefully constructed life begins to crumble, Cara isn't sure who she is anymore. But maybe that's exactly what someone wants her to think...

As You Lay Sleeping Details

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Author : Katlyn Duncan

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From Reader Review As You Lay Sleeping for online ebook

Mehsi says

I received this book for a blog tour in exchange of an honest review.

Well, I got to 52% and then I just had to give up. My head hurt, I wanted to throw all the characters into a fiery pit of doom and destruction, and oh yeah, the story didn't go anywhere and was dragging as no tomorrow. Eventually I read the last 9~% of the book to see what would happen, and found out I didn't miss much of anything by skipping. :P So I read a total of 61% of this book. Meh.

I was truly looking forward to this book when I saw the sign up for the blog tour. I am a big fan of YA thriller/mystery and I am always looking around for new books to enjoy. The blurb, the cover, they all screamed at me to read them.

We immediately started with some confusing stuff by another character, which then, awkwardly, and probably due to my ereader messing things up, went right to the MC's POV. This happened quite a few times afterwards. I would be reading E's POV, but then it would just melt into Cara's POV, which was highly confusing as both characters felt the same to me (sure, Cara was less bloodthirsty, but that was the only real difference).

The death of the boyfriend was just too disappointing. I had expected something much grander, but instead it was that, and for all of the parts I read that was actually the only creepy/thriller part that happened. The rest of what I read was just Cara trying to live with her life, find a new hot guy to drool over, annoy her sister (my lord), try to get into queen Kat's good graces (and fail), do her job at the inn/restaurant, agonise about the loss of her friends (though I didn't get why she was friends with them). *yawn*

None of the characters were particularly likeable. Oh wait, yes Ryan, but he was the only one.

For starters let me start with the detective. I just didn't get his witch hunt for Cara. He didn't seem like a really good cop/detective to me that he would act like this. For some reason, or well, for no reason, he immediately had his arrows on Cara, even though, from even my POV, she didn't do a thing. Weird!

Then there is Kat, my lord. What a total *insert some very mean, rude words here*. I disliked her from the start, and I couldn't see why anyone would be friend with such a controlling, conniving *insert some more rude words*. Oh yes, the almighty popularity that all YA characters seem to crave oh so much. *rolls her eyes* I also didn't like Kat for how she acted, how she immediately blamed Cara, and how she even was disgusted with her climb to popularity. Oh please, girl, like you wouldn't do the same thing.

Next up is Madison, the annoying sister trope, oh did I say that out loud? Oh how terrible. But sorry, the sister just pissed me off. How she acted and treated her sister. Then again, Cara wasn't that nice to Madison either, but I do wonder if that is a cause of how Madison acts towards Cara or if that is just a mean streak in Cara.

Cara was just meh, she wasn't really interesting, and her OMG I NEED TO BE POPULAR OR LIFE IS OVER was just a bit too much for me. Plus I wish she just had the balls to break up things with Joe instead of letting it go on and on and on for so long.

Plus I know she didn't like Joe, but to so quickly jump on a new boy was a bit cringey and I wasn't happy

with it.

How she treated her sister was another thing that was a strike against her.

She had some nice qualities, but they were mostly overshadowed by how she acted throughout the parts that I read.

Yes, the romance between Cara and Ryan just didn't fit for me. Her boyfriend (I know, she didn't like him, but she must have loved him one time in their relationship) just died a few weeks ago, and she is already drooling over the next victim. It just didn't sit right with me. It felt off and weird. She went from OMG will I ever sleep to OMG Ryan. Meh.

Oh yes, something I did agree on when, after I read my 61% of the book, I was checking out some reviews. What the hell does the title have to do with the book?

The ending? Boy, the ending was hopeless. All kinds of grand stuff happening (finally some bit of action), and then it ends like that? Whut? Why? That is just a cop-out and I wasn't happy.

So yes, big disappointment. It looked and sounded so good.

Review first posted at <https://twirlingbookprincess.com>

Sophie Bristow Harris says

This is a great read for a Young Adult - or even older adults if you prefer your thrillers less threatening and without colourful language.

This looked like a gripping read to me and I enjoyed it a lot.

The main character, Cara, started off being very self obsessed until she was forced out of her friendship ring and met a new friend. When this happened she softened a lot and had compassion for others.

I was rooting for Cara to solve the mystery and even shed a tear at the end when she was reunited with her family after spending some time apart from them against her will.

I didn't figure out who the "bad guy" was until the end of the story and that was not how it seems either....

A great read that earns a well deserved 4 stars from me.

Many Thanks to the author, Katlyn Duncan and Helen Boyce at TBC for giving me a copy of "As You Lay Sleeping" in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Ross Greenwood says

This was a quick read yet started off too slowly for me.

The pace improved in the second half of the book as did my enjoyment.

The author displayed an excellent awareness of teen angst and their mean interactions and didn't go overboard on the romance. There were some nice lines that made me smile and showed talent.

A decent end to the story led to me awarding a 4!

Lynda Dickson says

The story is told in the first person from the points-of-view of sixteen-year-old Cara and the mysterious and murderous E, who is searching for a girl called Sylvia. The search takes E to Chester Bay, Connecticut, where Cara lives. When Cara's boyfriend dies mysteriously, her world is turned upside down: she loses her best friends and her social standing; she's hounded by the detective in charge of the case; and someone from her past shows up unexpectedly and displays an unnatural interest in her. Should she be worried?

This is a tale of love and obsession and how far some people will go to protect their family. It's an interesting concept that doesn't quite gel. While the story kept my attention, the speech is stilted and unnatural, and the behavior of the characters is unrealistic. The author slowly builds the suspense and the creepiness factor, but the tension is soon lost. In addition, the climax is predictable and too easily resolved, while the ending leaves it open for a sequel. And the title? Sorry, I just don't get it.

I received this book in return for an honest review.

Full blog post (21 February): <https://booksdirectonline.blogspot.co...>

Fiona says

This was a quick read, quite pacy and with enough suspense to keep the pages turning. You have to suspend belief at times but overall the plot was good, the characters well developed and the author shows insight into teenage girl angst - the measures some will go to to fit in and the insidious bullying some experience.

I enjoyed this book and I think it will be popular with the YA market. I'm not sure I understand the title but that's a minor point. A good 3.5 stars.

My thanks to TBConFB for this copy.

Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says

This was an interesting little read. I wasn't sure I was going to like it at the beginning because there wasn't a single likable character. Especially the heroine who came across like a self-absorbed superficial bitch. That said, once Ryan comes into the picture her character improves GREATLY and I ended up liking her.

I was very quickly pulled into the story and the pace moved along nicely and kept me turning the pages. I enjoyed the developing relationship between Ryan and Cara. There were some interesting side characters as well. Both likable and not so likable. The ending was such that I foresee another book at some point. Not exactly a cliffy, but left open-ended.

As much as I enjoyed it I did feel that the whole story felt a little underdeveloped. There were things that were just skimmed over that needed more fleshing out. Joe's murder for one. He seemed like he was into some bad stuff, but his history and background is just really lightly touched on. The same with Ryan's background. It's hinted at that he has some "darker" issues, but nothing is ever pursued. We are also left with having NO clue why detective Devereaux had it out for Cara from the beginning out the book? Had these things been developed further my rating would have been higher.

SIDE NOTE: The title of the book confuses me because it has absolutely NOTHING to do with the storyline AT ALL. #confusedpartyofone

Linda Strong says

Cara is trying to dump her boyfriend. But she wants to keep it civil because her best friend is his sister and she doesn't want that relationship to suffer.

When Joe decides that Cara is right about breaking up, he wants to see her one last time. Agreeing to meet at his house, his last remark to her is ... bring some Thai food.

When Cara arrives there, she finds him lying on the sofa, so obviously dead. Because he's been using lots of drugs, her first assumption is that he overdosed. She sees a note ... ALL FOR YOU. OMG, did he commit suicide because she wanted him to leave her alone?

According to the police, he was murdered. His family is accusing Cara ... and she finds herself a suspect. So many secrets she carried about Joe that his family never knew.

As she goes about trying to get past the awful images in her head, she runs into a young man, Ryan. Seems like he had met her before. As they become good friends, things start happening. Ryan gets a text telling him to LEAVE HER ALONE. Her? meaning Cara?

As the teens start looking into Joe's death, Cara finds that Ryan isn't exactly who she thought he was. Now she's not sure who to trust anymore....

This book is aimed at Teens and YA, but I found it quite enjoyable. I really liked Cara and Ryan .. and Cara's dad. The mean girl, Joe's sister, was abrasive and just plain mean. The premise is a good one, although I can't really see police welcoming teens in investigations...even if Ryan's brother turns out to be the detective who suspects Cara of murder.

Although it reminds me of other books with themes along the same lines, it kept me reading and it kept me entertained. It's not highly suspenseful, but there are moments when you just can't put the book down for any reason.

Many thanks to the author / HQ Digital /Netgalley who provided me a copy of this book. Any opinion expressed here is unbiased and entirely my own.

Suze Lavender says

Cara's relationship with Joe brings her the popularity she craves. They've been together for a long time and for a while everything was okay between them, but Joe is going to a prestigious university and Cara will be a senior in high school. It's time to go their separate ways. Unfortunately their goodbye is a bit more definite than Cara imagined it would be, as Joe is dead. Cara is being interrogated by the police. Do they think Joe was killed and if so is she a suspect? After Joe's death Cara slowly starts losing the things in life that are important to her. What is going on, is there something she should have noticed and how come someone else knows more about her life than she does?

Cara always wanted to be friends with the most popular girl at school. Dating her friend's brother makes it possible, but it also means there are high standards she needs to meet and there's a lot she has to undergo for the sake of acceptance. Joe's death is the beginning of uncertain times for her. Will his sister still be her friend, is she destined to be a social outcast or even worse, do people think she had something to do with it? Cara desperately needs a friend. She also has to find a way to prove her innocence. Will she succeed?

Cara craves to belong, but instead of being liked for who she is she has to make plenty of sacrifices. Even though this might be one of her biggest flaws I could understand why she wanted to fit in more than anything and I could easily forgive most of the mistakes she's made in her past. She's an interesting main character. She isn't perfect and she doesn't always make the right or most honorable decisions, which sometimes makes her an unreliable main character. However, I admired her capability to be honest with herself and her willingness to look inside herself to see what's there, both good and bad. She's a fascinating mix of personality traits and I couldn't wait to find out more about her.

As You Lay Sleeping is a gripping story. Cara knows something doesn't add up, but she can't prove exactly what it is. Katlyn Duncan writes about her problems and feelings in an open and descriptive way. I liked that very much about the story. There are many surprising twists and turns and the ending is strange, thrilling and unusual. As You Lay Sleeping is an intriguing story with a lot of complex psychology behind it. It's well written and compelling and I read it in one sitting because I couldn't put it down.

Sarah Joint says

Easy read you can fly through quickly. I didn't know the book would focus on teenagers when I read the synopsis, but that's what it is: complete with drama about friend groups and the all important "fitting in". My rating is a 3.5 bumped up to a 4. I enjoyed it, though the ending felt a little rushed to me.

Cara is a pretty happy teenage girl in the beginning. She has loving parents, she's popular, and has some close friends. Her boyfriend is a problem. She wants to break up with him, but doesn't want backlash from his younger sister... who happens to be her best friend. Joe is perfectly aware that she's unhappy, and finally tells her that he's ready to be single too. Relieved that she won't be blamed for dumping him, she heads to his house to talk... and bring him the Thai food he demanded. When she arrives, Joe is dead on the couch. Cara has always stayed away from drugs, but Joe didn't share that sentiment. Seems like it caught up to him as he's thought to have died from an overdose. He left something behind... a note that says "all for you" for Cara. She doesn't understand. It's not like she was breaking his heart... what does it mean?

Cara's friends shun her thanks to the queen bee of the group, Joe's sister. She blames Cara for his death, insistent that she could have helped him somehow and prevented his tragic ending. Her life becomes much more boring without them, just working and spending time with her family... which opens her up to spending time with a new face in town: Ryan, whom she previously met briefly years ago and is very interested in getting to know her better.

As the police begin to suspect Joe was murdered, accusations fly. Cara knows she didn't do it, but does she know who did? And why is the detective on the case so interested in her? Secrets come out as the mystery gets closer to being solved...

I received an ARC of this book from Net Galley and HQ Digital, thank you! My review is honest and unbiased.

Sarah says

(I received an advance copy of this book for free. Thanks to HQ Digital, LLC and NetGalley.)

“It was an accidental overdose, that’s all.”

This was a YA mystery story about a girl whose boyfriend died mysteriously.

Cara was an okay character although she did take some unnecessary risks at times. She also maybe moved on from her dead boyfriend a little too quickly, so I wasn't surprised when the dead boyfriend's sister wasn't happy about it.

The storyline in this was about Cara discovering her boyfriend dead from an apparent overdose, and the police suspecting foul play. Cara then began investigating what had happened herself with the help of new-guy Ryan, and we also got a bit of a romance blossoming between the two. The pace in this was okay, although I did find my attention lapsing at points.

The ending to this seemed to set things up for a sequel, so things weren't as tied up as they could have been.

6.25 out of 10

Susan Angela Wallace says

As you lay sleeping by Katlyn Duncan is a mystery and thriller and teens and ya read.

I did it all for you...

Cara's boyfriend is dead.

When fingers start pointing at her, she knows she's in more trouble than she originally thought. Because Cara can see that something isn't right.

As her carefully constructed life begins to crumble, Cara isn't sure who she is anymore.

But maybe that's exactly what someone wants her to think...

This was a fantastic read with brilliant characters. I loved the story. Kept me thinking if it was suicide or not. Definitely didn't see that coming. Highly recommended. 5*. tbc on fb.

Alice-Elizabeth (marriedtobooks) says

I am taking part in the blog tour for this book, head over to my blog for the chance to enter in an international giveaway! :) <https://marriedtobooksreviewsandblog....>

As You Lay Sleeping follows the story of seventeen year old Cara during the summer before her final year at High School where she has a group of close friends and a boyfriend about to leave for College. But before he leaves, Cara finds him dead but what really happened to him? The story follows Cara being framed for her boyfriend's murder, her family being secretive and her friends bitching on her including her boyfriend's sister who was up until the death Cara's best friend and quite frankly not wanting anything to do with her. The detective investigating the case also thinks Cara killed her own boyfriend. During this period of time, Cara tries to prove her innocence with the help of Ryan, a guy she knows from years gone by. But he has secrets of his own too.

As You Lay Sleeping definitely has the makings of a great YA thriller, the descriptions of the crime scene and the areas that Cara visits creates a great setting for adventure and for the world that Cara knows to unravel right in front of her eyes. There were some story twists in there that I certainly didn't expect to happen! But as I only write spoiler-free reviews, you'll have to read and find out what those twists are

Charlotte says

Cara is 16 when the book starts. She is ignoring her boyfriend, Joe. The only reason she wanted Joe was to get a higher social status at school, she just wanted to be one of the popular girls. Shallow? Yes, that her, but Joe is a drug addict, likes drink and some other unsavory thing that Data is thinking may not be worth it. Kat is Joe's sister and queen of the popular girls, and Cara's best friend while dating her brother.

This book is about a teenage girl finding herself, finding what's important, learning to grow up. Cara learns what family is and to think of others.

This was a great where the main character is not immediately likeable. The slowly reveals itself until Cara's 17th birthday and then it opens like heated popcorn. The author did a nice job with the twist at the end.

Abbie says

(I received a copy from Netgalley, In exchange for an honest review.)

I wasn't a big fan of the characters in this, but they weren't awful.

Despite this only being short, there were parts in this that dragged slightly for me, and the book felt longer than what it was because of it.

It wasn't one that I can say I really liked, but it was an alright read overall.

Alison Muhl says

This is a great YA book, having said that, as a 40-year-old, I found it was a good read for me too!

Initially, I didn't warm to the Cara. At the beginning of the tale, she is a self-obsessed teenager who is constantly trying to 'better' herself. The sad thing is, the only way she believes she can do this, is by mixing with the wealthy, popular girls. In order to become an important part of this group, Cara dates the brother of the 'it' girl, even though she is deeply unhappy with the relationship. One afternoon, Cara speaks to Joe on and she is pleased to hear him say that he wants to end their relationship. He demands she visits him one last time, which she does and, when she arrives at his poolside room, Cara finds Joe is dead! The pace of the story picks up from here as the police investigation points to the fact that Joe was murdered. There are some brilliantly written, atmospheric chapters following Joe's death.

Then, out of the blue – Ryan, an old friend of Cara comes back to town. At this point, Cara has been shunned by the popular girls and so ends up spending a lot of time with Ryan. Thankfully, Ryan is a genuinely nice, down-to-earth guy who changes Cara's perception of happiness and what is important – it was at this time that I decided my initial feelings towards Cara were a little harsh – after all, don't all teenagers just want to fit in and be popular?

It was not at all obvious to me as to who the other person was or what their motives were – things are not always what they seem!

All in all, I enjoyed this book, although the ending felt a little rushed to me, as it lacked the detail and pace of the other parts of the book. A solid 4 stars.
