



# S.T.A.G.S

*M.A. Bennett*

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*Nine students. Three bloodsports. One deadly weekend.*

It is the autumn term and Greer MacDonald is struggling to settle into the sixth form at the exclusive St. Aidan the Great boarding school, known to its privileged pupils as S.T.A.G.S. Just when she despairs of making friends Greer receives a mysterious invitation with three words embossed upon on it: huntin' shootin' fishin'. When Greer learns that the invitation is to spend the half term weekend at the country manor of Henry de Warlencourt, the most popular and wealthy boy at S.T.A.G.S., she is as surprised as she is flattered.

But when Greer joins the other chosen few at the ancient and sprawling Longcross Hall, she realises that Henry's parents are not at home; the only adults present are a cohort of eerily compliant servants. The students are at the mercy of their capricious host, and, over the next three days, as the three bloodsports - hunting, shooting and fishing - become increasingly dark and twisted, Greer comes to the horrifying realisation that those being hunted are not wild game, but the very misfits Henry has brought with him from school...

## S.T.A.G.S Details

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Author : M.A. Bennett

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# From Reader Review S.T.A.G.S for online ebook

## La chica que leía says

4.5?

Brutal. Una historia que te mantiene en vilo, capaz de jugar contigo y tenerte atrapada entre las páginas necesitando más. Y con un final de diez

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## Wing-yee (bibliomeds) says

what a dark, thrilling read set in a lush and posh estate with shady secrets.

~~being rich must be nice sometimes~~

finished this in 2 sittings and i'm so proud of myself.

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## Maddie (Heart Full Of Books) says

My overall thoughts for this book was that it sounded cooler than it read. In theory, three blood sports and an elite society of snobs sounds like a riot, but it left me feeling more confused than anything.

I'm not sure I fully understood the motives of the Medievals' society and why they were out to get the main character. Surely just disliking social media isn't a good enough reason to kill people? And do people really same things like 'sorry, old chap' and 'dash it all' if they're born in the 2000s? I was cracking up at their dialogue when it was meant to be menacing!

Also, oh man, there were so many film references. So. Many. One every three pages or so and that's not an exaggeration. They were a lazy way of not having to actually explain what was going on, but if you have to explain the bit in the film you're talking about, it's redundant. (Also, the main character dislikes 'The Princess Diaries' films and that's down right unacceptable.)

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## Jen Ryland says

Entertaining though pretty unsuspenseful suspense book about rich kids behaving badly.

Do you have thirty seconds? Find out why I think this is Mean Girls retold on a British country weekend.

Read my full (cranky) thoughts here: [Jen Ryland Reviews STAG](#)

Read more of my reviews on [JenRyland.com](#)! Check out my Bookstagram! Or check out my Jen In Ten

reviews on Youtube - get the lowdown on current books in 10-30 seconds!

I received a free advance copy of this book from the publisher for possible review.

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## **Annamaria says**

### **"Huntin', Shootin', Fishin'."**

I genuinely thought I was going to thoroughly enjoy S.T.A.G.S. because I requested it during the same period I was watching this brilliant BBC mini-series called, wait for it, "Stag". The concept was similar and being me the idiot I am I thought it was a sign from the gods to read it. In "Stag" a group of men go on a hunting trip on a friend's stag night. Then, one after the other, they get killed off. My kind of thing if you know me! In "S.T.A.G.S." a group of kids who attend a very posh boarding school is invited on a hunting trip by the very elite of this place. Soon they realize somebody is trying to hurt them. What was brilliant in "Stag", the suspense, the mystery, the splattery murders, the character development and the backstories, was what lacked in "S.T.A.G.S.". This last one tries too hard to be a thriller **and** a YA novel and it shows. It feels like it dumbs down the mystery as not to bore the reader but what it achieves is quite the contrary. Every now and then the chapters will end with a foreshadowing that always assures the reader that a murder is about to happen. In its place though we get long descriptions of places and a useless romance, then when we're ready to deal with the juicy bits they're rushed and left underdeveloped.

The villains are one-dimensional and unappealing, (view spoiler) .The main character is an annoying young girl who loves movies and never shuts up about it. I thought that this element would have served a purpose plot-wise but was just a quirk of hers. The ending could have been brilliant had it been built upon solid foundations. Having been the overall story quite simple and pretty uneventful it just felt like a last attempt to throw in there a witty plot-twist/cliffhanger which will perhaps open the doors to a possible second instalment?

Maybe I didn't like this book the way other readers did because I had raised the bar way too high (when it comes to gory murders the BBC is always a cut above us all!) so if the genre appeals to anyone who's reading this review I'd recommend not to be completely put off by it, give it a chance and see for yourself!

I was kindly sent the ARC of this book by Netgalley.

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## **Brooke — brooklynennereads says**

This was a unique, creative, and thrilling novel that is not typical within the Young Adult genre. It almost felt as if it was a combination of "Pretty Little Liars" by Sara Shepard and the movies "Scream" and "Mean Girls". It was a different story and not only in the idea but the execution of the crimes.

Admittedly (and unfortunately), as much as I was a fan of the idea surrounding the plot, this novel was just not for me. It was a case of "it's not you, it's me". The writing was well done but my full attention was not getting grabbed. Throughout the novel, I found myself becoming easily distracted and not as invested in the

story as much as I hoped to be. Also, I didn't find that any of the characters (even in the main friendship group) were likeable. That's my personal opinion but that can detract from the novel when I find I'm not as invested in figuring out the character's outcome.

Lastly, typically I'm a fan of social culture/media references but this novel took movie references to the extreme. It originally was enjoyable but the novel eventually was fully saturated with unnecessary references.

As a debut, I would say this was well done for the author as it was a unique and creative idea. Also, the ending was the perfect mixture of conclusion along with suspense. I'm interested to read more from this author in the future.

\*\*\*Thank you to Penguin Random House Canada for sending me a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*

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## Stacee says

I love boarding school/secret society type books, so I was all over this one.

I liked Greer well enough. She is a bit wishy-washy, but she's smart and resourceful and I loved that her dad's profession gave her some seemingly random information. I didn't quite see the appeal of Henry or his friends. Their enviable qualities appeared to be wearing whatever tights they wanted and I'm not sure what else.

Plot wise, I loved the idea. I won't go into detail because possible spoilers, but it had a lot of potential. My main complaint was that I didn't feel the terror or even the tension I would expect with this type of story.

Overall, it did keep me interested and I loved the epilogue, especially the ending. I'm not sure if this is going to be a series, but I was satisfied when I was finished.

\*\*Hugs thanks to Delacorte Press for providing the arc free of charge\*\*

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## Elle♣ says

\*Thank you to the author and Netgalley for giving me an ARC in exchange for an honest review\*

### 2.5 starts

I was looking forward to reading this book - the premise sounded great and I had not read anything like what the plot suggested I would be getting. And I did enjoy it... to a degree.

I had zero connection with **any** of the characters in this book. Yes, their *appearances* were described, but I never got a sense of who they were as a person, and so honestly, I didn't care what their fate would turn out to be, whether they lived or died... meh.

I continued to read because I was waiting for the intense, bloody action to begin, as suggested by the blurb, *"One **deadly** weekend...The students are at the mercy of their capricious host, and, over the next three days, as the three bloodsports - hunting, shooting and fishing - become increasingly **dark and twisted**..."* I don't know if it was just me, but I never got the sense of anything being "dark," "twisted" or "deadly." I mean yeah it's obvious that (view spoiler) but I never got the sense that they were in danger.

One thing that seriously bothered me was how the MC, Greer, continuously, and what felt like in every second sentence, made a movie reference. From the Godfather Part II to Lawrence of Arabia, The Princess Diaries to The Jungle Book...every movie under the sun is referenced by Greer. We get it. Your dad is a cameraman and you have a mutual love for films. **CALM DOWN.**

Everything I've said so far is pretty negative **BUT** as a whole, this book is definitely one of the better ones I've read this year; it's good for what it is, I just expected more :)

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### **Taryn Pierson says**

S.T.A.G.S. is one of the most fun books I've read this year. I just plain enjoyed myself every time I put on my headphones and fired up the audio. I'm a sucker for a boarding school setting and a fight between the privileged upper crust and the scrappy outsiders. There's something so satisfying about peeking behind the curtain of the very wealthy to discover a seedy or shocking truth. We all have our junk; some of us can just pay more to hide it.

The group calling themselves the Medievals at St. Aidan the Great School can certainly pay a lot. Ringleader Henry de Warlencourt, as you can tell by his bombastically ridiculous name, is a very important and very rich dude who hosts a weekend of "huntin' shootin' fishin'" at one of his family's many estates. Along with the usual coterie of ass-kissing friends, he's invited three relative nobodies, including narrator Greer MacDonald, a scholarship kid who's suspicious of Henry's motives but really wants to fit in. As you might guess if you've spent any time watching teen movies, Henry hasn't invited the social outcasts out of the goodness of his heart. Also, surprise, no adults are present other than a few creepy, taciturn servants. What could go wrong? Probably nothing. Let's go shoot some animals!

I think the biggest selling point for me was the fantastic performance by audio book narrator Katharine McEwan, who, to my unrefined American ear at least, nailed the various accents and held me in thrall from beginning to end. The tone of the book is very conversational and lends itself well to the format. It feels like sitting down with a friend as they dish about a crazy experience they just had. And it's the perfect book for gossip hounds with a conscience, because you can't get in trouble for talking about fictional characters behind their backs.

More book recommendations by me at [www.readingwithhippos.com](http://www.readingwithhippos.com)

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### **Mary-ellen says**

'Nine students. Three blood sports. One deadly weekend.'

This book is an okay read, but didn't really live up to its potential.

It is different from standard YA releases and the concept is great. The problem is in the execution. Greer is a fish out of water as a scholarship student at this exclusive school for the extremely wealthy. Largely ignored by her peers, she finally feels like she is being accepted by the elite group at school when she receives an invitation. Greer is thrust into their world of privilege, but comes to realise things are not what they seem.

After getting off to a slow start, this book suffered from too much time spent on things happening to other characters, not the protagonist. It felt like the action was a little too distant to really create much tension for the first half of the book. Then when the tension should have been acute, it's completely undercut by the oscillating thoughts of the main character, which made her seem stupid. The other tension killer is that there's never any doubt of the outcome as the story is told in past tense. It's too predictable. The set up for the 'twist' at the end isn't credible unless, once again, the main character is stupid.

The movie references became annoying. The first one isn't explained immediately. It's just a random 'It', which totally pulled me out of the story.

I did enjoy this book in parts, but I wanted a lot more fear.

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### **Karima chermiti says**

This book is the definition of boredom. I can't believe I finished it even though i liked nothing about, not a thing.

I could've reread 13 Minutes or Little Monsters or We Were Liars and i would had a very good time but instead i chose this book and it ended up being one brutal exhausting and totally disappointing reading experience that bored the feelings out of me.

### **Full review now posted**

Hate is a strong word. I don't use very often in my life, I don't think I've ever used at all when talking about books, except maybe once and I don't like to use it at all. But S.T.A.G.S brought out that emotion in spades and I hated every single moment of this miserable nightmarish experience. If I could take away the memories of reading this book out of me, I would. I hated it that much.

So is this going to be a decent review? No chance in hell. this is going to be filled with me ranting and saying things that's not going to make any sense because I'm so angry that I wasted my time with this thing that I can't think straight. Another thing, I'm not going to be using the characters names in this review because I remember them not and I'm not interested in going back to the book and rediscover their names so I will be using **the good guys** and **the bad guys** so I won't spoil anything for you.

So let's start my ranting by saying that if you're looking for your next young adult thriller then get out of here as fast of you can because nothing about this book is thrilling and if you think you're getting into a survival story with guts and stakes then well there's survival arc alright but it's so underwhelming and badly executed that it leaves nothing to be desired. I assure you you'll have a greater time with books like We Were Liars, 13 Minutes and Little Monsters. These three books are mysterious, atmospheric and disturbing in

a way this book wasn't.

So let's now move on to the things that I'm salty about with this book. S.T.A.G.S was in the front of my mind since it was released and I decided that I'll be reading it for sure. Famous yet ambiguous boarding school, people with hidden agendas and a survival story with a spooky nature, that's what I thought the story has to offer. But now that I've read this book, I'd like to go back in time to my former self and shake her into submission so she won't read the book and I won't be writing this review right now. But ALAS, regret is no help for me. I'm telling you guys that writing these types of reviews is no fun at all. It's draining all the positive energy and making me exhausted but we all gotta do what we gotta do.

The story has a promise and a potential, I'll give it that but it was soon slaughtered with those long descriptive passages that did nothing but annoy and bore me to death. I mean the story is less than 300 pages and for most of the times I'm stuck inside that heroine head while she's describing everything her eyes lay upon. I know that the bad guys live in luxury like royals but do we really need to hear about that every single chapter. I hate long descriptive passages especially when they offer nothing to the plot and with this book, not only they were repetitive and boring but it also took space that could've been given to more character and plot development.

Speaking of plot, it was so underdeveloped and so predictable that I felt like I was drowning in all the nonsense going on. I understand that the story strived to be creepy and disturbing and twisted but for me it was all ridiculous and unbelievable.

The lack of suspense and stakes also killed my intrigue and my interest faster than quicksilver. Right from the start, we know who the bad guys are and who the good ones are. We know a murder took place, we know who was the victim and the identity of the killers. We knew everything so it's all about how we get there and I was actually looking forward to it but then it all became clear for me and to be honest, it doesn't take a genius to figure out where the story is headed every single chapter and how it's going to turn out. It felt like the story lacked all the crazy elements that my favorite thrillers tend to exploit very well in crafting an engaging story that leaves no room for boredom or predictability.

And even the survival aspect of the story was written in a poor way. The good guys didn't survive because they were bloody tough and know how to handle themselves in the midst of dangerous situation; the truth is that they were manipulated into thinking that they survived due to that. For me, it was a stroke of lack that one of the good ones happens to have a very valuable item in her possession that they used to their advantage. Without that item, they would've been toast.

And speaking of the characters, I didn't like any single one of them. Let's start with the villains. They are not written in a way that makes them fascinating or interesting. They do all of these things that are evil but for what reasons, where's the motivation that can convince me that these should be really considered great villains. For me, it was so ridiculous and weird and didn't feel that well thought out.

The good ones weren't that better. Their characters were flat and one dimensional and didn't peak my

interest for a second. But let's just say that the main female character is the worst of them all. She was dull, stupid and easily manipulated. Like what the hell was she thinking most of times, behaving that way even though it was abundantly clear that something is wrong with the students that invited them. No, she actually doesn't care about that, not when the main villain is so handsome and his eyes are so deep and beautiful and he makes her feel so pretty. I mean what she is doing for heaven's sake. She knew how bad he was and she has a very solid proof on all the horrible things he's done but he's actually look pretty good and concerned so to hell with all the dirt she has on him. He can't be possible that bad and that handsome, can he now. I swear that girl has the intelligence of an empty chair. And to see her disregard her friends worries for him and putting their lives in danger because she's just that infatuated with him. I can't even with her. I just can't

But you know, if I have to mention a one thing that didn't suck that much, it'd probably be the ending. If the book had the same vibe and intrigue of that final chapter, you would be looking at my next favorite young adult thriller but instead here we are.

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### **Olivia (The Candid Cover) says**

S.T.A.G.S honestly surprised me. It is a very eerie story with a twisty plot and an intelligent main character. The story definitely strays from the classic private school book I was expecting. Although this book is a thriller, I feel like there isn't enough action, and I would have enjoyed more suspense.

It's so hard to describe this book without spoilers, but basically, it tells the story of a girl who is invited to the annual weekend trip with the most popular kids in school. She is skeptical, since she is considered an outcast, but goes on the trip anyways. As expected, the trip takes a dark turn, and she finds herself trapped in a house with no adults. It was originally the private school aspects that drew me to this book, but we don't get to see a lot of the actual school. Also, I found that the book lacks action for the kind of story that is, and everything happens at the end. The idea is very creative, but I just feel like it falls a bit flat.

I really enjoyed Greer's character in S.T.A.G.S. As a scholarship student in a school for the rich, she doesn't fit in with the others. However, on the trip, Greer is resourceful and clever, and she is good at manipulating those who are trying to manipulate her. She is also quick to defend her newfound friends, which I loved. The one thing I will say is that the constant movie references do get annoying, but other than that, she is likeable.

S.T.A.G.S. is a darker take on a private school weekend trip. The main character is likeable, and the concept is intriguing. However, I would have liked more action in this thriller, and a faster paced plot.

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### **Emmy Ruijven says**

Heel tof, maar ik zag alles aankomen. Binnenkort mijn recensie.

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## **Cora ? Tea Party Princess says**

**5 Words: Privilege, power, huntin', shootin', fishin'.**

Holy wow. I misjudged this book a lot.

I knew from those first gripping pages that there had been a death, that someone thought they had murdered someone else, but I loved how unreliable it felt.

I'm not entirely sure what it was about the cover or the blurb (yes, I read it for once!) that made me think that this was set in the US, but it's not. And that came as a very pleasant and welcome surprise.

I found myself quickly sucked deep into the world of the Medievals and Savages and the intrigue of school politics, and that was enough to keep me feverishly turning pages even before the main story kicked in. And once that main story kicked in I was hooked by the ominous cloud hanging over everything, the portent of what I thought I knew was to come (I was wrong).

I loved Greer. I loved how she had this film connection with her father and how it was such a large part of her life that slipped into Greer's narrative.

I feel like this would translate amazingly into film or TV - and the setting would be all the more breathtaking. Think *Skins* set in *Downton Abbey* with a dash of *Mean Girls*.

The ending of *STAGS* was left open, ready for a sequel. But I actually hope it is left on its own, as that would make the story (and the ending) even more powerful. Also, I can carry on the fanfic in my head.

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## **Rachel Hall says**

*S.T.A.G.S* is a cracking debut psychological thriller aimed at the YA market but in all honesty with M.A. Bennett's neat plotting, the scathing humour of her central character and a storyline filled with situations which are accessible to an adult audience, this novel has the ability to entertain well beyond its target bracket. With its dark undertone and a heroine wise beyond her years yet achingly aware of the social conventions which dictates whether an adolescent fits in, *S.T.A.G.S* offers a perceptive take on everything from the entitlement culture which still seems well entrenched in certain circles to the advance of technology. One such environment is the imposing medieval manor house of elite seventeenth century founded bastion of education, St. Aidan the Great, an elite boarding school located in Northumberland. Replete with antiquated traditions, language lessons in Latin and Greek, games consisting of fives and real tennis and a uniform reminiscent of an monastic order, parents are paying for their offspring to be different.

When working class northern sixth-former, Greer MacDonald, is awarded a scholarship from Bewley Park comprehensive to St. Aidan's she recognises herself for what she is: the girl who doesn't fit in. As autumn (Michaelmas) terms opens, Greer discovers her lowly rank in the food chain along with a collective of fellow

outsiders. Street-smart and just as well educated in the laws of the jungle after spending her formative years watching myriad films, it is no understatement to say that Greer can see the warning bells and smell the danger that comes from being in the vicinity of the 'Medievals', a wealthy, arrogant inner sanctum who effectively run the school. With their backgrounds embedded in the wealth of old money and their ancestors all former pupils they pride themselves on eschewing technology and social media, all termed 'Savage' and synonymous with the behaviour of coarse heathens. Top dog of this ruling order of prefects is blue-eyed invincible golden boy, Henry de Warlencourt. With his film star good looks and his country estate along with his posse of hangers-on he rules the roost. Although it is difficult to set one of the group of six apart as the instigator of ridicule and bullying, in a group they are merciless.

After a half-term of heartbreaking isolation and loneliness, Greer might not like how the 'Medievals' behave but it doesn't stop her wanting to attract the capricious attentions of Henry de Warlencourt and his crowd or hoping to fit in. Greer's narration is full of her obvious vulnerability and even as a gifted pupils who would probably be intelligent enough to advise others not too go near them, it is human nature to want to be liked. When a mysterious card is slipped under Greer's door she is flabbergasted to be given a prestigious invitation to spend Justitium (half-term) weekend at Longcross Hall, the estate of the de Warlencourt family, for a weekend of huntin' shootin' fishin'. Could this prove an opportunity to audition to become a 'Medieval' and finally be accepted?! Needless to say, Greer is even more surprised to find herself and fellow outsiders Shafeen Jadeja ("Punjabi playboy") and Chanel Ashford ("Carphone Chanel") at the gathering. Devoid of adults and staffed by a motley crew of lackeys from the yokel village who take orders from Henry, the setting is suitably creepy. Amongst the dark corridors lined with stags heads and initially caught up in the bonhomie of a few adoring looks from Henry, it takes time to dawn on Greer that the three outsiders are the prey to be hunted... Along with Greer, Bennett takes time to carve out well-realised characters in the cases of Shafeen and Chanel she succeeds in getting the reader invested in their fate. Apart from Henry de Warlencourt, the 'Medievals' proved rather interchangeable, however this merely adds to their overall sense of menace.

Whilst this novel is not without its flaws and I certainly found a few plot holes, the greatest problem is that Greer's narration is told in retrospect, so the reader knows from the get-go something of what to expect and that Greer shares some burden of responsibility for a fatality, which does nothing for the anticipation factor:

"I'm a murderer in the way that fox hunters are murderers - they are each responsible for the fox's death, even though they hunt in a pack."

Bennett does a wonderful job with Greer's sarcastic and youthful commentary, which in contrast to so many of the recent YA novels that I have read actually manages to convince as the words of sixteen-year-old. Greer overlays the story with a darkly comical tone and her narration is littered with movie analogies, the vast majority of which prove amusing and even with my scant film knowledge, I understand the general gist of most of her intimations. I was disappointed by the final third of S.T.A.G.S. which seemed rather drawn out and anticlimactic. As it is the epilogue is frustratingly saccharine sweet with a little too much emphasis on opening up the closed order with more public sector teachers, pupils of colour and scholarship students, making for an overly preachy tone into the finish. The final pages of this novel leave potential for a follow-up and whilst I have no appetite to read a rehash of this story, I will be looking out for the future YA novels of M.A. Bennett.

In short, this is an excellent YA psychological thriller which makes some interesting insights on a world increasingly becoming dependent on technology and pitting it alongside an aristocratic boarding school illuminates the pros and cons brilliantly. Narrated with atmosphere and with an excellent lead character, the spirit of Greer and her cohorts make this an exhilarating read for a YA audience and will entertain adults alike. S.T.A.G.S. also proves an education in itself on the area of blood sports (not that I shall be putting any

of them into practice)!

Many thanks to Miriam Smith for giving me the opportunity to read this book.

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## **Aneta Bak says**

I thought I was really going to enjoy S.T.A.G.S. but I was just left very disappointed from beginning to end.

First of all, the book starts off in past-tense from the main character, Greer's point of view. In the beginning, she mentions that a certain individual was killed and that she and a few others were the murderers, then she dives into the story from how she got to the school. Normally this type of thing works really well in mystery novels, where they reveal the killer in the beginning but then start the story and theres always some type of crazy plot twist. Yet this book didn't really have a plot twist, and I honestly think it revealed way too much at the beginning. It left me bored and not wanting to read the book, since I already knew what was going to happen.

The main character Greer, was alright in the beginning, but eventually I just ended up not liking her at all. She talks about how she's different, and she wants to be herself rather than worshiping the medievals and being just like them, but throughout her trip she slowly starts becoming more and more like them, obviously not the rich part, but the snobby, I think I'm better than everyone, evil kind of way. It honestly felt like her character development was going backwards, rather than forwards.

The romance in this book was absolutely horrible! In the beginning of the book, Greer mentions how much she dislikes Henry and the other medievals, but of course she ends up falling for him and his tricks the first moment he shows her any type of affection. Greer was described as a smart girl in this book, but man was she dumb for falling for this guy. Then of course she is so blinded by her love for Henry after he calls her beautiful once, that she can't even see that there is someone who actually likes her for real, until he says it out loud. Even then, it was kind of like where the heck did this come from? It was just not written very well.

The writing was alright, but wasn't the best either. If the book didn't do the "mystery" aspect of revealing that someone dies in the end, the action would have been really good. But of course since it was spoiled, it wasn't the best. The world-building was good, there were lots of good descriptions of the school and the mansion and all the land it contained.

The reason why I'm giving this book two stars instead of one, is because of the ending. I found it absolutely hilarious, even though it wasn't meant to be funny at all. So in the end, Greer realized the mistake she made in trusting someone, who ended up being the "most evil" person in the book. I think this was supposed to be a "plot twist" but you could see it from a mile away!! In this moment, Greer was actually shook when she realized what was really going on, and I thought her stupidity was the funniest thing ever. For an elite school for super smart kids, you'd think they'd figure this stuff out.

Overall, I would not call this book a thriller or mystery at all. Although it was definitely not the book for me, if you've read previous books that sound like this and want to give them a try, then I'd say go for it, but if you find yourself bored in the beginning like I was, just give up.

Thank you to Netgalley and the publisher for providing a copy of this book, in exchange for an honest review.

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## Estefanía Álvarez says

4.5/5

La caza es un thriller juvenil que te atrapa desde al primera página, contado por una protagonista muy fresca e irónica que hacen que la narración sea muy ágil y divertida.

Cuenta con una historia un tanto oscura y misteriosa y un final totalmente impactante que hace de este libro una lectura totalmente recomendable.

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## Ellie (faerieontheshelf) says

? 4.5/5 stars

I think there's a pretty clear reason why I liked this and rated it so highly. If Tartt's *The Secret History* and Stiefvater's *The Raven Boys* had a lovechild, it might look something like this book. It undoubtedly takes more after *The Secret History* in terms of narrative, but it has key themes that both TSH and TRB share: wealthy youths; private schools; youths doing ill-advised things and taking advantage of their affluence; a newcomer to a group of glittering, enigmatic people.

An enjoyable YA thriller that focuses on British heritage, class and the ever-revolving debate of 'old vs. new' with a chatty female lead and enjoyable secondary characters.

**For a lengthier review, come visit my blog (It's worth the trip, I promise!)**

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## Abbie says

(I received a copy from Netgalley, In exchange for an honest review.)

This wasn't awful, but I can't say it was one that I enjoyed. It just couldn't fully gain my interest unfortunately, so I spent a lot of the book feeling quite bored. I was pretty glad to see the end.

Overall, Not awful, but not one for me.

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## Miriam Smith says

"S.T.A.G.S." written by M.A.Bennett is a superb story that was such a different read to my normal books, yet still in keeping with the thriller genre.

I knew as soon as I started reading this that I was going to enjoy it and I wasn't proved wrong. With twists and turns right to the very end, readers will love this book - so easy to follow with brilliant characters (I could certainly see the attraction with Henry) and a seriously captivating plot.

Greer MacDonald has won a scholarship at the very elite and prestigious St. Aidan the Great School in Northumberland. She doesn't make many friends at the school due to not being the wealthy and socially acceptable student all the others are. When Greer receives the much coveted annual invitation to join a group of 'Medievals' (unofficial prefects of the school) at Longcross Hall, she accepts the "huntin' shootin' fishin'" invitation in the hope she will make new friends and be socially accepted. However, things aren't as they seem in the invitation and things start to go disastrously wrong once the deadly weekend gets underway. We know from the start that a death has occurred - quite possibly a murder - and we are taken on a twisty turny journey that Greer relates in great detail, keeping the reader engrossed in a tale of medieval history, traditional blood sports and the power of long established well to do families.

Living myself beside the hauntingly beautiful counties of Northumberland and Cumberland, I could really relate to the areas the school and Hall were located, the descriptions were truly spot on! I also particularly enjoyed the little references Greer made relating to movies incorporating film scenes where that situation was occurring, and the fact it was written in the first person means we get to hear Greer's doubts and feelings first hand.

"S.T.A.G.S." could easily be made into a movie, there's a huge audience of all ages that would enjoy this story and I highly recommend the book - I thoroughly enjoyed it and I would happily read it again.

5 stars.

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