



Twixt

Sarah Diemer

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You wake upon the cold ground. As you struggle to rise, as your breath exhales like a ghost, you know only two things: You can't remember who you are. And you're being hunted.

No one sleeps in Abeo City. The lost souls gather indoors at night as Snatchers tear through the sky on black-feathered wings, stalking them. But inside the rotting walls of the Safe Houses comes a quieter, creeping danger. The people of Abeo City have forgotten their pasts, and they can trade locks of their hair to sinister women known only as the Sixers for an addictive drug. Nox will give you back a single memory--for a price.

Like the other lost souls, Lottie awakens in this harsh landscape and runs in terror from the Snatchers. But she soon comes to realize that she is not at all like the people of Abeo City. When she takes Nox, her memories remain a mystery, and the monsters who fill the sky at night refuse to snatch her. Trying to understand who she is, and how she ended up in such a hopeless place, Lottie bands together with other outcasts, including a brave and lovely girl named Charlie. In the darkness, and despite the threat of a monstrous end, love begins to grow. But as Lottie and Charlie plot their escape from Abeo City, Lottie's dark secrets begin to surface, along with the disturbing truth about Twixt: a truth that could cost her everything.

Twixt Details

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Author : Sarah Diemer

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From Reader Review Twixt for online ebook

Mike says

"You wake upon the cold ground. As you struggle to rise, as your breath exhales like a ghost, you know only two things: You can't remember who you are. And you're being hunted."

In addition to being a great summary of our starting point, the above quote from the book description gives a glimpse of the tense, foreboding atmosphere that permeates Sarah Diemer's Twixt. One nameless first person narrator has little time to register her strange, cold surroundings, the blood on her hands or the fear coursing through her before a young woman suddenly arrives and urges her to run. It's almost night, and that means the Snatchers are coming...

Twixt was recommended to me by a friend and I didn't know anything going in, and as that's how I'd recommend experiencing it I won't get into plot details. I will say it starts strong and builds wonderfully throughout. The writing style is tremendous and the atmosphere established downright chilling. The strange world our heroine finds herself in is fantastically imaginative and vividly realized. Even elements common to this genre are given a little slant of context that makes them feel new.

The story, characters and world all convey emotional impact throughout the book, perfectly capturing the appropriate "in over your head" feeling. I was a step ahead on figuring out some of the book's mysteries, but other twists and turns were unexpected and they all fit logically and worked to support and enhance the story being told. The variety of characters presented also really adds to the narrative, as we are shown several different points of view on the state of life in Twixt. Encountering numerous attitudes and people ranging from deep to shallow and several shades in between also adds a great feeling of authenticity to the rather unusual setting and events.

While romantic elements obviously aren't uncommon in any type of novel, I've read very few where the romance feels completely natural. Twixt manages this with a perfect touch, with it's characters' emotions easy to relate to and deftly related to the reader. I was tempted not to bring up one of the main pairings is between two young women, as one of the wonderful things here is that relationship being treated as perfectly normal and not requiring further mention or explanation, but it is something I'm sure some readers would rather know ahead of time and since the book description contains this information too I decided to mention it.

Speaking of the book description - it doesn't really have spoilers but it does summarize a bit more than I personally would like and I'm kind of glad I didn't read it before the book. If you haven't seen it already I'd recommend skipping it.

Twixt is easily one of the best paranormal stories I've read and can be appreciated well beyond it's intended YA audience.

Highly recommended.

Jessica Dawn says

ira ? says

Not that I ever doubted Sarah's writing but um... *Twixt* didn't just surpass my expectations, it ran past them like a marathon sprinter?? *Twixt* is a beautiful beautiful tale of coming to terms with something horrible and heartbreaking and love and loss and it was equal parts spooky and soft and I can't even find the right words to emphasize how good it was but it was SO! GOOD!!!!. And perhaps some people won't like the ending (since it was a bit... abrupt and vague) but I actually quite like it: no one really knows what happens THEN and AFTER and everyone has a different concept of it but the way it was written and described was so bright and pure I think it's safe to say we can all believe it's something good - we're just free to interpret it however we want as long as it makes us happy and satisfied. Anyway the characters were amazing, Lottie and Charlie's scenes made me weep with joy, Violet was the sweetest of souls, Edward just restored my faith in fictional boys (meaning he was funny and fun to read and I thoroughly enjoyed his character and couldn't find a single flaw to pick at) and the story is to die for. I'm so glad *Twixt* was my first book of 2017 and I can't wait to get my grabby gay hands on the rest of Sarah's books ?

Cynthia says

(Find the original review at Jellyfish Reads.)

I was looking forward to reading *Twixt* since I remember that I read *The Dark Wife* a couple years ago and enjoyed it, but I think *Twixt* failed to measure up to the *The Dark Wife*.

The prose in *Twixt* is lyrical, but unfortunately I don't think the writing style worked for the story that was being told. I think a sparser style would have helped to build up the atmosphere and tension much better. As such, I think the pace was slowed by the descriptive prose. That's not to say there weren't moments when the lyrical prose was fitting and beautiful, but I felt the narrative was weighed down by the style a lot of the time, making the first half drag on a bit too much.

Nothing much really happens in the first half of the novel. There was a plot twist about 60% in that I saw coming from miles away, so I spent the first half just kind of waiting for the twist to happen. Characters are not particularly well fleshed-out; I think maybe if there was more emphasis on getting to really know the characters in the first half then I wouldn't have been so bored. But I just ended up thinking, "Nothing is happening and I still don't feel like I know the characters at all."

Part of this problem lies actually with the very concept of the novel. People wake up in a place called *Twixt* with no memories of anything that preceded their awakening. So, naturally, without memories, everyone's sense of personality seems greatly dimmed. They can get pieces of their memories back by taking something called Nox, so there's one scene in which characters briefly talk about what few memories they have, a scene which I really appreciated. But otherwise it was hard for me to see the characters as real people.

I must say that one exception is a character called Isabel, who is sort of the ex-girlfriend of the main character's love interest. She was probably the most interesting character in the entire novel who had a

curiously complex personality and hidden depths, but unfortunately that still wasn't very well-explored and I never understood her motivations. She left the deepest impression on me out of all the characters though and I desperately wanted to know more about her.

This problem was compounded by the fact that the main character gets a crush on one of the other characters pretty much as soon as they meet and they fall in love very quickly. For me to really enjoy a good romance in any story, I have to get to know both characters myself and fall in love with them; I have to understand why they're in love with each other. But since characterisation in this novel was somewhat on the weak side, I was annoyed by the insta-love.

The world-building is also confusing. It's hard to really talk about it without spoiling the reveal that comes about two-thirds through the book, so only click if you don't mind being spoiled for that:

(view spoiler)

However, having said all that, the book definitely picked up at around 60% after the plot twist. The pace was faster, things were happening, and the romance was actually written beautifully, once I got over my annoyance of how instantly they fell for each other. I think Diemer is really at her strongest as a writer when she writes about love. I think that's why I enjoyed *The Dark Wife* so much more, because the love story there takes up more space in the narrative; it's much more central and has a little more time to develop and unfolds wonderfully. I think I got to know the characters much better too in that one. But yeah, the love story is the best part in *Twixt*. That's where the lyrical prose really, really shines, and I just melt into the feelings that the two characters have for each other. And it's why this novel still manages to earn three stars from me despite all the problems I had with it.

So overall, I think the premise of this book was cool, but it could have been better executed. The love story is wonderful though. If you haven't read anything by Sarah Diemer and you want to read a nice lesbian love story, I would definitely recommend checking out *The Dark Wife* first! That was really, really good. Once you've read that, you can decide for yourself whether you want to try *Twixt*.

James Femmer says

Like in Sarah's first novel, *The Dark Wife*, the core of *Twixt* is redemption, the idea that any of us, no matter our pasts or what others believe us to be, can be redeemed. And that love can bring out the best in us. But *Twixt* is a much different story than *The Dark Wife*.

In *Twixt*, we begin with a mystery. Who is the girl who appeared in the ice and snow, covered in blood? She doesn't remember. A girl named Charlie finds her, explains about the world of *Twixt*, about Abeo City. Nobody in *Twixt* remembers who they are... unless they take Nox, an addictive drug that slowly destroys them. They purchase Nox with clumps of their own hair, though nobody really knows why.

Just when I thought I had the mystery figured out, the story's twist took me by surprise. When it was finally revealed what was going on, I let out a sudden 'Oh, wow!' as I read. Few books have done that for me. The action scenes are suspenseful and masterfully written, and the characters are all so distinct and real. Diemer has only gotten better since *The Dark Wife*, as you will see when you read *Twixt*. I love both books, I

recommend reading them both if you haven't, but she definitely kicked it up a notch with Twixt.

Charlotte Anne Hamilton says

This is such an amazing, unique story. Every time I started reading, I was just swept away by how amazing Diemer's writing is. It's entrancing. The idea is one that I have never seen before and it honestly had me hooked from the first page. I will say that I did see the plot twist coming, but even still the emotions that I felt whilst reading the revelation were great. I honestly recommend this book completely! The only reason for 4 stars instead of 5 is because the ending felt a little incomplete to me? I can respect what Diemer was trying to do and I do believe it worked but at the same time, it was lacking? If that makes any sense whatsoever. But honestly, I adored this book! It was creepy, cute, sapphic and wonderful!

Lia (a paper pigeon) says

I contain multitudes.

Spookapalooza part 2 - witchy buddies strike again!

I must admit this was a tad too mild for me, but I still enjoyed the story a lot. It was really deep and emotional; I liked how it was developed more than how it was presented if you get what I mean, but the entire concept is interesting and the idea of what it could have been, is probably what kept me reading from start to end with the same amount of enthusiasm.

I'm not giving it 3 stars because the twists and plot were a little too predictable, and because it was a bit boring.

A bonus star, though, goes to the sweet girls-supporting-and-loving-girls subplot.

Sooooooo lovely!

Samantha Boyette says

First off, I love this cover. It's gorgeous and makes me want to pick the book up. Kudos for that!

This was one of the most original fantasy stories I've read in a long time. There wasn't a moment where I was thinking how it was kinda like this book or that book. Even though the book is a novel, it read like a short story to me. I say this both because of how fast the book moved and because of some undefinable characteristic. It just 'felt' like a short story.

The world of Twixt is wonderfully inventive with creepy creatures and strange overlords who rule over a scared group of people who call themselves sleepers. None of them know where they are or how they got there. Of course everything changes when the main character is found. Doesn't it always?

The beginning is a little slow and confusing because you are thrown into this new world with the character and have to learn everything with her. As she learns more and more the pace picks up and it becomes a true page turner.

And the love story? Personally, I would have liked to have seen a bit more of it. What's there is beautiful and simple, but it is swamped over by the rest of the story. It's fine because the rest of the story was good, I just wanted more of the girls!

Worth the time and price of admission, definitely pick this one up. Fair warning though, it will get into your head, I had two dreams about it.

T says

I love everything I've read by Sarah Diemer. Her writing is an art form and she has an imagination that appears to have no limits.

Holly says

This was an original concept with a truly surprising plot twist. The author has a gift for description, and she built the world and the characters beautifully. It's hard to review without spoilers, but it's a mystery/fantasy story that has some horror elements and a lovely f/f romance.

Cee Jelly says

Twixt has an interesting plotline, but the execution fails to bring it to life. I'm not talking about the writing or the story structure, since those are done right for a story like this. Sarah Diemer has great strength in creating intriguing concepts and giving stories atmospheric tones, and it's all shown here. That said, let's address the real problem: Lottie and her romance with Charlie.

After finishing Twixt, I have real troubles describing Lottie. She has no personality besides 2 traits: being empathic and emotional. It's bad enough that Lottie is a crucial to the plot, but it gets worse when I realize (view spoiler) Meanwhile, Charlie is stuck with being perfect, too good for this world, which in my book just means boring. With the heroines being stale characters, the sudden romance is the final nail to the coffin. By the time the setting was established enough for the plot to arrive (which is around the 100th page), my attention span was getting pretty low. It doesn't help when I realized the romance being so intense in such a short time is probably the result of Diemer needing strong supports who believe Lottie when she reveals the truth.

It's a true pity. Everything about Twixt is good except the heroines and their romance. But since Lottie is the central character and the romance is an important part of the final solution in the climax, the whole story is

dragged down. The final result is, sadly, a lot of wasted potential.

Natsu says

4.5 just because I managed to guess who one of the main character really was during the first few chapters.

I was so rooting for Charlie and Lottie. I liked the ending.

What happened to Lottie at the end reminded me of a line I read from somewhere "life is just a chance to grow a soul".. seems like she was given a chance at that and at redemption.

The twists and turns of the story were enjoyable. it's YA+fantasy+mystery+horror+romance rolled into one. It's nice how the writer used the concept of illusions, purgatory, angels (sort of), and lost souls.

Aneko says

I would say that I loved this book. The author surely had to put a lot of thoughts into it, from the superb worldbuilding, that I, have to admit, wasn't really expecting, to the plot that was pretty neat. Reading *Twixt* was definitely an interesting experience that I surely would love to go through again, with all of those plot-twixts and almost dreamy storytelling. Even that first person style that I honestly dislike was, in the end, pretty fitting.

And now, why didn't I give *Twixt* full stars, if I liked it that much?

My reason is pretty suprising, given that my friend always make fun of me that my rating is like "It's gay, 60/10."

It's just... I see a pattern in Sarah Diemer's books. Not that I've read so many, having read only *The Dark Wife* and *Sappho's Fables*, which she wrote under her pen name, but it's unavoidable to see the similarities. Yep, I'm talking about the main character and her love interest and no, I don't mean that they are lesbians, which, of course, *they are*, *Harrold*.

It's just... one of the pair is always the more girly girl who can kick asses but needs her time to do that, and the second is the one with more experience in... things... And the love is mostly on the first sight, which is a trope that I honestly hate.

Also, the sex scene. Oh my god, they all seem the same to me. I'm so, so sorry, but I really hope, that her later books have already dealt with this problem.

Anyway, this book is good, go read it :D

Miranda says

Twixt is a moving, beautifully told tale about redemption and whether one can ever truly be beyond hope of said redemption. Diemer has definitely developed and improved her writing since *The Dark Wife*. Not to say the aforementioned novel is bad, because it certainly isn't, but there's a marked difference in how that novel read compared to this one, and it's all an improvement.

At the core of the story is a mystery, or actually several. Who is the girl who woke up in the snow, covered in blood? Where did she come from? Why can't she remember her past, even with the help of something to remind her? How does Abeo City operate, what are the creatures who terrorize the City and snatch away its residents, where do they take them?

All of these questions are answered in time, and the way Diemer builds upon the mystery and delivers the answers is especially satisfying. This is due also to the terrific world building in the novel. It's honestly some of the most creative world building I've seen. There are so many layers to Abeo City and its residents and creatures that I'm still thinking about the world a week after I've finished the book.

Added to that, Diemer manages to capture a great atmosphere in her writing about Abeo City. There's always a steady sense of unease present in the text, even when the characters are happy, and the City is incredibly creepy.

Granted, it is a little easy to guess what exactly Abeo City is after a while. But for the most part, Diemer keeps the reader guessing, and the eventual reveal of what the City is and how it came to be more than made up for how obvious it was where the characters are.

If there were any downside to the novel, it's that the main couple do veer perilously close to insta-love. Diemer, for the most part, avoids it a little by having there be a mutual attraction instead of immediate love. But it does progress at a fast rate, due to the short length of the novel. Still, the relationship was sweet, and I also enjoyed Lottie's relationships with the rest of the cast, who all get their moments to shine.

This book reminded me of why Diemer is one of my favourite authors, and why I'll read anything she puts out. She's just so good, and her stories are always wonderful. *Twixt* is no different.

See more of my reviews at [On The Nightstand!](#)

Susan says

Another excellent and creative book by Sarah Diemer. I don't know how she continues to come up with such new and different ideas, but she does. I loved the world and characters she created in *Twixt*. Lottie is a tortured soul with a shadowed past she comes to regret, and Diemer shares the character a bit at a time so that you love Lottie despite what she was "before." But the reader never feels that these are stereotypes, which is one of Diemer's strengths as a writer. She uses archetypes beautifully. *Twixt* is rendered in beautifully ugly details that let you easily visualize the place where these characters are trapped, but Diemer deftly allows us to add just enough of our own interpretation. And the ending is simply gorgeous.
