



Capital Girls

Ella Monroe

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CAPITAL GIRLS by Ella Monroe is the first book in a glitzy, fast-paced, fabulous new young adult series set against the backdrop of Washington, D.C. In it, we meet four young women, best friends forever, who must navigate life as the children of some of the most powerful people in the nation. With that life comes not only awesome vacations, beautiful clothes and A-list parties, but also scandal, heartache, danger and the ever-present paparazzi who seem to have a knack for catching them when they're up to something bad!

Capital Girls Details

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From Reader Review *Capital Girls* for online ebook

Samantha says

Capital Girls is a fun read. As a fan of the book series *Pretty Little Liars* and the TV show *Gossip Girl*, I knew I would like it and I wasn't disappointed.

Set in Washington D.C., *Capital Girls* follows the dramas of a group of friends. Jackie, Lettie, and Laura Beth are three teenage girls' who are devastated over the recent loss of their friend Taylor. The four of them made up a group they dubbed the Capital Girls. Without Taylor-the wild, fun one-to hold the group together, their friendship is falling apart.

Jackie is D.C.'s It-Girl. Daughter of the chief-of-staff and girlfriend of the president's son, she's always in the tabloids. But when Jackie's boyfriend insists on taking a chastity vow, she might just be frustrated enough to cheat on him with someone more passionate. Meanwhile, Lettie is having boy drama of her own as she falls head-over-heels for Taylor's twin brother. And Laura Beth is constantly struggling with being in Jackie's shadow, secretly plotting to replace her friend as the one in charge.

The book definitely focused on Jackie which was good because Jackie was the most likable and well-developed character. There was plenty of fun name-dropping and juicy scandals. The mystery of the story-which revolved around the circumstances of Taylor's death-could have been better developed. I would have enjoyed some more suspense. All in all though, this was a fun read and I would recommend it to Sara Shepard fans. The ending will definitely leave you ready for the sequel.

Wendy says

I'm going to talk a lot about specific events in this book, so if you don't want to know, don't read.

There is one thing that drives me batshit crazy: it's when the back cover of books is completely and totally inaccurate in its synopsis.

The back cover of this book talked about these four teenage girls who have the run of Washington D.C. Only one of the descriptions of the girls was really all that accurate. One of the girls is DEAD and only appears in the book via short flashbacks and hear-say. It says Laura Beth gets revenge on Whitney for messing with her friends...when she keeps pushing to have Whitney involved with their circle of friends and toward the end of the book, you find out that SHE was in fact the one who was screwing over her friends. I feel like for the most part, the back cover story made out this book to be all about girls and boys when it's much more than that.

This is really a book about political corruption in Washington D.C. However, I gave this book a lower star count because I find it highly unlikely that a group of 18-year-olds could really influence politics THAT MUCH, despite the fact that one of the main characters is the daughter of the president's chief of staff and dating the First Son.

I kind of want to read the second book in the series...and I kind of don't. I found some things about this book very off-putting. It seemed like some of the *scandals* in this book weren't all that scandalous and were

blown out of proportion and some of the conversations were just rehashes of old conversations.

The thing that makes me want to read the next book is this one just abruptly ends. There are very few loose ends in this book (like the thing with Senator Griffin and the pictures of Jackie) that were tied up. Plus, it seemed like they were just getting around to talking about the only non-reprehensible character in this book - Lettie -- and then it's over.

Mostly, this book just felt like the Gossip Girl series or Pretty Little Liars, but set in Washington D.C.

Julie Rodriguez says

I won this book through goodreads. I really enjoyed this book. I highly recommend it to any reader that wants to get lost in a fantasy of high society. It has everything you need when it comes to lost, scandals, and love. Very well written and look forward to more books by this author.

Moon Shine Art Spot ~ Lisa says

CAPITAL GIRLS by Ella Monroe is the first book in a glitzy, fast-paced, fabulous new young adult series set against the backdrop of Washington, D.C. In it, we meet four young women, best friends forever, who must navigate life as the children of some of the most powerful people in the nation. With that life comes not only awesome vacations, beautiful clothes and A-list parties, but also scandal, heartache, danger and the ever-present paparazzi who seem to have a knack for catching them when they're up to something bad!(less)

My review:

I did not particularly like this book. I think the characters were described well enough, but it was hard to find anyone to relate to. It was very clear what Jackie's boyfriend's problem was as soon as you saw he had one, so there was no mystery there. Everyone seemed so "in love" with their deceased friend Taylor's outgoing actions & I do not understand how that in itself was not a constant embarrassment to the president as one of the girl's friends. Apparently the girls, especially Jacki, as girlfriend to the president's son, was under constant watch and all of the girls were constantly being used to better their parent's political careers.

If anything I found the book a little sad that everyone was using, blackmailing, back stabbing, & totally trampeling each other. I also hated the constant throwing around the names of the most important, expensive brands. It seemed a story of horrible parents teaching their children to be horrible adults, but how to cover it up.

Maybe that was the point. It stinks to be the children of politicians & it will twist you too.... But don't let it show.

Nothing really juicy happened, or came out until the end of the book & I was not satisfied that I would have to read the second book just to find out what happened in the first one I struggled through. I think if the two books had been put together into one, then maybe it would have greatly improved the story.

Chloe Wenton says

Awesome book. Perfect summer read. I am so over vampire fantasy books. This is the perfect upgrade back into real life fantasy again. I would rather have the Andrew character in this book after me than a make believe hero with super powers. The writing makes me think of a much improved version of those girl books that clog the shelf and tv. glad it was passed a long to me.

Michelle Madow says

Loved this! Such a fun book.

carinne says

I tried to apply my rule and give this book at least a 25% chance. I figure if the book isn't good by 25% then it isn't worth my time. I made it only to 21% before I had to give up on this one.

I wanted to read something fun and flirty, about best friends and scandals. I didn't want it to be romance based but friendship based. Of course I wanted there to be romance and scandal , and gossip. This book sounded perfect. That it was set in D.C. OMG, Even better. So I sat down in the air conditioner after a long week and I cracked this bad boy open. Don't get me wrong, I was well aware that this is a young adult novel, and that at times it might come across as Juvenile , but I was unprepared for this.

This would have been the book I'd have written when I was 13. There's a strangeness of character development, because this reads like a preteen novel. Which was fine, I have no problems with reading about the girls in question mourning over their dead friend , having tea parties, exploring New York, and one of them dating the presidents son. Sounds Amazing right? It should have been.

But imagine reading Dr. Seuss , and then all of sudden incomes a giant flow of curse words, and one of the characters says" Hey would you like to smoke some weed".

And yes I get its not unrealistic, this is a book that supposedly takes place in high school, but the characters read more like 13-15 year olds, and don't seem like characters that would be caught doing this. Still I tried to pull through it.

My Second Problem THE STEREOTYPES!

I can deal with certain stereotypes, the cheerleader, the jock, the nerd, the shy quiet girl. Its common in young adult. Sometimes it done well.

But Lettie the poor Latina from the dumps, didn't do it for me. First of all, if her dad is an ambassador why is she living in the slums. Second, is her dad an ambassador, because now I am just totally confused. Third, you expect me to believe these girls just accepted her, have you met these girls?

The other stereotype was the New girl Whitney. Whitney supposedly dresses trashy, her mother is an African

American gossip columnist, and she wants to go back to California, where she was before her dad dragged her to D.C. The girls immediately don't except Whitney. Why, who knows or cares.

Anywho, Whitney ends up being this crazy girl who likes to get drunk, smoke weed, and hang with the college boys, yippee!

I couldn't take it anymore when Whitney decided the girls morning over their dead friend with a tradition of going to their favorite cupcake place was stupid. She also thought college applications were stupid. The fact that she was half African American made me more angry, because there isn't enough cultural diversity in young adult literature already, and what supposed to be a positive thing turned completely negative.

Keep in mind that I only made it though 21% of the book. I couldn't make it to 25% Maybe it got better, but I won't find out.

Maybe this book might work for an actual teenager, although this is not a book I would recommend for any teen girl.

Anna says

I wouldn't recommend this book to any age group. It was hard to get through. I didn't sympathize with or care for any of the characters. The narrative and dialogue were eye roll inducing, as were the plethora of Democrat, Republican, Southern, wealthy, cliquey stereotypes. I'm sure there's a way to use all of the stereotypes and make it work but Monroe failed epically. I'm surprised Capital Girls was given a green light for a full series. I was just reading a piece about how authors shouldn't get ahead of themselves and write their whole series because who knows if their first book will be well received. Thus, the first book should be able to stand on its own, with most of the loose ends tied up, and with POTENTIAL for a series and character growth and development. Capital Girls can't stand. It's written w. the "if you want to find out more, read the next book!" approach. Unfortunately for them, I don't care to read anymore and I doubt I'm in the minority in feeling this way. I'm going to take a guess and say that books 1 and 2 could have easily been written to make one book, instead of having book 1 be as drawn out as it was. The characters and the storylines don't really go anywhere. It's one long, badly written soap opera, and that's saying something.

Amber says

I won this book through Goodreads First Reads.

What I Didn't Like

The premise of this book was interesting, but I found myself disliking the execution. I could not relate to the characters at all and I found very few of them to even be likable. Most of the time I felt a disconnect between the age the characters were supposed to be, and the age they felt like they were.

The story started out slowly, but the plot itself had a lot of potential, and I was pulled into the intrigue by the end of the novel. Unfortunately, the novel ended right as the plot began. While I can appreciate cliff hangers, the sudden cut off combined with the fluff filler in the first 2/3s of the novel made me feel a little bit cheated

story wise.

I also found the constant name-dropping of various brands to be distracting.

What I Did Like

The author did a great job in making DC seem vibrant and full of energy. The descriptions helped bring the city to life and the political climate was well captured.

Whitley Birks says

I was surprised at the amount of hatred in this book. Because of what it is, I could ignore the brand-name dropping and the rich girl escapism, but all the characters in this book are MEAN. Right from the very start, they say the most horrible things about each other, their parents, complete strangers. They praise their friend for committing petty acts of 'revenge' and think of a new girl as a 'bitch' just because of how she dresses. Everyone is a stark stereotype, cliched as hell, and has no redeeming qualities. The author tries to throw in some politics, but she treads the two main political parties like Capulets and Montagues, groups that would rather shoot each other on sight than be seen having tea together. There's no amount of subtlety or tact anywhere in this book.

On top of that, this book celebrates delinquent behavior such as underage drinking and smoking, promotes vindictive attitudes and gossip, and can't do wit. The first chapter is a textbook case of why teenagers shouldn't date adults, but it's presented apologetically as if the relationship is good and true, not an older man sneaking the pants off a 17 year old. The whole thing is just supremely uncomfortable.

But, at least the technical aspect of the writing is decent. I didn't find any sentences that made me hurt, like in so many other books aimed at this age group.

Liz says

I feel lucky to have received an early copy of Capital Girls from a friend. This book is well written with a compelling story line. My daughters and I read this book and we cannot stop talking about it. It's amazing how topical this storyline is. It dovetails with the new TV series Political Animals. I plan to give this book to my friends and their kids. So much to talk about: coming of age in a town where power means more than money. This really is the DC version of Gossip Girls, but it has so much more soul. I cannot wait to read the next book!

Bobbie says

This books is atrocious. On so many levels.

Kelani says

I won this book as a free giveaway from goodreads.com. This book was fantastic! I could not put it down. I started it yesterday and would have finished it had I not been so tired. This book is full of drama, suspense, and interesting well developed characters that keep you turning the pages. I can't wait for the next book to come out!! Highly recommend this book especially if you like the show Pretty Little Liars. Only this has a DC flare!!

Nakeisha Campbell says

In *Capital Girls*, a group of young teens in Washington D.C. share an unbreakable bond. They all have parents in high places, which constantly puts them in the spotlight. However, when one of them (Taylor Cane) dies in a car accident, the group's bond is put to the test and they struggle to cope. To make matters even more complicated, Jackie begins to fall for another guy even though she's in a "perfect" relationship, and Whitney, the daughter of a famous gossip columnist, infiltrates their group to get new information.

Now, I usually make it my duty to finish any book that I start (especially if the summary is this good), but unfortunately, this was one exception to the rule. It was very disappointing because I was so excited to get this free copy from Goodreads. But I struggled to get through this book. I read the first two chapters and then I put it down, leaving it untouched for several weeks. Then I picked it back up again, read a few more pages and stopped reading it altogether. I couldn't manage to read another line because I felt like I was punishing myself.

Here are the main reasons why:

1. Although I did like the drama, it was not realistic. The main characters were so young (16 to 17 years old) but they acted twice their age. Most of these girls were self-absorbed, spoiled little girls who only cared about popularity and boys. Even the most intelligent girl of the group didn't stand out to me because she was more like the group's lap-dog.
2. None of these girls were likable. I didn't connect with any of them because their personalities were so shallow. It's hard to relate to a group of stunning young rich girls who can get away with almost anything and are always in the spotlight. It's hard to sympathize with them over their loss when they only value their public image and their status... Perhaps if more depth were added to each of these characters, then I would have been able to finish the entire book.
3. I expected this to be a suspenseful mystery, but it was not even close. In fact, I felt like I was reading a rich girl's diary, and it was so, so predictable.
4. If someone were to ask me what the point of this story was, I don't think I'd be able to give a straight answer—which is a huge problem for me.

Judging from what I was able to read, it's about a group of young rich friends who decide to take in the daughter of a gossip columnist (of all people), after one of them passes away. They take risks together and go

on adventures, living the fairy-tale life. But things just aren't the same, and it's clear that their friend's recent death is still putting a strain on their relationships.

I understand that the book was intended to be a fun and fast-paced read but I just could not stand any of the characters. I also felt like there was nothing substantial that I could take from this novel.

Reanne says

Maybe some people like reading books about rich bitches acting bitchy. Maybe some people like characters who are whiny spoiled brats who honestly believe that when they get caught using a fake ID to get into a bar for some underage drinking, they did absolutely nothing wrong. Maybe some people like books about nothing but underage sex, drugs, drinking, and endless bickering. Maybe some people love gossip so much that they fantasize that the rest of the world is dying to know about every detail of their life and if they get caught in a compromising situation with someone other than their boyfriend, the President of the United States is going to have a major PR fiasco on her hands.

I am not one of those people.

I got a free copy of this through Goodreads First Reads... but sorry, I just... no. I thought this was going to be a mystery of some kind, based on the summary I read, but any hint at any kind of mystery doesn't even show up until almost half-way through, and then at the end, the 'unusual circumstances' of the death in question are not shocking or even interesting at all.
