



TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

Follow Me By Sara Shepard Reviewed by Makayla Zito

Name: Makayla Zito

Grade: 8

Book Title: Follow Me

Author: Sara Shepard

Number of Pages: 261

Rating (on a scale of 1-5): 4/5

Character List:

- **Seneca Frazier-** Seneca has dreams of becoming a detective, but ends up becoming a member of the “Annapolis Parking Authority.” She meets Maddox Wright, Madison Wright, Aerin Kelly, and Brett Grady on a site dedicated to cold murder cases called “Case Not Closed” and looks into what happened to Aerin’s older sister, Helena Kelly. She also investigates what happened to her own mother. Seneca links Brett to both murders and the recent kidnaping of a girl named Chelsea Dawson. Seneca asks her friends to help find Chelsea and put Brett behind bars.
- **Maddox Wright:** Maddox is a strong track star who will be running for the University of Oregon. He has a sister named Madison Wright. He meets Seneca Frazier, Aerin Kelly, and Brett Grady on a website called “Case Not Closed”. He develops strong feelings for Seneca and, when she asks him to help find Chelsea, he automatically says yes. Maddox will do anything to protect Seneca and keep her safe.
- **Chelsea Dawson:** Chelsea Dawson is kidnapped by Brett Grady. She is full of herself and only cares about her Instagram followers. Her kidnaping is what makes Seneca want to seek revenge on Brett for what he has done to her mother and Aerin’s sister.
- **Aerin Kelly:** Aerin Kelly’s sister, Helena, was murdered by Brett Grady. Aerin agrees to help Seneca find Chelsea and putting Brett behind bars to avenge her sister’s death, and to put a stop to Brett’s sick game. When Aerin goes to New Jersey to help find Chelsea, she crosses paths with her old boyfriend Thomas. She still has feelings for him, but is upset with him because he moved to New York to chase his dreams.
- **Brett Grady:** Brett Grady is the mastermind behind the murders of Helena Kelly, Seneca’s mom, and the kidnaping of Chelsea Dawson. He tells Seneca that her and the others have a week to find Chelsea or he will kill her. He is always one step ahead of Seneca and her friends. He uses his intelligence to make the kidnaping seem like Chelsea did it for attention to cover up a more sinister plot.

Review:

In *The Amateurs* by Sara Shepard, Seneca Frazier, Brett Grady, Maddox Wright, Madison Wright, and Aerin Kelly all met on a site dedicated to cold murder cases called “Case Not Closed”, and looked into the murder of Aerin’s sister, Helena Kelly. To start this sequel, Brett posts about a girl who went missing in New Jersey named Chelsea Dawson. Maddox receives a letter from Brett telling him that if they don’t find Chelsea in a week, and if they bring police into the matter,

Brett will kill Chelsea. Seneca and Aerin call Maddox and Madison and tell them that Seneca thinks she can link Brett not only to the kidnapping of Chelsea, but Helena and her mother's death. Seneca tells the group that they need to find Chelsea and put Brett behind bars. She asks the group if they want to come to New Jersey with her to solve the case and everyone agrees. During the time they take solving the case, Brett leaves clues to make them think that they are getting closer and closer to finding him and ending his sick game, but he is always one step ahead of them. While they thought they were solving the case, he was using them for a bigger purpose. The group attempts to both find Chelsea and evidence linking Brett to the crime, while Brett enacts a plan that involves one of the aspiring detectives.

I think that Sara Shepard's writing style was great. She used vivid words to paint a picture in the reader's mind and grab the reader's attention. The plot was clear and straight to the point. I think that although the plot was clear, the story does have flaws. For example, the story was in third person perspective but the way the narrator told us information about each character was very confusing. At one point the narrator was talking about Seneca and her life, and then there was a choppy transition into Maddox's life. The transition between characters was poorly done. However, the amount of mystery masks this problem and makes you want to continue reading!

I definitely think that teen readers will enjoy this book because of how the author does a good job of getting you into the story and making you feel as if you are a part of the mystery. If you love solving crimes and put together pieces of a puzzle, then this is the book for you. So join in on this tale of mystery, triumph, and loss. Lastly, always remember who you trust. I would definitely recommend this book to teens who enjoy mystery and horror novels.