

The Body in the Woods: A Point Last Seen Mystery

By April Henry

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Alexis, Nick, and Ruby have very different backgrounds: Alexis has spent her life covering for her mom's mental illness, Nick's bravado hides his fear of not being good enough, and Ruby just wants to pursue her eccentric interests in a world that doesn't understand her. When the three teens join Portland County Sheriff's Search and Rescue, they are teamed up to search for a autistic man lost in the woods. What they find instead is a dead body. In a friendship that will be forged in danger, fear and courage, the three team up to find the girl's killer?before he can strike one of their own.

This first book in April Henry's Point Last Seen YA mystery series, *The Body in the Woods* is full of riveting suspense, putting readers right in the middle of harrowing rescues and crime scene investigations.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Gr 8 Up—On their first mission for the Portland County Search and Rescue team, Alexis, Nick, and Ruby don't find the missing man with autism they were looking for; instead they find the dead body of a young girl. Now these three teens from very different backgrounds must work together to find the killer. Complicating the issue is Alexis's mentally ill mother, who disappears after a paranoid episode, Nick's crushing feelings of inadequacy, and Ruby's struggles to find a place she belongs. Will they be able to find common ground with one another before the killer strikes again, maybe even at one of their own? Henry realistically portrays these three kids thrust into a real-life horror. Their doubts and fears, as well as their strengths, all ring true and teens will be able to identify with one of the protagonists. The adult characters, especially Alexis's mother, are also fully developed, albeit a bit slow on the uptake in the case of Ruby's parents. The actual mystery is not that intriguing, but a pervading sense of threat and danger is present throughout. Give this series opener to fans of character-driven mysteries.—Erik Knapp, Davis Library, Plano, TX

Review

“Henry has created not only a gripping mystery, but rich and detailed characters as well . . . The action starts right away, and does not stop until everything comes to a head at the end of the novel.” ?*VOYA*

“The fast-paced plot, mirroring familiar TV crime procedurals, make this a good choice for reluctant readers, especially as it's impossible to follow the clues and identify the killer before the final showdown.” ?*Booklist*

“Henry realistically portrays these kids thrust into a real-life horror. Their doubts and fears, as well as their strengths, all ring true and teens will be able to identify with one of the protagonists . . . Give this series opener to fans of character-driven mysteries.” ?*School Library Journal*

“Quick pacing, an easy-to-follow mystery, and a smidge of real danger make this a likely choice for TV crime drama fans.” ?*BCCB*

“A fast moving and well-constructed mystery . . . astute readers will be able to solve the puzzle before the final, high-stakes climax.” ?*Kirkus Reviews*

ILA Young Adults' Choices List Selection
Oregon Book Award Master List Selection
Oregon Spirit Book Award Master List Selection
Iowa Teen Book Award Finalist
Missouri Truman Award Finalist

About the Author

April Henry is the *New York Times*–bestselling author of many acclaimed mysteries for adults and young adults, including the YA novels *Girl, Stolen*; *The Night She Disappeared*; and *The Girl Who Was Supposed to Die*; and the thriller *Face of Betrayal*, coauthored with Lis Wiehl. April lives in Oregon.

Users Review

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