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# The Girl I Used To Be



## Synopsis

The Girl I Used to Be is another thrilling murder-mystery that'll have you on the edge of your seat from the New York Times-bestselling author April Henry, the author of the Point Last Seen series, Girl, Stolen, and The Girl Who Was Supposed to Die. Olivia was only three years old when her mother was killed and everyone suspected her father of murder. But his whereabouts remained a mystery. Fast forward fourteen years. New evidence now proves Olivia's father was actually murdered on the same fateful day her mother died. That means there's a killer still at large. Now Olivia is determined to uncover who that might be. But can she do that before the killer tracks her down first? This title has Common Core connections. "Henry has done it again with another edge-of-your-seat mystery/thriller. Recommended for middle school and high school mystery/thriller/suspense collections and for April Henry fans." —VOYA, starred review

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up — Olivia Reinhart (born Ariel Benson) always believed her father murdered her mother, stabbing her 19 times before driving Olivia to a Walmart and vanishing. Fourteen years later, the cops come knocking, and it isn't the news she expects. Olivia's father hasn't been on the run; his body has been found only about a mile from where her mother's body had previously been discovered. They were both murdered that day, which leaves Olivia as the only survivor — the only witness to her parents' horrific ending. Olivia returns to the scene of the crime, the town she left long ago, to attend her father's funeral. Nobody recognizes the three-year-old girl all grown up, and Olivia uses this to her advantage. She sticks around Medford to see if she can finally understand

what happened to her parents, and she uncovers more than she can fathom. With the help of some key players, Olivia is stunningly close to figuring out who killed her parents, but as the flash-forward that starts the novel suggests, it isn't likely she'll survive the truth. A fast-paced and engaging read, this is a strong choice for readers of mysteries and thrillers. The conclusion is reminiscent of Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones*, as both protagonists learn chilling truths about themselves and those close to them. VERDICT A must-have for YA mystery-thriller collections. —Meghan Oppelt, Whitehall School District, WI --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

An Edgar Award for Best YA NomineeA Texas Lonestar List SelectionA Bank Street College of Education Best Book of the Year"Henry has done it again with another edge-of-your-seat mystery/thriller. Recommended for middle school and high school mystery/thriller/suspense collections and for April Henry fans" —VOYA, starred review"A must-have for YA mystery-thriller collections." —School Library Journal —"Fast-paced and engaging . . . reminiscent of Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones*." —VOYA —"The author's expertise at plotting a murder mystery and knowledge of police procedure are evident." —Publishers Weekly on *The Point Last Seen Series* —"Fast-moving and well-constructed... A quick, thrilling read that doesn't skimp on characterization." —Kirkus Reviews on *The Point Last Seen Series*

This was a fabulous, little mystery and my new, favorite April Henry book. Ariel/Olivia is curious and independent and I took to her immediately. True to Henry's style, the action starts right away with the discovery of Terry Weeks' body. The minor characters of Nora and Duncan are well crafted and they add a lot of heart to the mystery. I was surprised that it kept me guessing as much as it did, but I thought it was pretty tricky! An enjoyable, quick read.

It was a nice break away from my usual genre reads. A YA mystery of a girl uncovering her past and murder of her parents. I did fall asleep at two points during this novel — and its short- so that had me questioning why. It's by no means boring or had me wanting to abandon it. I think it might be the frank and dry style of the narrative. Characters aren't painted colourfully with quirks and foibles. It's all very realistic, and as such, wasn't as engaging as it should be. Ariel/Olivia is a great protagonist. She's independent and an intelligent thinker. I liked how she took the initiative to sleuth out facts and piece together a story. It felt very organic. Ariel/Olivia also had a few

moments of damsel in distress, like screen sirens of old, toppling over uneven ground and turning an ankle. It hasn't been done to death by now? Some problems I had revolve around her amnesia, recovering memories through hypnotism is such over-used tool in this genre I wasn't at all impressed. The Girl I Used To Be also suffers what many in this genre do how characters are mysteriously compelled to over-share to let the reader garner facts of the case. It's a bit of a cop out. A clever author will find much more imaginative and fantastic ways to uncover truths. Duncan, (Ariel/Olivia's love interest) does not really get developed. He kind of appears, there's instant attraction and that's about it. I feel a missed opportunity to add more to the plot, or in the least an attention grabbing arc would have added a lot to this book. It wasn't until very close to the reveal that I pieced together the story, so it is definitely not predictable. We are given many characters as possible suspects, and logical scenarios to show their guilt/innocence. The mystery part of this novel is well done, even if it lacks some sophistication. I was grabbed in the last quarter as the action and tension heated up, though I've read better, so I can't give it more than an average rating. April Henry can construct a great landscape and doesn't let much through to spoil the ending, and while I recommend this book, it's definitely aimed for a younger crowd. A seasoned reader, especially in a mystery genre, may not get much from The Girl I Used To Be. It's short and easy enough to complete in a day if so inclined. I liked it, a nice break from my usual reads.

I started reading this morning and simply couldn't put this book down. The characters get right to you and the story inches forward clue by clue to a frightening but satisfying conclusion. These are gutsy people I would like to know and spend more time with.

Great book. Got me hooked by the first three pages, if you're a person who enjoys mysteries then this book is reccom. to you! I let some of my friends read it and they were stunned--amazed by the plot and didn't see the person who did /it/ coming. Five stars. This author is absolutely amazing. Her books are fantastic!

Fast moving story , realistic picture of Medford, sad events past and present surround characters. Reliable author does not fail, however

You never get bored and it's really interesting all the way through. I all ties up in the end and it has a great ending. I doesn't leave u wondering it gives u the full story. It's really good and I definitely recommend this book for you to read!!!

A little slow but good

I really, really liked this book...but for some reason I just didn't love it. I can't put my finger on it, but something was just off. I will only rate a book a 5 if its something I would share with others...and this I wouldn't.

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