



Swimming Alone

Nina Mansfield

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The Sea Side Strangler is on the loose in Beach Point, where fifteen-year-old Cathy Banks is spending the summer with her aunt (who happens to be mystery writer Roberta McCabe). Although thrilled to be away from her psychotic, divorcing parents, with no cell phone or internet access, Cathy is positive that her summer is going to be wretched. Just when she begins to make friends, and even finds a crush to drool over, her new friend Lauren vanishes. When a body surfaces in Beach Point Bay, Cathy is forced to face the question: has the Sea Side Strangler struck again?

Swimming Alone Details

Date : Published August 27th 2015 by Fire & Ice Young Adult Books (first published August 14th 2015)

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Author : Nina Mansfield

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From Reader Review Swimming Alone for online ebook

Justin Turczak says

From first few pages I absolutely loved this book! Reason for this I live in a beach town so what Nina describes sounds so familiar and makes me think I'm at the beach even though it's April so can't go in the sun. But other things I liked until very last page didn't know who the sand beach killer is and there is the twist I didn't see happening. Only thing maybe as a con was a small booked and had finished this book in one sitting especially with a book I like, over all really good read and if suggest to read it. 5/5 stars

D.G. Driver says

Fun Mystery

I haven't read a mystery in a while, and this was a blast! Cathy's growing paranoia as she comes to suspect everyone she meets as a possible murderer is great fun to read. This is a great book for ages 12 and older. A good, clean read for teens. I hope Mansfield writes more like this.

Brandi says

This is not my normal genre to read. That being said it was a well written semi-fast pace book. There are plenty of twist and turns. I would read something from this author again.

Cathy has been relegated to a beach city with her author aunt while her parents hash out divorce issues. The biggest problem with the town, there is a serial killer on the loose. From here we see the mind of a teenager travel from theory to theory.

Definitely a good fast read and I am glad I took a chance on it.

Timothy says

A fun yarn! Suspenseful and funny, great characters.

D.G. Driver says

I haven't read a mystery in a while, and this was a blast! Cathy's growing paranoia as she comes to suspect everyone she meets as a possible murderer is great fun to read. This is a great book for ages 12 and older. A good, clean read for teens. I hope Mansfield writes more like this.

Caroline says

This book is fabulous. Cathy is hilarious. The worst thing in the world that could possibly happen to her, has happened. Cathy is sent away for the summer to live with her aunt in a seaside town with zero cell reception and no Internet access. Not only is she cut off from all of her friends, Cathy's parents also make her get a job. So much for spending every day laying on the beach soaking up the sun. The icing on the cake is that the Sea Side Strangler is on the loose, murdering young brunettes - just like Cathy!

When her new friend from work goes missing (another young brunette), Cathy finds herself caught up in the mystery and danger. Will she survive the Sea Side Strangler?

Seriously, I'm not a big mystery book reader, but this book hooked me from page 1. Cathy is such a likable character. Even in her gloomiest moods she's still hilarious. Nina Mansfield did a beautiful job not only creating a realistic, yet likable, teenage girl character, but also weaving the pieces of the mystery to create an engrossing story.

*** Note: I do work for the publisher of this book and I designed the book cover. However, I 100% stand by my review and rating. This book is a must read for YA fans, especially those who like a good mystery.*

Anne Martin says

I forgot to review this book! Sorry.

I enjoyed it, and younger readers will even like it better. I just thought Kathy's situation a bit extreme. No internet, no phone. Why? Just to make a story?

Thank God, she finds a good job and friends quickly. Otherwise, it would drive her insane.

When the girl she works with disappears, she must do something.

A nice mystery, with thrilling and scary parts.

The characters were a bit young for me, but I believe teens will love the book. Typically one of those books deserving to be better known.

Stacy Mozer says

Swimming Alone is a perfect mystery for a reluctant teen reader. Humor combined with mystery makes it a real page turner.

Ella Chochrek says

I received this book from a blog giveaway

I thought the writing style was perfect for the teen/tween audience the book is targeted to. The only reason I'm not giving it 5 stars is because the storyline seemed a little bit stereotypical to me.

Lisa Welch says

On the Plus Side:

** This is a solid suspense read – I was guessing the entire time, and I didn't figure it all out until close to the end (and even then I still had some guesses at other aspects of the novel). There are plenty of twists and turns to keep you guessing!

** I always love novels that are set in seasonal beach towns during the summer. It could be that I envision myself spending a summer someday in a town just like Beach Point Bay.

** I appreciated the variety of characters included in the novel. I really enjoyed getting to know many of the main characters as well as the secondary characters with their wide range of personalities and quirks.

** I liked the voice that is used throughout the book. I think it is very appropriate to the YA population, and it was perfect for the story.

** If you need a quick read for a fall day indoors, this one is perfect. It could easily be finished in an afternoon.

On the Minus Side:

** I really do not like the cover for this book. I feel as if it doesn't reflect the actual content of the novel. When you see a bikini-clad woman on a beach do you think mystery and suspense?

** In my opinion, this story wrapped up too quickly for me. I was enjoying the build of the suspense, and then the whole novel ended suddenly. Although I liked the ending, it was all a bit fast for me.

Libby says

Of all the things I've forgotten to do...

I read this over summer, which was perfect since the story is set in a beach town and I was stuck inland. :) It moves quickly, grips you fast and gives you a few thrills. Plus, the MC works in a bookstore with a creepy boss, so, I was pretty into that scene.

Laura Wolfe says

I've had this book on my "to-read" list for several months. Now that I've read it, I'm kicking myself for waiting so long. This YA mystery was well-written with unique and believable characters, and a fast-paced plot that kept me turning the pages. Mansfield did a fantastic job of weaving a story complex enough to keep me guessing until the end, but not too complex that it became confusing. I found myself rooting for the main character, who spit out some hilarious one-liners throughout the book. In addition, the setting transported me to a quaint, seaside town which was exactly where I wanted to go in the middle of winter in Michigan! I very much look forward to reading more of Mansfield's books in the future.

Mal says

Swimming Alone is a fantastic read. It is hard to put down, in fact I read it in one sitting!

Mary Johnson says

I received this book from a blog giveaway

I'm always nervous reading mystery novels, since as much as I love the suspense, I absolutely hate it when I can figure out who the killer is by page two. SWIMMING ALONE, I'm happy to say, was not one such book. Despite having my suspicions (which turned out partially right, but not in the way I'd expected) I didn't guess who the Sea Side Strangler was. Mansfield planted plenty of red herrings and Cathy's constant suspicions and overreactions made sure to obscure the truth right up to the last minute.

As a main character, Cathy was fun and relatable. It made me secretly happy that >spoiler< she didn't end up with Doug -or Luke, for that matter. It broke a tiresome trend I've seen too often in YA fiction. >spoiler< I really enjoyed how there was romantic tension, but it wasn't forced at all for the sake of it.

Unfortunately it was quite short, but it worked. Overall a fast-paced, humorous, and tense mystery I would definitely recommend to teen readers!

Nina says

Of course I am giving this 5 stars! (I am a bit biased.) But seriously, it's a great beach read full of suspense. Hope you'll check it out!
