



Split

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Mak is beautiful, street-smart and single, a model paying her way through a degree in forensic psychology. She's come to Vancouver to finish her studies. But instead she walks straight into a city gripped by fear of a killer, and a campus where the students are the prey. As winter closes in and the nights grow longer, Mak is drawn into a shifting world of twisted minds, a world where no motive is clear and no desire is held in check.

Split Details

Date : Published July 4th 2006 by Leisure Books (first published January 1st 2003)

ISBN : 9780843956436

Author : Tara Moss

Format : Mass Market Paperback 339 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Thriller, Fiction

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From Reader Review Split for online ebook

Jean says

A clinical study of the serial killer using the protagonist (Makedde Vanderwall) as the victim of not one, but two serial killers, first in Sydney, second in Vancouver.

Meags says

[At the end of the story, when "the hunter's" identity had been revealed

Clare says

Enjoyed listening to this as an audio book. Narration was by the author - Tara Moss.

Lauren K says

It's been about six months since I read *Fetish*, the first novel in the Makedde Vanderwall series by model and author Tara Moss. I really enjoyed the start to the series and was keen to pick up book 2, *Split* which I managed to read while I was on my honeymoon.

After the trauma Makedde experienced in the first novel while she was in Sydney, I was curious to see what would happen once she returned to her country of origin, Canada. And, of course I wanted to find out what would happen with Detective Andy Flynn whom she had a brief (but intense) affair with in Sydney during the investigation of the stiletto killer.

Split picks up a year after the events, with Makedde (now in Canada) studying her PHD in forensic psychology, with her specific interest in sociopaths and serial killers. She's also trying very hard to ignore the signs of PTSD from disturbed sleep, to hypervigilance to her obsession with serial killers. Makedde is also eager to forget all about the handsome Australian detective whom she once had very strong feelings for. It soon becomes clear that she finds it increasingly difficult to keep him at a distance and when he attempts to make phone contact with her out of the blue and then confronts her at a conference on serial killers. It rattles her further when he begins to work on a serial killer case right on her doorstep. Makedde soon becomes caught up in the case and in fact an indirect target of the perpetrator.

Makedde is quite hung up on the fact that Andy had to save her from the last serial killer and struggles with the fact that she was so helpless at that point in time. This hangs in the way of their developing a relationship as she feels she will always owe him for saving her life.

There was a lot about this book I enjoyed and some parts that let it down. Firstly, I think Makedde was a little more likeable this time around, though she does still come across a little too perfect. The psychology stuff did become a little forced earlier in the story to try and make her sound intelligent which was also a

little offputting, but overall I connected with her better. However, she does make some silly decisions and is quite stubborn about following up on leads on her own rather than leaving it to the local police. She's quite avoidant of the issues with Andy and instead starts to date another guy which conveniently begins just after Andy arrives in town when she hasn't dated anyone else in the year since they've been apart.

The crime plot was interesting and I found myself drawn to Andy again, who is far more easier to connect with on an emotional level than Makedde as he isn't as well defended as she is. The other thing that seemed a little too coincidental tat Makedde inadvertently strays into the path of another serial killer- but I have a feeling this whole series will be serial killer related.

Despite these minor qualms, I did finish the book quite quickly and was satisfied with the ending, at least in respect to the romantic arc and I do intend to continue reading more books in this series.

TheMadHatter says

So I was given book 4 of this series by a neighbor who was raving about how good this series is. Like any OC reader, I held off on book 4 and went to read the series from the beginning.

Let us start with what was good about it. It was an easy, quick read. Um....yep. That is all.

How was this book painful? Let me count the ways:

1) Makedde is the most 2D, annoying, pretentious prat of a character I have ever read. She is a model. She is studying her PhD. She is so intelligent that mere mortals can not be in her presence. I get wanting to write a lead character who is brilliant and beautiful - but it has to be written carefully so as not to turn the readers off. This was a massive fail in Moss's attempt to convince readers that Models can be smart and beautiful (something I thought was true BEFORE reading this book....not so sure about after though). My friend is actually writing a book with a lead character who is a psychologist and I recommended this book to her as an example of what not to do when writing a psychologist.

2) So in book 1 Makedde flew to Australia. Within 24 hours her "best" friend had been killed by a serial killer and then before you know it the serial killer has become fixated on Mak and hunts her down. Ok. Book 2 Makedde has returned to her native Canada and guess what - there is another serial killer and he is now after Mak. Now I love Patricia Cornwell books, but Scarpetta is a forensic pathologist so it makes sense she gets involved with serial killers. Makedde is just a student who seems to attract serial killers no matter where she is. She does make a joke in the book that she is a "psycho-magnet". Ah. Well that explains this unbelievable plot line and explains why serial killers are now prolific and always near Mak.

3) Moss seems to think everyone is stupid as the first half of the book reads like a psych manual. Mak carries her DSM manual with her. Mak is reading this journal article (cause she is so smart) and inserts the reference into the book (I kid you not). Mak is talking to her Dad while reading a book - here is an except of her book (see how smart she is). Very 2D cardboard writing. When someone tries to protest their intelligence too much....well...yeah we all know how that ends.

3) Makedde does the most stupid things. Her ex wants to talk to her but she doesn't want to give him the wrong idea so she refuses to meet him (good). But then at 11pm at night she changes her mind, drives across

town to contact him in his hotel room (just to talk). Ok then. He is not there, but she finds out he is at the bar. So he goes to the bar and gets roaring drunk. WTF?

This book is just silly. Makedde is hideous. As for the crime? The whole multiple personality "hunter" thing has been done to death. Why am I trying to get to book 4? I have heard her paranormal series is better. I would hope so.

Phryynne says

I'm still trying to decide whether I really like this author's style. She tends to explain a bit too much which rather slows down the pace. Nevertheless when the action starts happening she keeps the pages turning and there is plenty of suspense. I don't really get the Makedde / Andy issue even though I did read the previous book where all the problems started. Someone as strong as Mak is supposed to be surely could make her mind up over a mere man. Still a good book and I will read the next one.

Janice says

Took a little longer than I was expecting to get into this book. The "drama" didn't really start until about half way through, but the last 100 pages I didn't want to put it down. I like the main characters and am keen to continue reading through the series. Looking forward to the next one.

Megan says

I was going to give this two stars for its flat, stereotypical characters, long drawn-out descriptions that had me skipping whole paragraphs at a time, and the fact that the plot would have been 99% unchanged without the main character (a passive woman who makes no decisions and doesn't even know there's a serial killer for most of the book), but then I got to the "revelation."

I literally threw down the book when it turned out the title meant exactly what I'd feared: another stereotypical representation of mental illness (with bonus childhood trauma).

Cathleen says

Oooh, this one left a bad taste in my mouth. Lazily plotted, poorly written, and flatly narrated (by the author). Even apart from the offensive not only woman-as-victim, but woman-as-REPEAT-victim fiasco, developments are telegraphed, silly details are emphasized (and worse, sometimes repeated), and the characters are cardboard pawns.

audiobook note: I wasn't a fan of the almost bored-sounding narration from early on, and some key mispronunciations (mischievous!) only underscored my low opinion.

Ash says

So this wasn't as good as the first one. I still enjoyed it, but there was just nothing all that special about it. Sometimes predictability is okay, but in this novel, it just made me kinda bored.

I will say, however, that the second half of the book was better than the first. The second half was more like the first book - the pace picked up, the stakes picked up, pieces started to fall together - and I blitzed through it happily.

I have started to ship Makedde and Andy now so I don't know what that says about me.

And I do want to read the third book so that says something for this one. I'm not turned off yet.

What I've found is that there's a compulsive readability to Moss's writing. It's smooth and not too over-the-top and it works well for this style of storytelling. Moss is definitely a quality writer. I do still like reading the traditional serial killer crime story through the eyes of a female protagonist, and not the knight-like men who save the day as is standard for crime novels like this one. I do also like how Moss uses the plot and resolution of this book to mirror Makedde's struggles and resolutions from what happened in the first book. I thought that was clever and it did work well to tie everything together neatly for a satisfying conclusion.

Overall, this was relatively enjoyable, although I didn't enjoy it as much as the first book in the series, *Fetish*. Definitely worth the read because I did like the first one, but if you don't like the first one, I wouldn't continue to this one.

Tamara Witika says

Listened to audiobook version. As much as I like Tara Moss and her Canadian accent with Aussie edge, she doesn't do different sounding voices for different characters or the narration (unlike the excellent Stephanie Daniel who reads the Phryne Fisher books) and so I would be driving along listening and trying to figure out who was speaking. Distracting af. Moss also overexplains a bit, which feels like a dumbing down. Also we get it that Makedde is beautiful and smart and has a funny name, you don't have to keep reminding us all the way through the book.

Merri says

Mak once again finds herself in the clutches of another psychopath, however *Spilt* was slower moving than *Fetish*. I found this was filled with a lot more explanation of psychological terms that were perhaps too long. I may be frustrated with that as I'm familiar with what she was writing about, however I feel if she needs to show her knowledge on this she should write an article not a novel. Once I neared the end, it was far less laborious and much more enjoyable.

Mathew Walls says

This is just the first book again but worse. I picked them both up at the same time from an op shop, and already having it with me is the only reason I bothered with this one. Turns out I shouldn't have. Rather than being an improvement over the first, this one is just the same again but more so. But it's also way too long, with a whole lot of stuff that could be cut without making any difference to anything - like the chapter where we get the perspective of a guy deciding to go visit his mother (who we know has been shot and tried to get to the phone to call an ambulance) and getting there just in time to find out that the ambulance is already on its way and his timely arrival is completely irrelevant.

The most annoying thing, though, was how much of the story relies on complete coincidences. I knew this was going to be an issue when the first book had Makedde describe herself as a "psycho magnet", letting you know in advance that she's just going to keep stumbling into the path of serial killers for no reason, but that's just the start.

Oh, and Andy, the terrible love interest from book one and whom I hoped we'd seen the last of, is apparently a fixture.

Richard Warlow says

Awesome, almost as good as the first book

Bronwyn Rykier says

Makedde Vanderwall seems to get herself in the line of fire from serial killers, first she became a victim a Stiletto Murderer while visiting Australia and in this book too she becomes the target for another serial killer – could that really happen in someone's life?

I don't understand her feelings for Andy, she is attracted to him but keeps fighting it because he helped her from being killed while she was in Australia and she has a hang up over that.

For me there was too much in depth discription of Foresenic Science and Psycology - I don't think the story needed all that was said, for me it would have been better without it.

Though the story itself was not bad.
