

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin purple lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming distinct geometric shapes like triangles and polygons. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

Magic for Liars

Written by Sarah Gailey

Published by mckeonandassociates

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Magic for Liars

By Sarah Gailey

Magic For Liars Review

Sharp, mainstream fantasy meets compelling thrills of investigative noir in this fantasy debut by rising star Sarah Gailey.

Magic For Liars By Sarah Gailey

Ivy Gamble has never wanted to be magic. She is perfectly happy with her life—she has an almost-sustainable career as a private investigator, and an empty apartment, and a slight drinking problem. It's a great life and she doesn't wish she was like her estranged sister, the magically gifted professor Tabitha.

Magic For Liars Goodreads

But when Ivy is hired to investigate the gruesome murder of a faculty member at Tabitha's private academy, the stalwart detective starts to lose herself in the case, the life she could have had, and the answer to the mystery that seems just out of her reach.

"The Magicians meets Tana French" so hey I haven't actually read either but both sound like My Shit(TM) so yeah this needs to release and be in my hands immediately please serve w morally black characters

Magic For Liars Amazon

4 stars!

It might take a little while to get there, but I'll tell you everything, and I'll tell you the truth. As best I can. I used to lie, but when I tell you the story, you'll understand why I had to lie. You'll understand that I didn't have a choice. I just wanted to do my job.

This was a fun read for me! 1. I got to read something that's completely out of my comfort zone - sci-fi and fantasy (with a bit of mystery) 2. I got to buddy read this with my husband!

Ivy is a detective but right now 4 stars!

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Ivy is a detective but right now the extent of her work is only being hired to find out if someone's spouse is cheating on them. Ivy is like any normal person and she has a family but her sister is a little different than yours and mine. Ivy's sister Tabitha was born with magic powers and is able to make things happen with spells, etc.

One day, Ivy gets called in on a special case and it just so happens to be a murder at her sister's school who she hasn't seen in many years. She sets up to move there, and into the dead person's apartment no less, and has to stay on campus until she figures out what happened. She interviews students, staff and even tries to reconcile a bit with her sister. Through her interviews she starts to put the puzzle pieces together. She both is and isn't shocked at all the parties involved in the end but the reasoning behind it really hits home...

I gave this book a 4 star rating and my husband gave it a 3.5 star rating. We both enjoyed multiple aspects of this story such as the detective storyline and the sister relationship that somewhat evolved during the story. I also enjoyed the family story that came about within this book. The author touches on the family story throughout the book and you can see how Ivy and Tabitha's actions today translate to what has happened to them in the past.

I'm glad I took the leap and decided to read something different from what I normally do again. I think the magic aspects of this book were still a little too outside the box for my liking (again just personal preference) but I actually came to enjoy most of the story and the meaning behind it while also opening

Magic for Liars

my imagination.

This was a great debut by Sarah Gailey and if this sounds like something you'd enjoy then definitely pick it up! It releases June 4th!

Thanks to Tor Books for my ARC and finished copies of this book. ...more

Magic for Liars isn't what I expected it to be. I had impressions from other early readers that it would be along the lines of a murder-mystery in Hogwarts, which turned out to be less-than-accurate. Instead, Magic for Liars is about the lies we tell ourselves, and each other. It is about the disastrous things that result from these lies, no matter how well-meaning they were, or how innocent they seemed.

It begins with the gruesome death of a staff member at The Osthorne Academy for Young Mages. Magic for Liars isn't what I expected it to be. I had impressions from other early readers that it would be along the lines of a murder-mystery in Hogwarts, which turned out to be less-than-accurate. Instead, Magic for Liars is about the lies we tell ourselves, and each other. It is about the disastrous things that result from these lies, no matter how well-meaning they were, or how innocent they seemed.

It begins with the gruesome death of a staff member at The Osthorne Academy for Young Mages. After an investigation by the authorities concludes the death a suicide, the heads of the Academy are unsatisfied. Enter Ivy Gamble, PI. Ivy isn't like her sister- she isn't magic and she doesn't want to be. Though she spends most of her days following cheating spouses or investigating insurance fraud, she is reluctantly convinced (namely, by a large sum of cash) to re-investigate the death at Osthorne.

Ivy Gamble is a hot mess and an absolutely fascinating character. She is morally grey from head to toe and maybe a little bit out of her depth, but at her core intelligent and trying her best. The story unfolds entirely from her perspective as she sleuths around Osthorne, allowing herself to slip in to Tabitha's world. There is some time given to the magic in this world as Ivy peeks into classroom and gets to know staff, but there isn't a deep dive into its limits and intricacies. This seemed to be a sticking point for some readers, but I never found myself bothered by it. The narrator of this story is non-magical, so it felt right that we only had topical glances at the various subjects via Ivy's encounters with them. Their relationships and interactions drive this plot forward without losing any of the atmospheric tension you'd hope for in a good mystery. It beckons you forward page after page and doesn't let go until the very end. I found myself hanging on as I came approached to the conclusion thinking there was no way it was possible, skimming through previous pages making sure I hadn't misread the the final discoveries because I couldn't fathom how it could be. This book doesn't give you that feeling of satisfaction that comes at the end of a typical mystery novel: the evil-doer unmasked, justice is served, our grizzled protagonist reflects with contentment on another case solved. No, the end of Magic for Liars is fucking devastating. It is devastating and brilliant.

Magic for Liars

While this book sits firmly in both the realms of mystery and fantasy, it subverts both. The evil in this book does not manifest in the form of a sadistic killer, nor is it a dragon to be slain. Ivy Gamble is not our hero, nor is this the story of her redemption. She arrives at Osthorne Academy as a deeply flawed person, and eventually departs in similar form. We don't get to see her redemption. The choices she makes throughout her investigation are not always good, sometimes even amoral, and some of them will even make you uncomfortable. You might even see a little of yourself in their choices.Â

I received a copy of Magic for Liars from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. ...more

Magic For Liars Pin

Books that are billed as "like The Magicians" are never like The Magicians in the right ways for me, but this is both like The Magicians in that "magic is actually kind of weird and gross and real" way, and it's a compelling whodunnit besides. The solution was perhaps a tad obvious, but the emotional weight with which the mystery is treated "it is deeply rooted in the characters' past traumas and dysfunctions and insecurities" made that matter less. The narrative voice is arresting, and the noir atmosphere is well-handled. In short, a pretty darn good debut, and significantly better than the similarly pitched *An Unkindness of Magicians*. ...more

Thank you NetGalley and Macmillan/Tor-Forge for this arc.

I wish I enjoyed this read more than I did. It sounded like it would be right up my alley. But it just missed out for me. I was so irritated with Ivy's self pity through out the book, that I was tempted to give up by 37%. I found it to be a slow read as it lacked the tension I usually find in murder mysteries and I had a tough time connecting to any of the characters. There was plenty of teenage angst and drama (as expected for a story set in a high school), but the "magic" didn't really sparkle for me. Thank you NetGalley and Macmillan/Tor-Forge for this arc.

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2.5 stars rounded up. ...more

Magic For Liars Excerpt

This review can also be found on my blog!

I received an ARC from BookishFirst in exchange for an honest review!

CW: murder, abortion, cancer, alcohol abuse, and bullying

For me, this was a case of coverly love that turned into more intrigue when I read the First Look that BookishFirst gave.

Ivy Gamble is a private investigator. Usually, she looks for cheating spouses and other little things like that. But, one day, someone comes knocking on her door. Thereâ€™s been a murder at a magic school that her twin sister, Tabitha, teaches at. Despite her reservations about magic and the tense relationship the sisters have, Ivy decides to take it.

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Let me tell you, this was a fun ride. I havenâ€™t been so absorbed in a mystery in a while! Ivy was a very fun, flawed main character to read from. I loved that there was such a deep past for her that developed more as the story went on. I also loved that it showed a difficult family relationship with so many complicating factors included.

The mystery was also spectacularly woven. There were so many twists and characters that could have done it that I wasnâ€™t sure where to focus my attention on. In the end, I was pleased with what it turned out to be. It was the last thing I expected, too! While I think that some might feel itâ€™s a bit of a lackluster ending, I thought that it really worked for the story. It was hard to read, but it was still something that I enjoyed.

One thing I wish was clear in the book is that it deals with cancer. I might have avoided the book or

Magic for Liars

done a few extra things to mentally guard myself if I had known that. It wasn't terribly described, but having a family member pass from cancer a month ago, it would have been nice to have that as a warning. It's a minor critique, but I want it to be clear in my review since I didn't see it anywhere else.

There are also queer characters in this book! While they're not exactly main characters, they're there and I loved reading how seamlessly they were included by the author into the story. No fuss about it, either. It just was the way it was and no one found it odd, which is what I love my queer content as.

Basically, y'all need to pick this book up! It was a very enjoyable read with beautifully flawed characters and a mystery that kept me hooked the whole time. I can't wait to see what comes from this author next and if these characters will be revisited anytime! ...more

idk how the H E C K I'm expected to survive until this comes out and plenty of other people will be reading it which means plenty of other people will be available to scream with

Magic For Liars Gailey

A thrilling, thoughtful, funny, cutting, and heartbreaking mystery. Like Harry Potter meets Mean Girls by way of Broadchurch.

3.5 out of 5 stars

I received this copy from the publisher via Netgalley in an exchange for an honest review.

Ivy Gamble is a small time private investigator who deals with mostly, disability fraud and spouse cheating cases. Today, however, the local school of magic has approached her to investigate the death of a teacher, first ruled an accident. The principle of the school suspects that it was actually murder, and she can't sleep until she gets a second opinion.

Ivy need the money, and the notoriety 3.5 out of 5 stars

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Ivy need the money, and the notoriety. The problem is, she'll have to confront her estranged sister. The sister she's been jealous of for a lifetime, for getting to be magic while Ivy was just ordinary. It's not just her sister she'll have to contend with though, it's a whole league of people she doesn't know how to interact with. People born to magic, who use it for such trivial reasons. She'll have to manage her anger, on top of solving her first murder case.

Sarah Gailey's strength is definitely in characters and their development. Ivy's internal struggles are deeply relateable. Her interactions with people she's uncomfortable with, and her attempts to hide her own magic inability, make for a fascinating look into the human psyche. The plot was fairly straightforward for a murder mystery. Gailey dabbles with a couple of red herrings but in all honesty, I had the mystery figured out far before our awkward PI did.

I'm left wondering, does Rahul give her a chance to explain? We'll never know though as this is a stand alone novel. Some mysteries never get solved. ...more

Magic For Liars Book Review

Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC!

This book was a fun, interesting read, and a book that managed to successfully combine multiple interests of mine into a coherent narrative!

Ivy Gamble is a messy protagonist, which might put some readers off but made me like and understand her. She has a lot of problems she hasn't dealt with, her life never went according to plan, and now she's being asked to investigate a murder at a magical academy--the same academy where her gifted twin Tabitha teaches. And it Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC!

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Definitely pick this up if you love magic, murder mysteries, and complex heroines. ...more

I loved this book. I love the premise, I love the mystery, I love the twist at the end, this book is great. Good for mystery lovers, good for fantasy lovers, good for people who enjoy a story you just can't put down. Magic for Liars has everything; murder, romance, teen drama, sisterly bonding, trauma healing, everything. Can't recommend this enough.

Magic For Liars Kirkus

This review is going to come down to one sentence: you need to go read Magic for Liars right now!

Ivy Gamble is perfectly ordinary. She's a PI with a drinking problem, an empty apartment, no social life, and not even the slightest trace of magic. In that, she's completely different from her estranged sister Tabitha who spent their childhood at a magical boarding school at which she now teaches. Ivy hasn't talked to Tabitha in years, and she both resents Tabitha's magical gifts and longs for a closer relationship. This review is going to come down to one sentence: you need to go read Magic for Liars right now!

Ivy Gamble is perfectly ordinary. She's a PI with a drinking problem, an empty apartment, no social life, and not even the slightest trace of magic. In that, she's completely different from her estranged sister Tabitha who spent their childhood at a magical boarding school at which she now teaches. Ivy hasn't talked to Tabitha in years, and she both resents Tabitha's magical gifts and longs for a closer relationship.

Then there's a murder at Tabitha's school, and the headmistress brings in Ivy to investigate. Ivy's thrown headfirst into the world of a magical school, a place where she's a complete outsider. But maybe, it'll be a chance for Ivy to reconnect with Tabitha, as long as Tabitha isn't a suspect.

It's almost impossible for me not to read Magic for Liars in conversation with Harry Potter (although I think it's drawing off of the larger picture of magical school stories). For one, it really focuses on some of the realities of teenagers, as seen from an adult perspective. The school's got all the usual high school type stuff going on, but with the addition of magic, meaning that you've got students putting cursed graffiti on each other's lockers. Secondly, Magic for Liars really focuses in on the outside perspective of what it'd be like to know that magic is real but you don't have it. I went to the book launch for Magic for Liars, and Sarah Gailey said that these magical school stories are usually about the wish fulfillment of suddenly having these cool powers and being whisked away to a magical school. But with Magic for Liars, they were interested in exploring the resentment and loss that sits with someone who doesn't get that. And wow, did that come across with Ivy.

Ivy is a mess. Like, just a huge mess. And yet her decisions and longings are completely understandable. Part of the barrier between her and Tabitha is their mother's death of cancer. Ivy's angry that Tabitha didn't save their mother, and she feels like by going to boarding school Tabitha skipped out on most of the hardship Ivy experienced. The relationship between Ivy and Tabitha is at the core of the novel. Like Ivy, I found myself hoping for a reconciliation between the two.

Plotwise, I could predict some of the major beats of Magic for Liars but it still had plenty of surprises in store for me. In addition to being an adult take on the magical school story, it's also a well-wrought murder mystery. I've seen it comped to Tana French, and that's totally fitting 'cause it's like

Magic for Liars

urban fantasy meets *The Secret Place*.

I don't think Sarah Gailey is ever going to write a sequel to *Magic for Liars* - this has the feel of a stand-alone. But that's okay! While I loved this book, it feels like a complete story in and of itself. And Sarah Gailey's got plenty of new, exciting projects to keep me reading!

I received an ARC with the expectation of a free and honest review.

Review originally posted on my blog *The Illustrated Page*. ...more

Magic for Liars is about the choices we make every day without knowing it. When we keep thinking they aren't choices but they are - the ones that seem infinitesimal ones all the way to the big ones. It's a story about sisters and the relationships of petty lies - the little pranks that scar us - and a relationship with vast chasms and silence you can't cross, regrets breathed out in hushed moments. Written in the perspective of looking backwards, *Magic for Liars* is almost ominous and looming, about how a moment, a series of choices changes our lives.

full review: <https://utopia-state-of-mind.com/revi...> ...more