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Allison van Diepen

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In a school run by gangs, staying out was harder than joining. We knew who our friends were, and were careful what we said. If people thought we were haters, it would only be a matter of time....

Lines are clearly marked at South Bay High School. It's mixed territory for the Crips and the Bloods, which means the drama never stops.

Julia DiVino wants none of it. No colors, no C-Walks -- it's just not her thing.

But when Eric Valiente jumps into her life, everything changes. Lines are redrawn. And then they're crossed.

Snitch Details

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From Reader Review Snitch for online ebook

Judith (Judith'sChoiceReads) says

Goodreads Summary

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My Thoughts

Snitch incorporates gritty reality of inner-city life with hard life choices as well as relateable romance. The characters - especially Julia - felt complex and as if each decision made were real. There's romance, cussing (as you might expect), and hurtful betrayal that cuts right to the core. I'm keeping my eye on van Diepen and any other works she might have in store.

I enjoyed this book for its fast-paced plot and contemporary feel, a great read that feels wholly authentic!

Temoca says

A story many of my students can get hooked into and they may be able to make many personal connections to the characters and story. It started off luke-warm for me, yeah, yeah gangs, parties, thugs, b*tches, lots of cussing...Julia goes to one of the toughest public schools in Brooklyn and manages to stay neutral when her school and neighborhood is gang-ridden. She has friends on both sides and can maintain that balance for a little while. I wasn't totally committed, but kept reading to finish...

I love the ending. I didn't want to put the book down and I became more involved with the story, Julia and Eric and Black Chuck. Friendship's loyalty up against the loyalty, duty to the gang-family then throw love in there; the conflict is typical but still compelling.

It is a surprising good read and one that already has a waiting list in my classroom. Give it a chance, you might like it.

Natalie says

I read the book Snitch by Allison van Diepen. I was really interested since I don't like to read books at all but with this book I enjoyed it a lot. Possibly because the story is about how you judge people by their appearances. Juliet, the main character in this book, is 16 years old and lives in Brooklyn. The school is run by gangs where everyone is involved except for Juliet and her best friend, Q. This school is mixed with the Bloods and the Crips which means the drama never ends.

Juliet lives with her father because her mom died in a car accident when she was very young. Juliet is the typical teenager just trying to get out of high school without all the drama. But when Eric Valentine transfers to South Bay everything changes. She can't believe she fell in love with him. She thinks that he's not involved in gangs, so they started talking about life and got to know each other. Later on Juliet gets jumped by the RLB (Real Live B*****) because she warns Valentine that the Crips are planning to jump him. They started calling her a snitch, they say that "Snitches get stitches" Way back when they called it the Kansas smile. She gets jumped pretty bad to the point where her friends even are to scared to hang out with her anymore. So... Juliet decides to join a gang because she says that's the only way she will feel safe.

This book was kind of hard to relate to because I go to such a small school where there is no fights, gangs, drama etc. But what I learned from this book was that make sure you know who your friends really are and pick them wisely because they can turn their back in the matter of seconds. And one more thing don't, and I mean Don't judge people by their appearances unless you know their story and what they've been through.

I wouldn't recommend this book to an elementary student because there's a lot of swearing and sexual content.

°??.:??Arianna°??.:?? says

This book I thought was pretty cool at first. I liked how it talked about real life problems and touched on something that I didn't really know until now. I mean I knew that there are gangs everywhere, like I live in the Bay Area where I can't really where certain colors because of the rival gangs - the Nortenos and Surenos. For me, I have never experienced problems with gangs, even though I have heard of them. I think this made me learn more about the gangs and people that are dealing with being so close to gangs. This also made me know about the Crips and Bloods because until I read this book, I never heard about them. This touches more on the gangs and living in a heavily gang related area.

I thought the main character, Julia DiVino, was pretty cool. She manages to go to a school that is very involved with gangs and still managed to get high grades. It was also great how she kept herself from getting involved in any of the trouble happening in her school. I also respected how, even though she was friends with gang members, she was not in a gang. It made me like how she was fair to people and didn't judge them by the colors they wore. They just hanged out sometimes and she stayed on neutral ground.

However, even though I liked how she was in the start, I disliked how Julia changes once the cute boy comes in. She was so wrapped up in with her romantic life that she was neglecting school. Kind of hate when chicks get like that. Besides the fact that Julia was changing, I felt that the boy was hiding something; which is a total no-no in a relationship.

(view spoiler)

Alejandro says

This book is pretty good but it is short for me and easy to read. This book takes place in south bay high school. A girl named Julia during class she gets sent to the office, she meets a boy called Erik Valiente he just move in into the scool. later on Erik meet Julia's best friend black chuck a member of the cripts.They all go to a party on friday night. After that erik start dating Julia. Erik soon get himself to a gang called the Cripts and so does Julia. The reason why Julia joins is because she got jumped in the girls locker room by sevrrel girls, because she is going out with Erik. Around the end Julia is suspecuise of Erik cause she thinks he is not telling him evrything. If you like books about gangs and how they sruggle in it you should read this book.

Jarod Whaley says

I liked the book Takedown by Allison Van Diepen so I continued with the same author onto a new book called Snitch. It is about a girl who grew up in a gang area and they were brought within the school she attended. Each day someone got jumped, or attacked on school grounds. Inside South Bay High School there were two rival gangs, the Crips and the Bloods, Julia (the main character) wasn't getting any dirt on her hands. At the top of the class and a very intelligent student, Julia had no reason to get involved. Her friends were all in the loop but kept Julia out, then one day a new boy came to town. The days went by as she planned out ways to talk to him until they ran into each other in the hall. They became closer and eventually started dating, but what Julia didn't know was that Eric Valiente wasn't Eric Valiente and the only truth he told was the feelings he expressed. He was involved in the gangs, but was also under the surveillance of the cops as a spy. He thought Julia would remain safe but she decided Eric wasn't in it alone. I recommend this book to anyone looking for a powerful and detailed story. It really explains how teenagers can rule, even inside a public high school. I rate this book 4 out of 5 stars.

Jason Dietz says

"She saw the world in black and white. Good and evil. Right and wrong. She didn't get gray. I lived in gray."

This quote really spoke to me when I first read it because I immediately started to ponder on the idea of racism, even though that is technically not what the quote has to do with at all. This is a very smart line because it has the potential to provide a double meaning to the audience, covering two different yet both very important topics: racism and optimism. With the book taking place within the heart of New York City, inside a mostly black community, one could see how racism could play a strong role in this book. Van Diepen also does a very nice job with incorporating optimism into the book by creating a very dynamic main character who possesses the longing to move outside her comfort zone and try many new things after a boy from out of town walks into her life.

In her book, Allison Van Diepen creates a world where uniqueness is put into play. I really enjoyed this book because it was engaging the entire way and very well paced. It includes many plot twists and dramatic events that made me not want to put it down, eager to find out what would happen next. The dramatic element to the book might have been its best feature. It held up all the way to the very end of the book, along with a level of suspense that was incredible. She also did a really nice job of taking the reader into a not-so-common world of gangs, which allowed me to get a full experience of what it might be like to live that way.

All in all, I really enjoyed this book and strongly recommend it to future readers.

Diana says

I enjoyed this book a lot more than I thought I would. It was a modern and realistic look on urban life and gang life but unfortunately, it was a little predictable and the characters fell just a little flat for me.

Cody Zimmerman says

Julia Divino is like any typical high school girl, she has her own group of friends but starts to venture out. She ends up meeting a new kid, Eric, while getting sent to the office. She becomes like many high school girls and starts having feelings for him instantly. I really enjoyed how fast paced the book was, it did not take long for me to get into the book. I also liked how it focuses on how high school is like in a different neighborhood than what I am used to, around here, none of that stuff happens. However, in other areas there are lots of fighting and territorial areas. I did not like how all of the names were abbreviated and code names were used. You never really got to know that person like you should. Also, I thought that how everyone involved in a gang was kind of annoying. Not all kids are like that and some want nothing to do with it. Snitch is a very fast paced, easy to get into read. It is relatable to kids and young adults our age, however it also throws new aspects of the world into it as well. I would rate this book an 8 out of 10. It was really good, however there were some flaws in my opinion, no book is perfect either. I would recommend this book to anyone that enjoys reading books with lots of drama. Also, there's a love theme that goes along with it too. Brea F, would especially like this book in my opinion.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Jaglvr for TeensReadToo.com

Julia and her friends try to stay clear of the gangs that run rampant in her Brooklyn high school. Up until the day that Eric Valiente shows up, she has succeeded. A chance encounter in the dean's office on Eric's first day brings the two of them together.

Julia is instantly attracted to the hot new student, but she's never been the type of girl to score a guy like him. At a school dance, however, Eric makes the first move on Julia, and they quickly become an item.

But Eric has secrets of his own that he's not willing to share. Before long, he has become a member of the Crips gang. This goes against everything Julia believes, and soon, she breaks up with him. But one night at a club, she hears that a rival gang is going to jump Eric. With a subtle warning to Eric, life changes for Julia.

Overnight, she is considered a snitch and loses all of her friends. For her own protection, and against Eric's pleadings, she asks to join the Crips, as well.

Once a Crip always a Crip. At least until the night that the leader of the gang and some of his lieutenants are busted in a raid. All eyes turn to Julia and Eric as the snitches. Can it be happening to her again?

Ms. Van Diepen writes a powerful novel of the struggles to avoid the attraction of inner city gangs. Julia is a strong, independent character who tries valiantly to avoid the politics that goes on in her community. Only when it comes to her own protection does she have to reevaluate where she stands. The story moves quickly and is quite gripping and gritty in its details.

Kasia says

Snitch by Allison van Diepen was a book that I would not have thought about reading at first. It seemed to be a book about a girl who belong to one gang and fell in love with a boy from a rival gang. Everyone knows one of those infinite books that are remakes of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. I like the original better than the remakes, well at least the books. But it wasn't I read it because my sister said was constantly telling me you have to read I you have to. So I did when I was bored and was not able to go to sleep. I was not able to sleep after I picked it up I had to finish it. I did that night. =]

This book is about a young girl named Julia DiVino. She lives and attends school in Brooklyn. She lives in a "bad" neighborhood; her school is more of a place where "gangbangers" attend because they have no other choice but to do so. The school is clearly divided due to the colors that everyone represents. Gang colors are the only colors that she sees in her school. She is neutral and hates their presence. She and her best friend Q have sworn since they entered the school that they would never join a gang. They were good girls, and good girls don't get involved in that world of colors. At last that was their motto until Eric came along. He had Julia head over heels for him, she liked him a lot. They eventually became involved and where happy until Eric came to school all bruised up and beaten- badly. Julia hated the fact that he was hurt and questioned him, he was reluctant to tell her but he finally did. He had been "jumped in" allowed to join the Crip gang. She was appalled how could her boyfriend do that to her knowing how she felt about gangs? She broke up with him despite the fact that she cared for him deeply. Her friends, her best friends where part of The Real Life Bxtches (part of Bloods) and they were friends but Julia never associated with the crowd. They went to a party that weekend. Her friend told Julia that her gang mates where going to assault Eric and Julia was scared... They could kill him. She wrote down her information on a napkin and gave it to him casually; there was a brawl outside the club later on in the night.

Eric was safe and nothing happened to him. But Julia had another thing coming to her that thing was inevitable. Her friend was angry that she had "snitched" to Eric (hence the name of the book). The cover was correct one name can brand you for life. Her friend was so angry she was going to jump Julia. She was successful in doing it. They assaulted Julia in the changing room after P.E. Julia was sent to the hospital and when she returned home and to school she realized she was all alone. No one wanted to associate with her or even look at her that was except Eric, who still cared for her deeply. She eventually joined the Crip gang. The rivalry was on and she was on the loose with a gang behind her, she was indestructible. Everything was fine until her male best friend's older brother who also happened to be the head of Brooklyn's Crip branch was caught selling drugs and sent to jail. Eric was behind everything, he had been undercover...Why had he been under cover that is for you to find out... =] ;]

I loved this book because it was really easy to relate to. When you live in a mini society like Harlem where gangs and violence and things like that as are common as seeing the sun in the sky every morning, you know what the main character is living through or is going through. I could relate to her, although I don't like the

modern takes on Romeo and Juliet, it was interesting to see the history behind Eric and Julia. All of the characters in the book are symbolic and represent all of the flaws with society not only in urban areas but all over the world. There is a Julia, Eric, Black Chuck, and Scrap in every group, even the elite ones. That was what I loved about this book it didn't hit far from home and you can tell that the authoress, had not only meant to "tell her story", but tell ours as well.

I would recommend this book to anyone who is willing, to try to understand our society, to connect a book, that could easily be labeled a street novel, to our society. And clearly point out what is wrong with it. If not just read it to enjoy it. It will have you entertained for a while =] Well at least until the pages finish =[. This book will make you think but nothing in depth if you don't want to. Enjoy it and its little fun facts. ::] I Know I did =]

Alyssa Janine Busia says

The book was so addictive, powerful and full of exciting and intriguing parts. I never thought that I'll get hooked on this book. I had read it for just one whole day which is very seldom to happen to me.

"I don't know what I would have done without my poetry. When you're laid up and want to cry but don't want to bust your stomach open, you have to find some way of venting your feelings"
– Julia DiVino

The story revolves around this girl named Julia. She is studying in a school where gangs are everywhere. Joining one never occurred to her as she is too focused on her study. Being able to graduate and go to college is what she only thinks of. Even if her friends, Marie and Black Chuck, are members of those gangs, she never thinks of herself joining and becoming one of them. She is always on a neutral side. But, everything turned upside down when Eric came into the picture. She was able to make a decision that will change her stay in South Bay High School.

I really liked Julia. She has this personality that you'll find very amusing and very cool. She has this strong will and great determination. Aside from that, she is also smart. She always stands on her opinion as long as she knows she was right about it.

What I don't really like about her is she seems not to really care for her dad. She always talked back to him and she even thought that he doesn't care for her when it's the opposite. She is lucky to have an understanding and loving father because until the end, he was always there for her even when she got into a fight.

This book is really amazing. Allison van Diepen did create a story that will keep you on turning the pages. The book talked about real life problems – father-daughter relationship, friendship, school gangs, etc. The characters were great. I felt that they were real and that I'm just reading someone's life.

I really suggest this book to everyone especially if you liked stories that will keep your heart racing, will make you feel different emotions and will make you want more.

BLOG POST LINK: <http://bit.ly/2e7RAIR>

Alyssa says

Gritty. Out spoken. Intricate. Scary. Coming of age. Worth praise. Undiscovered. These are the things that come to mind whenever I see the sad and lonely *Snitch* hovering in the same spot I last saw it in my public library. The cover pushes the thoughts *urban* and *teenage* and *danger* and really, where it was all of those things, *Snitch* was just so much more.

Julia is one of the few girls, in a school complete of rivalries between the Crips and Bloods, who wants nothing to do with the gang life that is so ever-present in her classes. She's perfectly content to keep a life of not knowing, not telling, and not saying, with her nondescript friends and caring father. When Julia and Eric meet each other and their instant attractive begins to fester, Julia figures that she's finally about to have the year of her life. With Eric making the first move on a plain Jane like her, she thinks she's experiencing all the jazz of first – and true – love. Unfortunately - and of course - Eric's too good to be true. Because soon after she hooks up with the new bad boy, she finds out Eric's been bounced into the Crips – and wait for it – wants her to bounce in, too.

I was reading a little background about this novel on Miss van Diepen's site a few hours after I had first read the book years ago. van Diepen explains that she'd taught in a school with outrageous amounts of gang violence. She goes to to say that the one time she'd reported a fight - doing the job of a teacher, of course - she'd been called a snitch and trash had been thrown at her. She claims that once she'd gotten to thinking about teenagers faced with gang life, and their battle with morals, the premise of *Snitch* was born. (You can read the full article [here](#))

It's incredibly gripping, this novel, and just as scary. van Diepen gives readers the real deal, complete with the rules and jobs that go with gang life. In health classes, I've seen the junkie videos and the violent gang-oriented ones – neither were as captivating and comprehensive as the scenes in *Snitch*. For example: Julia's at a party with Eric the night she decides to bounce in. The gang members tell her that the only way to get in is to sleep with one – with the possibility of more – gang member. They say that (and this is where my memory fogs up a bit) that they expect her to 'do it' in the filthy room next door and to do it that instant. Right then, I knew that van Diepen was showing us a side of the world that was dirty, hardcore, scary and unfortunately, real. Because honestly. Who could come up with something like that, something that horrifying?

The characters were fleshed out and relatable, the pacing and plot was excellent, and the dialogue was realistic and simply outstanding. The romance between Eric (who, unlike all Erics-from-Disney, was *not* a prince in any way) and Julia was hot, heavy and sexy, but it was also sweet and actually built on a friendship. There is a case of a parent MIA, although in *Snitch*, the aspect was used purely for the novel from Julia's eyes to make sense. Although this novel is not an issue book, it definitely tackles issues like abandonment, substance abuse, weaponry and of course, the familial secrets involved in gang life.

I don't envy van Diepen. In fact, after publishing a book like this – especially one partially based on experiences – I think I'd be watching my back for the rest of my life. *Snitch* opened my eyes to a side of the world I'd been warned of but had never known – this book gave me the chance to understand gang life, snitches – and why they might snitch –and a scary, very real world.

Kayson Sturge says

I believe that the purpose the author wrote this book was because she wants us to know that whatever we do in life, even if it's something that we know can mess up our life.. That it's not the end of the world that we can move on from it, and start a new chapter in life. Even though, our mistakes were already made and done we cannot go back and change them we can be positive and say you know what this is a lesson learned it's time for me to move on and start a new chapter in my life. "Dear Julia, Exciting news-you won the poetry contest! Your poem was published in the Bay Times. We all want to congratulate you and wish you the best of luck at your new school. Sincerely, Mr. Britt and the South Bay Writing Club"(296) Julia afterward says "the check dropped out of the envelope. Fifty bucks. It would go straight to the back. Because I had an open invitation to Miami."(297)This shows that even from everything she did to mess her life up, she has decided to go to a new school and move cities. The impact this book has on the audience is that you should not join any gangs just to be cool or to just feel safe. Joining gangs will eventually get you hurt. I strongly believe it will have a lasting value. The viewers will learn not to join gangs and will also learn that life does go on...

The book is well written to where you can understand what you are reading but if you are someone who doesn't know slang you will have a hard time understanding some parts in the book for example "I caught sight of Eric in the middle of the brawl. He was on his feet holding his own..."(128) This book was so captivating I was so into this book it's actually the second book I finished on my own books that I read just for fun. The book has so much drama! Of course, it involves a romance between two young teens. This book has everything from sad moments to serious ones. Towards the end it becomes so intense when all the lies are revealed. I personally can't relate to none of characters except that I do sometimes get an attitude with people but it's only because they irritate me or do something to make me feel upset. I am not a gang member nor am I a fighter so other than that I can't relate to any of the characters.

The greatest strength I think would have to be that the author knows how to captivate the audience and grab their attention. At all moments the book was interesting never did it become boring. I would say one of the weaknesses would be the language the way the text was written. Even though at the same time I think that's what makes the book so interesting because it's something different. I would definitely recommend this book to a friend; because this book teaches several lessons but the main ones I would say are one do not ever join a gang just to fit in or to feel safe. Second don't always trust everyone be careful who you call your friends and especially who you tell your stuff too. Which this is something that every teen can relate too while being in high school. The last thing that you are reminded of in this book is that life goes on!

Kelly says

I enjoyed reading this book and I really loved the story behind it. A lot of the time when I read I have to go back and reread things over and over until I actually know what I am reading, but with this book I was able to continue reading without having to constantly go back and reread, because I was interested in the story. From the beginning of the book of the book I was pulled into the story. I am not the biggest reader, but I didn't want to put this book down. I think the intended audience for this book is probably around the high school age, although I think that many people outside of that audience would also really enjoy this book. Overall, I would recommend this book if you're looking for a good book to read.

