



## Fire and Heist

*Sarah Beth Durst*

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## **Fire and Heist** Sarah Beth Durst

In Sky Hawkins's family, leading your first heist is a major milestone--even more so than learning to talk, walk, or do long division. It's a chance to gain power and acceptance within your family, and within society. But stealing your first treasure can be complicated, especially when you're a wyvern--a human capable of turning into a dragon.

Embarking on a life of crime is never easy, and Sky discovers secrets about her mother, who recently went missing, the real reason her boyfriend broke up with her, and a valuable jewel that could restore her family's wealth and rank in their community.

With a handpicked crew by her side, Sky knows she has everything she needs to complete her first heist, and get her boyfriend and mother back in the process. But then she uncovers a dark truth about were-dragon society--a truth more valuable and dangerous than gold or jewels could ever be.

## **Fire and Heist Details**

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Author : Sarah Beth Durst

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Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Dragons

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## From Reader Review Fire and Heist for online ebook

### Scrill says

12/31/2017

Okay, it's practically 2018 now. When's the release date?? Hellooooo?? Can't we get more information about this yet??

9/25/2017

It's got dragons. It's got a heist.

Let me rephrase that..It's got thieving dragons!

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### Cindy ☆? Savage Queen ? says

5/16/18

Since I have read The Queen of Blood at this point and am definitely a fan of Ms. Durst, I can't wait for this!

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3/19/2018

Finally a release date and cover!

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### Sherwood Smith says

When I saw a mention that Durst had gotten the idea of writing a story that combined Ocean's 11 and wyverns, I couldn't sign up fast enough.

And what fun it was!

Sixteen-year-old Sky Hawkin is a normal teenager emotions-wise--her grief is quite real at the beginning, in which we learn that her beloved and feisty mother vanished, her family has been disgraced, her friends unfriended her with prejudice, and most hurtful at all, her boyfriend, who'd been her bestie since they were three, publicly dumped her.

Sky is also a wyvern, in a family of wyverns. In wyvern society, you gain credit among the other wyverns by executing heists to build and expand your hoard. A wyvern youth isn't allowed to attend the council until they execute their first heist.

Sky's dad is overprotective of her now, and extra paranoid. Her three older brothers are annoying and endearing by turns, the way older teenage brothers can be. He closes Sky in the more when she expresses her wish to find out where Mother is--and to execute a grand heist against the family who lead the pack in disgracing them.

But Sky builds her team, meaning to go for it anyway . . .

The first person voice is so much fun. I loved the characters--the brothers reminded me so much of my brothers when we were all younger, and I especially loved Sky's human friend, Gabriella. Sky learns about her unconscious prejudice against humans in a refreshingly non-preachy way, and the romantic relationship was lovely and lightly done.

The worldbuilding disclosed plenty of surprises as well as interesting characters. I couldn't predict what would happen with the heist, furnishing a second half that accelerated the pace even more.

This book is aimed more toward the younger end of YA--which is getting harder to find, it seems. There is romance, but no sex, only smooches. There is threat, but no horrific torture or blood and guts, the way many YA novels have been trending these days.

In other words, it's more *Oceans 11* than *Game of Thrones*--which I consider a strong plus. That plus vivid characterization and a wry, fun voice makes this one a book for the keeper shelf.

Copy provided by NetGalley

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**Jennymort ? The Dark Lordette ? House of Slytheread says**

**\*ARC received from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.\***

Well. Oceans 11? A Heist? **DRAGONS!?**

**HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA**

What a letdown. We got teenagers, disappeared mothers, family dishonor, and among other things, just super simplistic high school drama crap. This read like the books I read in middle school/high school before I started to really get into reading. I did not feel any connection to the characters and I can tell you right now that I don't remember any of this book other than it's about "*dragons*" and this stupid heist.

Sorry.

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**Dani - Perspective of a Writer says**

*Check out more reviews @ Perspective of a Writer...*

In Sky Hawkins's family, leading your first heist is a major milestone... It's a chance to gain power and acceptance within your family, and within society. But stealing your first treasure can be complicated, especially when you're a wyvern—a human capable of turning into a dragon. With a handpicked crew by her side, Sky knows she has everything she needs to complete her first heist, and get her boyfriend and mother back in the process. But then she uncovers a dark truth about were-dragon society—a truth more valuable and dangerous than gold or jewels could ever be.

### **The short review...**

I can't believe how seriously I enjoyed this little gem!! It's not a perfect book by any means but dragon books meant for YA (and not middle grade) are quite rare so I was really hopeful that I would like this one. And I really did. I read it quickly because it is really exactly as advertised... A quick heist book except these are were-dragons that are going after the goods and not a pretentious group of somewhat young thieves.

This is an alternate reality story where our world is our world except there are some differences, namely that there are dragons in human form who can't remember how to shift like their ancestors used to be able to do. I really enjoyed the little mini-history that was developed and the cute thief culture that was a part of being a were-dragon. It's not the most ethical of stories but Sky wasn't doing it for wealth so most will give her a pass. I enjoyed the twist even though I saw it coming... really if you are jonezing for a quick, fun dragon heist then this is your book!

### **Cover & Title grade -> B+**

I was certainly drawn to the cover because dragon!! The title gave me pause because I'm not a fan of heist books as they are so predictable, but decided to give it a go anyway. And I find this quite an attractive cover despite it having little to do with the story. There was fire, a heist and dragons, but the museum like feel to the cover isn't really the vibe in the story. Though there is a sense of the ultra-wealthy and privileged to the Hawkin's family life.

### **What did I enjoy in Fire and Heist so much that I could overlook its flaws?**

-The Hawkins Family!

Yes, the Hawkins are extremely wealthy and read like privileged white people even though they were technically dragons. But GAHHHHH her brothers were so adorable and protective and like real brothers! She's the youngest so of course they treat her like older brothers do but I just loved the interactions between Sky, one on one and as a group. Her dad felt real, even if misguided.

-Gabriela, the Unicorn obsessed!

This girl... what a friend! We learn when she first noticed Sky, how she was there for Sky when Sky didn't even see her. She overcame her fears to help Sky with her heist and I just loved what a research fiend she was!! And her obsession with magic was so adorable and I just wanted a friend just like Gabriela!! If you're going to lose all of your friends then this is the girl you want standing by.

-The Heist Mess...

This is no Six of Crows, as it is firmly written for YA and not for adult YA where adults pretend to be YA. That is okay though because this heist was still really good! I liked how Sky worked things out and got

together a crew that could take care of each of the problems... Of course the heist only got fun when it all went to hell in a hand basket!

### **As a Writer...**

So in the beginning I said this wasn't perfect. And it wasn't. You can see from my rating that nothing really reached sublime level... Actually I put it perfectly in my goodreads thought...

"Wow! This is a little corny, a bit predictable and a touch easy but very fun, different and full of dragons! Love the world building and the characters, especially her family. Everything is shallow in a way, but enjoyable."

You may read a review that talk about the characters being rather shallow. And then you see above that that is what I liked most about the book. Let me explain. The characters are a touch shallow... i.e. there could have been a whole lot more interaction with them. Like many more scenes could have been developed that would have rounded out their characters a touch more.

However for a 300 page book with 5 family members, an ex-boyfriend, his parents, a new girl friend, and a dragon wizard plus at least 3 more additional mysterious characters this is really great characterization! There was still quite a lot of plot in those same pages too! Quite a feat and I really applaud at how fleshed out I felt the characters all were.

The only one that felt a little cookie cutter was her ex-boyfriend and really I still felt he had a little mini-arc and wasn't nearly as shallow as love interests tend to be. Sure this was a little predictable... but there would have needed to be a ton more pages (like almost double) written to feel more specific to itself and fully fleshed out.

Fire and Heist is a fun, quick were-dragon heist story with a fun twist that even if you predict it will still be enjoyable. We meet tons of different characters, some dragons and some supernaturally obsessed but all equally good enough to go on this adventure with!

? ? ??? Authenticity

? ??? Writing Style

? ??? Plot & Pacing

? ??? World Building

*Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review. It has not influenced my opinions.*

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You can find this review and many others on my book blog @ Perspective of a Writer. See my special perspective at the bottom of my reviews under the typewriter...

*Please like this review if you enjoyed it! \*bow\* \*bow\* It helps me out a ton!!*

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## Sandra says

**Were-dragons!!!?????!!!**

o.O

Omg. DRAGONS.

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## Taylor says

Dragons?? Heists?? **AND THAT COVER?!**

At this point, I'll read anything Sarah Beth Durst writes. **This is gonna be *amazing*.**

And I also wanna know who the hell is rating this book before it's even come out?? Why?? Would you do this?? It's pissing me off and it needs to stop.

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## Christa says

A really cute stand alone YA fantasy, this is one you won't want to miss. It's got action, dragons, a hint of romance, and great characters.

Sky is a wyvern and her mother is missing. Having three older brothers, Sky is used to fending for herself. She takes it on her own to lead her first heist, and plans on using what she steals as leverage for info on her mom. Little does she know the secrets and conspiracies she's about to unravel.

The highlight of this book is the relationship between Sky and her family. She's got three older brothers who annoy her but are there when it counts, a dad who is missing his wife but still involved with his children. It's refreshing to see family dynamics in YA fantasy, most of the time it's an orphan who steals the show.

There is some romance, it's not great but it's also not the point of the book. The point of the book is the heist, which is a lot of fun. This book is firmly young adult, the voice is young but not grating. It will be a great addition to school libraries.

Oceans 11 with dragons. If that sounds like fun to you, this is a book you'll want to check out.

I received this book from the publisher through Netgalley and the opinions are my own.

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## Emily May says

Heists.

Were-dragons.

## HEISTS AND WERE-DRAGONS.

I was gonna say "you had me at 'heist'" but then I read "were-dragons" and now I'm not so sure I was completely had before...

You can wish (and hope and pray and chant under the moon) for this on Netgalley:

<https://www.netgalley.com/catalog/boo...>

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### Vicky Who Reads says

*4.5 stars*

Can I just say that I was *very* pleasantly surprised by this novel? And by very pleasantly surprised I mean I **was absolutely blown away** by this!

I just . . . did not expect this to be that great? Right from chapter 1 I was hit with something akin to awe.

Because **the voice in this book is so stellar**. I still can't properly describe it, but know that I am IN LOVE with how genuine the voice sounds and how Sky felt so teenage and real and interesting.

Straight from the beginning, Sky felt super relatable while still being an actually interesting person. This is a really weird comparison, but **her voice draws on the good parts of those crazy Wattpad novels** with manic MCs who are inordinately random, and mixes it with actual moderation.

The **voice was just really unique**, and I can wholeheartedly say that I have never read a book with a similar voice before, and I think we need more distinct voices like Sky's. Not Sky's exact voice, but more teenage voices that are unique and not just blending into each other.

So yeah. I'm cutting this short now and just saying that **I loved Sky's voice so much don't you dare @ me saying she's immature**. I could use up all my 500 words talking about her voice but I'm cutting it short at 220.

Besides this, I mean, the **concept is just really cool & fun & engaging**. I love magical creatures, so a HEIST BOOKS feat. PEOPLE-DRAGONS (aka were-dragons aka wyverns) was so much fun.

Heist books in general are so much fun, and anyone who likes those types of reads should pick this up! I thought it was paced really well, and the fact that **this book didn't solely focus on the heist was honestly really nice**? There's more to it than just "finish the heist," but there's also other things happening!

**The fantasy aspect was also really fun** and I loved how it was sort of a portal fantasy/contemporary fantasy (no spoilers though!) which made the whole wyvern thing even more interesting. Magical creature/human relations are always really interesting to read about, and *Fire and Heist* did a really good job explaining this!

And **the romance was adequately low-key**! I mean, it wasn't about falling in love. It was about mending



bridges, and I really liked that. There was a huge focus on family and social outcasts and friendship, and all of these themes were really enjoyable in the way that they made *Fire and Heist* stand out.

I definitely think the themes were a huge part of what made this novel more than just a meh fantasy, and as a standalone, they really helped wrap things up nicely! Sky's relationship with her family was complex enough that I wanted to read about it, but not too much that I felt it was unresolved.

Overall, Sarah Beth Durst is an author who I need to look more into, as ***Fire and Heist* was a refreshingly fun read** that I would definitely recommend to anyone looking for something entertaining yet outside of the norm!

*Thank you so much to Random House and Netgalley for providing me with a digital review copy in exchange for an honest review!*

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## Lisa says

DNF at 30 percent

Not bad, just not my taste. The world-building was odd. Wyverns (or were-dragons) live among us...yet pop culture is essentially the same. Like the Harry Potter books are mentioned multiple times. This will likely not bother most people, but I just felt like the world would be fundamentally different if, you know, half-people/half-dragons existed.

Plus the plot/romance had a very familiar feel.

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## Amanda says

**You can also read my review here:** <https://devouringbooks2017.wordpress....>

This book took two of my favorite things to read about, heists and a fantasy world, and put them in the same novel. I had pretty low expectations for this book, but it was actually really cool. Wyverns, or dragon shifters, were a really fun fantasy species to read about. They all steal and have a horde of treasures, so theft is part of the culture and looked upon highly if properly pulled off without getting caught.

The characters, in my opinion, were the downfall of this novel. They were rather vanilla, boring and felt run-of-the-mill. They weren't bad, but they weren't anything special either. I had a hard time finding this book as interesting as it should've been because the characters were so dull.

The plot was what kept me reading. The author said she wanted to write Ocean's Eleven, but with dragons, and she did. The planning of the heist takes up a good portion of this novel, but the execution of it is glossed over. There is a fun fantasy twist that helped keep some of the excitement, but I think the planning of the heist should have been explained less and execution of the heist explained more. The tension and excitement

are not brought for what should have been a very interesting part of the book.

It was okay overall, but a lot of things could have been done better. When I think of combining fantasy with thievery I think of *Six of Crows*, this came nowhere near the heights that novel reached. *Fire and Heist* could have been done way better, but it was still a fun fast read.

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## **Lauren Stoolfire says**

**I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.**

As a wyvern (think were-dragon), leading your first heist is a big deal - bigger than taking your first step and saying your first word. It's your first chance to really gain power and acceptance within your family and community. However, leading a life of crime isn't easy, and Sky learns the truth about her mother, who recently went missing, the real reason her boyfriend broke up with her, and a valuable jewel that could restore her family's standing. With her crew at her back, Sky knows what she has to do in order to successfully complete her heist along with getting her mother and boyfriend back. Then, she discovers an unbelievable secret about were-dragon society - something much more valuable and dangerous than treasure.

I was so pleased when I found out I was approved for *Fire and Heist* on NetGalley because it sounded exactly like something I needed in my life. Basically, all I needed to hear was *Ocean's Eleven* with were-dragons and I was sold. I'm a sucker for a heist fantasy really. The novel does quite a bit of things well, particularly the first half. I liked getting to know Sky and her family as well as the planning of the heist. For the most part, the tone of the story is quite fun and fast with a lot of good twists to keep you turning the pages. However, when it comes to pulling off the heist we didn't get to see as much of it as I would have liked. I also would have preferred to get a bit of a better feel for the wider wyvern world. Plus, I wish the secondary characters were a little more fleshed out.

Overall, *Fire and Heist* by Sarah Beth Durst is a fun, unique YA fantasy with just a dash of romance and plenty of dragons and a decent sense of humor. If you like *Ocean's Eleven*, *White Cat* by Holly Black, *Artemis Fowl* by Eoin Colfer, and *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo, I have a feeling you'll also enjoy this new standalone novel. I have to admit, I wouldn't say no to seeing more stories set in this world. I'm going to have to read more of Durst's work soon - *The Queen of Blood* and *The Lost* are at the top of my list.

Thanks again, NetGalley!

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## **Jessi (Novel Heartbeat) says**

*It's not arrogant to know who you are.*

*It's powerful.*

*And I am powerful.*

Oh my gosh, this book was SO fun! I found Durst's prose to be quirky and engaging - I laughed out loud more than once. I absolutely *loved* the concept, it was fantastic! MAGIC. HEISTS. WERE. DRAGONS. Yes, that's right. Weredragons!! How awesome is that?! I also loved that they were thieves of gold and hoarders of treasure by nature.

I absolutely loved the sense of family that this book had going on. Sky had a close relationship with her brothers and father, and despite being told that her missing mother was a lost cause, she still fought tooth and nail to find out what happened to her. (view spoiler)

While I didn't care much for the romance between Sky and Ryan, I loooved Sky and Gabriela's friendship! Gabriela was fabulous and I related to her hardcore. She wanted adventure so bad, it was endearing!

It's hard to talk about my favorite part without spoilers, so don't click the tag if you haven't read it! (view spoiler)

There's not much else I can say about this book other than I had fun reading it! The only reason it didn't get 5 stars is it lacked that extra *something* for me to connect 100% to the characters. But it was a super quick and easy read, and I definitely recommend!

**This review was originally posted on Novel Heartbeat. To see a breakdown of my assessment, please visit the full review [here](#).**

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## Carrie says

Fire and Heist by Sarah Beth Durst is a young adult fantasy read that is a standalone story. The author described her idea for this one as wanting to write Ocean's Eleven with Were-dragons so of course this odd description definitely got my curiosity aroused. It's safe to say when done too this doesn't really remind me of anything I've read before which for me is a good thing.

Sky Hawkin is a teenage Wyvern, a human with the ability to shift into a dragon, although the Wyvern here on Earth have lost the ability to shift and can only conjure fire. Wyvern's also have a fetish for shiny expensive things, especially gold so how do they go about acquiring it you ask? By stealing of course.

Sky's family however is on the outs in the Wyvern community after her mother went on a heist and didn't return. Obviously something went wrong but Sky's brothers and father refuse to do anything to find out what happened so Sky intends to plan her own heist to try to find her mother.

Now, with a book about dragons I wasn't quite expecting to jump into what reads more YA contemporary with family drama but the story started a little on the funny side and piqued my curiosity regardless. As the book went along and I'm beginning to wonder if the world is basically ours with these supposed "dragons" that aren't more than humans without a lighter to create fire what was the point to including Wyverns but thankfully the story eventually got around to more dragon-ish things to satisfy my curiosity. In the end I found it a rather cute mostly contemporary with a dash of fantasy read and would suggest giving it a try.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

