

The Space Between Trees

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Evie is in an interesting place in high school; she is a loner, and quite happy on her own, but also spends her lunches in a group she dubs ‘the Whisperers’, using them in order to gather information on the latest school gossip. She spends her days working the news route, delivering papers as a part-time job, while using it as an excuse to talk with her friend/crush Jonah as he carries out his duties as a wildlife control employee. The strange relationship she has with him only becomes stranger when together they discover a body in the woods. The body is later identified to be her childhood friend, Zabet, and it is discovered that she was both raped and murdered. The plot thickens as Evie is pulled into this strange morass of gossip, conjecture, and secrets that she attempts to unravel with the aid of Zabet’s father and her best friend, Hadley. As they delve deeper into their investigation, the plot begins to twist and turn in strange and bizarre ways, ending in a chilling climax that follows the time-honored tradition of mystery and suspense stories with a suspect no one ever suspected.

The Space Between Trees presents itself as a typical mystery story, and there is indeed nothing that truly distinguishes it. In addition to the main plot, there is a seemingly-minor romantic subplot that unsurprisingly leads into the climax and is in fact crucial to the plot as a whole. There is nothing truly new in the story, though it is executed competently enough, and since it is typical mystery fare it is easy enough to find the culprit by suspecting whoever is closest to the main character. I did not enjoy the story very much, and would not recommend it to anyone not already interested in mysteries.

This book is best for the young adult age group, from those of ages fifteen to eighteen. There is a same-sex relationship, or implications of one, so those uncomfortable with such things should not read. Profanity is also present in quite a few instances, so viewer discretion should be exercised. There is some graphic imagery, so readers should also be prepared for that.

Recommended Titles

Ten Things We Did by Sarah Mlynowski

Spellbound by Cara Lynn Schultz

City of Bones by Cassandra Clare

City of Ashes by Cassandra Clare

City of Glass by Cassandra Clare