



Dead Girls Don't Write Letters

By Gail Giles

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Things had been getting a little better until I got a letter from my dead sister. That more or less ruined my day.

When Sunny's older sister, Jazz, ran away to New York, Sunny was secretly relieved. Everyone loved Jazz, talked about Jazz, wished they were friends with Jazz. Jazz was perfect and Sunny was...well, not Jazz.

Then Jazz's apartment building burns to the ground and she is presumed dead. Sunny's family, already broken by divorce, unravels. Dad's drinking skyrockets, and Mom's depression hits an all-time nonfunctioning low. Sunny is left to cope. Then they get a letter from Jazz saying she is coming home. But how? Jazz is dead, right?

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up-Sunny's older sister has been presumed dead for several months when Sunny receives a letter from Jazz explaining that she was away working in a repertory theater when her apartment burned to the ground. Then Jazz, or Not-Jazz as Sunny calls her, returns home. Her mother has become addicted to sleeping pills and Dad has fallen back into the bottle since his daughter's "death." Sunny and her father soon realize that the young woman is indeed not Jazz, even though she knows a great deal about their family history and secrets. As Sunny investigates, she begins to discover who this imposter is and how she knows so much about their family. This novel is not of the same quality as Giles's *Shattering Glass* (Roaring Brook, 2002), and the ending is truly a bolt from the blue. Readers' reactions may range from shock to frustration to confusion to anger that they've invested time in this book. The plot is intriguing, but the ending is just too unclear.

Lynn Evarts, Sauk Prairie High School, Prairie du Sac, WI

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 6-9. In *Shattering Glass* (2002), Giles gave readers a huge surprise at the book's beginning. Here a major twist, one of several, comes at the end, though it raises more questions than it answers. Ninth-grader Sunny is not entirely sad about the death of her 18-year-old sister in a New York apartment fire. Jazz's perfection has been a thorn to Sunny, but it was all that sustained their depressive mother and alcoholic father. Her death has pushed both parents over the edge. Then one day, a letter from Jazz arrives, and soon after, Jazz herself returns, claiming she was away and only recently learned about the fire. But this girl isn't really Jazz, though she does resemble her and seems to know enough about her to assume her life. Both Sunny and her father realize the truth; Mother seems not to. For a while, though, everyone is willing to have Jazz alive. This is a page-turner with sharp dialogue and psychologically intriguing viewpoints. Readers are continually kept off balance as Jazz and her motives change like shapes in a fun-house mirror. But when Sunny asks her final question, "What have I done?" readers might wish for a clearer answer. - *Ilene Cooper*

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Review

Publishers Weekly Giles proves once again that she knows intimately the workings of the adolescent mind.

Kirkus Reviews Another winner.

BCCB Delicious suspense...[Lois] Duncan fans and those who relish a taut, suspenseful enigma will find themselves right at home here.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Reginald McDade:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated this for a while is

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Kathleen Bosarge:

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Theodore Parish:

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Kelsey Jimenez:

A number of people said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a publication. They are directly felt that when they get a half parts of the book. You can choose typically the book Dead Girls Don't Write Letters to make your personal reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading skill is developing when you similar to reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the opinion about book and studying especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to available a book and go through it. Beside that the reserve Dead Girls Don't Write Letters can to be your friend when you're really feel alone and confuse in doing what must you're doing of their time.

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