



Asperger Sunset

Carol Shay Hornung

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Diagnosis: Asperger's Syndrome. Symptoms often only apparent when under stress. Witnessing a murder qualifies as stress. Russ Dante—math teacher, older brother, hobby artist—has a passion for sunsets and finds comfort in his ritual of capturing the striking colors in his sketchbook with oil pastels. That changes one August evening on a secluded park hilltop when—instead of the sunset he came to sketch—he sees a murder. Before the smoky-blue of twilight falls, Russ is running for his life...

There's a lot of nonfiction written about Asperger Syndrome, but very little fiction. In *Asperger Sunset*, Russ has to deal with the twin challenges of solving a murder and learning more about Asperger's Syndrome, the diagnosis that finally explains the quirks and challenges he's lived with all of his life. While Russ provides the Aspie take on the world, his sister, Misty, reflects the neurotypical. Readers are able to experience both worlds, and, ideally, will come away with a better idea of how each side thinks.

Available at <http://www.amazon.com/Asperger-Sunset...>

Asperger Sunset Details

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Author : Carol Shay Hornung

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Susan Wachowski says

Definitely an interesting murder mystery. Hornung shows the inside and outside of Aspergers, that has you cheering and crying, turning pages, and hoping Russ can get his life back together and solve the crime at the same time, without becoming another victim. Excellent read!

Kim says

I really enjoyed this book. It was an easy read. Finished in a couple of sittings. It provides a helpful insight into the difficulties experienced by people with Aspergers syndrome. The book would benefit anyone who lives with a family member or is a partner of someone with Aspergers syndrome. Thank you to the author for raising awareness of the difficulties this can present for individuals on the spectrum and for some helpful strategies. I think I need to invest in a weighted blanket. The storyline isn't half bad, it is essentially a good old fashioned murder mystery. simple plot line, interesting characters well handled central characters. The story zipped along at a good pace and a very satisfying ending. All in all an easy, fun yet informative read.

Nels Henderson says

Carol Shay Hornung has written an excellent first novel with a mystery that is engaging and educating. The protagonist's struggle with how to relate to the world around him in a meaningful way that makes a difference in their lives as well as his own -- was something that kept me turning the pages of this novel. I'm looking forward to a series!

Kitty says

I loved this book! Characters I cared about an a plot that kept me sucked in. The main character, who has Asperger's Syndrome is very intriguing. Reminds me of some of the books I've read by folks like Diane Chamberlain and Lisa Scottoline. Plus the references to Madison, WI provided an added bonus!

Carol Hornung says

Ok, writing your own review is exceedingly pretentious, but I'd like to think it's a fun book! Murder, mayhem, Madison, WI... an inside look at what it's really like to be on the autistic spectrum, and the frustrations and challenges of being a close friend or relative of someone affected.

Vicky (the Blowtorch-Wielding OotCDCB™) says

Rating: 2,5 stars.

I have **mixed feelings** about this book.

On the one hand, **I loved how the theme of Asperger's Syndrome was dealt with.** I recently read *The Rosie Project* and that was the first time I'd ever even heard of this neurological condition, and I was instantly fascinated by the topic. In *Asperger's Sunset* I especially enjoyed the dual POVs, one to illustrate how an Aspy sees the world and himself, and the other to show how the rest of the world, or neurotypicals, perceive him. This book succeeded in being informative (in an engaging way) about Asperger's within the context of the plot in a way that made it easy for people who don't know technical aspects of the condition to comprehend how it works.

On the other hand, **I felt the plot of the book, centered around a murder mystery, left plenty to be desired.** It was just.. so boring. A murder plot invokes (at least for me) ideas of danger, intrigue, suspense, secret plottings. This wasn't what we got. In short, I was expecting *Asperger's Sunset* to be a page-turner. Unfortunately, this wasn't the case for me. It took me a while to get into the story and even when I did **it never really hooked me in a way that made me excited to keep reading. I felt like I was a spectator to the events in the story instead of being invested in them.**

Character-wise:

+ **I really enjoyed Russ's POV.** I loved being inside his head and seeing his perspective of the world. It was really interesting how finding out he had Asperger's Syndrome (and therefore had a *socially accepted* explanation for being different) changed how he viewed himself and helped him deal with some aspects of his life.

- **I hated reaaaally disliked Misty.** As I said before, I appreciated there being a 2nd POV to show contrasting perspectives on the subject of Asperger, but I didn't like Misty particularly as a character. It may be unfair of me to judge her, giving that I have no idea what it is like to have to take responsibility for sby with Asperger syndrome who has so many quirks and differences, but I still resented how she treated her brother sometimes: (view spoiler). She was downright bitchy and hurtful in certain scenes. Here's an example: (view spoiler)

- **As to the secondary characters.. they were mostly flat.** Penny was the only one I liked; she was kind and since she showed a couple of chinks in her armour and we got some backstory on her she felt a bit more real. But I didn't feel like I knew the rest of the characters at all, and I couldn't care less about what happened to them. I've already forgotten their names.

In a nutshell : I loved the different perspectives on the day-to-day dealings of/with people with Asperger's Syndrome provided by the dual POVs in *Asperger's Sunset*. I am fascinated by this topic and I found Russ (MC) to be totally endearing, and that's where the 2,5 stars come from. However, the murder plot was thin and dull, I greatly disliked Misty (MC 2) who sounded whiny and rather bitchy to me, and the secondary characters were flat. Frankly, **I was a bit disappointed by this book; I was expecting much more.**

For those interested in reading fiction about the topic of Asperger's Syndrome I highly recommend checking out the romantic comedy *The Rosie Project*. I had so much fun reading that book; here's a link to: my review of *The Rosie Project*.

Mary Brown says

First, I read The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, and then I started to search for other books related to the topic of Asperger syndrome/autism. This is how I found Asperger Sunset, and I have to say that I like this one more. Asperger syndrome is a very intriguing topic and a murder always makes things more interesting)

Amy Frohwirth horgan says

I absolutely loved this book! Not only was it very informative for a reader who knows very little about Asperger's Syndrome, the story is one that kept me wanting to read more and more without putting it down. Being from Wisconsin, I loved the references to Madison, as well. Asperger Sunset is a great book and one that I will definitely recommend, especially to someone who loves a good mystery!!

Nora says

will need to do this late but i promise to do it!!

Maggie says

I enjoyed this book it was easy to read with engaging storyline. The main character has Asperger's syndrome so through the story the author conveys many helpful strategies and perspectives .A worthwhile read.
