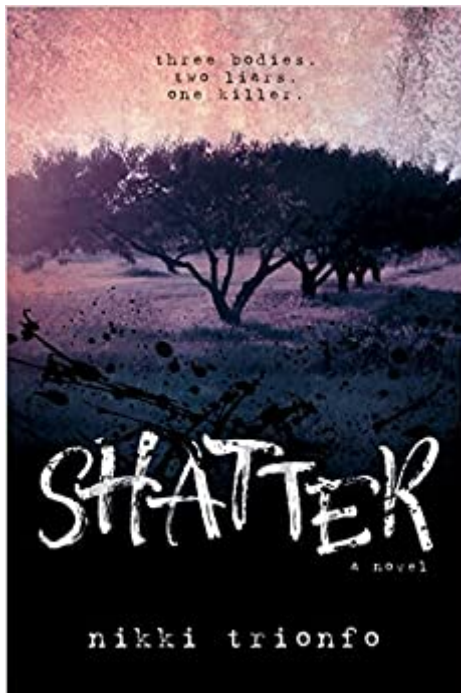


The book was found

Shatter



Synopsis

It never occurred to us that there could be people in the orchard. Dangerous people. When a mysterious explosion kills her sister, Salem becomes convinced the death was no accident it was a conspiracy. But no one else at her high school believes her, and all she has so far are theories and clues. With Carrie's killers still out there, Salem's not sure who she can trust. If she can't prove she's right before it's too late, the conspiracy might take another life...hers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nikki is a published short-story author and serve as the social coordinator of the LDStorymakers conference and chair of Storymakers Tribe. SHATTER won the grand prize for all categories in the LDStorymakers' First Chapter Contest and first place in the League of Utah Writers' YA manuscript category. Nikki works in online marketing and, as a start to building a readership-platform, hosts a writing webinar channel with over a thousand views on YouTube under the name Fifty First Chapters.

I don't write reviews often, but this time I had to. This book is unputdownable. You'll be riveted from the first lines, and you'll be right with Salem in her desire to find out who killed her sister Carrie. I don't want to give away too much, so this review may be a little vague. But Cordero, people!! The chemistry. The danger! I love the world building, and I feel like I'm right there with Salem in every setting. The gorgeous California peach orchards, the gang scenes. High school. I can practically smell the peaches and hear the gunshots. This mystery is brilliantly plotted, and you won't know

who to trust. :) Highly, highly recommended. Make sure you get the hard copy, because you'll be passing this one to your best friend so you can both decompress after.

Shatter is one of those stories that make you go "What?!" I really couldn't put it down until I finished it. It has mystery, romance, prejudice, sweetness and more. It kept me guessing and turning pages. I really liked how realistic the complexity of the characters was. I absolutely recommend it to anyone that is into YA novels. I loved it!!

I've been a little lost as to how to review this book since I loved so many pieces of it. I found the character so very real and the issues of rural California were heart-wrenchingly honest. I could feel the setting - live in it - and the experience of the MC was so poignant that I often forgot it was a mystery. Honestly, this is one of the best YA books I've read in a very long time. It should be in every high school and in the hands of any young person likely to be trying to feel through a very complicated world of gangs, injustice, and less-than-perfect families. A true must-read.

Shatter is a must read for teens who eat and care about romance, sustainable food production, and social justice. Nikki Trionfo's YA novel harkens to the fighting families from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, likening them to feuding growers and pickers in California's orchards. Shatter also resonates with John Steinbeck's Grapes of Wrath, because it too revolves around the human cost of food production. Shatter is set in the small agricultural community of Verona where tensions between peach growers and farm laborers fan flames of cultural mistrust into deadly violence. High school students take sides, a migrant worker goes missing, and peach pickers go on strike. The multi-million dollar peach crop rots in the orchards. Adding to that tension is 16-year old Salem Jefferson's virgin lips which seek to be kissed. Salem Jefferson is a socially awkward teenage girl grieving the accidental death of her older sister. But when the missing union worker's body is found on the Jefferson peach farm, Salem feels driven to determine the man's cause of death, convinced that her sister was murdered because of the same forces. Growers have hired Hispanic gang members to do dirty work in the past. Gang members dot her school and become her primary suspects. Cordero is a mysterious boy in Salem's English class. When the teacher assigns students to put on a mock trial of the Kennedy assassination Cordero and Salem must work together. Coincidences build as the

mistrust between Cordero, a Mexican farm labor boy with a gang tattoo, and Salem, a grower's daughter escalates. Much like Romeo and Juliet, these modern teens feel romantic but forbidden attraction for each other. Salem and Cordero must examine the destruction causes by distrust, false assumptions, and stereotypes in their search for truth. Beyond the killer's need to stay undetected are the needs of life and community that build Verona. The farm laborers strike seeking more money. Growers refuse, citing sharply rising production costs. And all the while the average consumer demands cheap food in the grocery store, even if that food is imported to keep the prices down. Imported food means less grower revenue and fewer farm worker jobs. Each side makes demands without holistic comprehension of competing needs. Those demands threaten to destroy an entire industry and with it the people whose lives depend on it. Cordero must decide the value of Salem's life and what he is willing to risk for her, himself, and for the needs of his people, even if they are gang members. Shatter examines the needs of food producers, farm workers, and consumers through the lens of high school students' involvement in an activist group. This involvement leads the reader to feel what the human cost of food production really is through the lives of Salem and Cordero, driven forward by the sweet possibility of their first kiss. This book rocks!

I love reading YA, but mystery isn't usually my thing. Shatter may have changed that. As the main character was shocked by major plot twists, so was I -- I definitely didn't see any of them coming. Suspects that seemed legitimately evil turned out to have very reasonable alibis, and though I probably should have known who dunnit all along, I was completely surprised (definitely believable, just didn't see it coming until it suddenly made perfect sense). I liked the smart-sleuthing aspect of the story -- the main character was a good girl, academically inclined, written well, with emotions and reactions that I think any teen girl could relate to. None of the characters felt stereotypical -- all of them were well-rounded, unique people that couldn't easily be described without reading the book and getting to know them. Another thing I liked was that the book described horrifying events without making them a total gore-fest. Leaving more to the imagination can allow the reader (especially a young reader) to imagine only what they're ready for, whether they're 11 or 17 or (in my case) 29. Oh, and did I mention -- NO LOVE TRIANGLE? Thank heaven. It would have been so easy to go there, but the author stayed away. Seriously refreshing not to see that tired trope trotted out again. For enthusiasts of YA or YA mystery, this is a winner. You'll stay up late reading and think about the characters and their difficult choices long after you've turned the final page.

This book was riveting. I found myself totally engrossed and unable to turn away. My husband kept laughing because I literally couldn't hear him talking to me while I read. I tuned out the world and got lost in this story. Salem was very relatable and I loved her character arc. I loved watching this girl gain confidence in herself. She learned to believe in herself even if no one else did. She learned to dig deep enough to find out the truth about a person, instead of taking them for face value. She learned to be fearless in convincing others to see themselves the way she saw them. I loved the authenticity of all the conflict. This setting was very real and the people were genuine and complex. I absolutely loved the mystery and how the plot all tied together at the end. I highly recommend this book!!! Thanks Nikki for the awesome experience!

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