



TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

The Amateurs By Sara Shepard Reviewed by Connor Doyle

Name: Connor Doyle

Grade: 8

Book Title: The Amateurs

Author: Sara Shepard

Number of Pages: 320

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

Character List:

- **Seneca:** Seneca is a girl who lacks self-confidence who finds the Case Not Closed group to be a good place to ignore her problems. She befriends Maddox online.
- **Maddox:** Maddox is a jock who used to be unpopular and still carries some of his unusual tendencies (ex: Case Not Closed). He goes by "Maddy" in the Case Not Closed group.
- **Aerin:** Aerin is a girl whose sister Helena died mysteriously. Aerin is desperate for answers.
- **Brett:** Brett is a guy the group met on Case Not Closed who says his grandmother was murdered.

Review:

Seneca, Maddox, Aerin, and Brett all had one thing in common: they wanted answers. They first got in contact on a website called Case Not Closed, where Aerin asked desperately for help in the case of her sister's death. Seneca and Maddox became friends online, and decided to meet up to try unravel the mystery of Helena Kelley's disappearance. Maddox recruited Brett to come along as a helping hand. At first, the group didn't get along in person, mainly because of the surprise that Maddox was a guy (he called himself Maddy online). Seneca almost left multiple times due to how uncomfortable she was. After the group dealt with their conflicts, they searched Connecticut and eventually New York City looking for people and places Aerin's sister was associated with. They went to parties, apartment buildings, and even smooth talked a police officer to get information they needed. Eventually, after many times where the group wanted to give up, they found a big lead: a family friend named Skip Ingram took Aerin's sister under his wing in a NYC apartment and had a secret relationship with her. He was soon arrested. As the group uncovers more information about Helena's disappearance, the story takes a dark twist towards the end. Read it to learn what was discovered about one of the group members!

Author Sara Shepard uses a third-person point of view to tell the story, but focuses on a different character each chapter. Every character had a very unique and distinguishable personality. Shepard did a great job presenting the information, so I could not detect any flaws with or characters or plot line. Teen readers will enjoy this book very much for its plot, characters, and drama. Also, many teenagers can relate to the teens in the story due its four very different personalities. It is a perfect combination of mystery and drama. I would recommend this book to anyone of teenage age or older.