



2009

The Body Finder

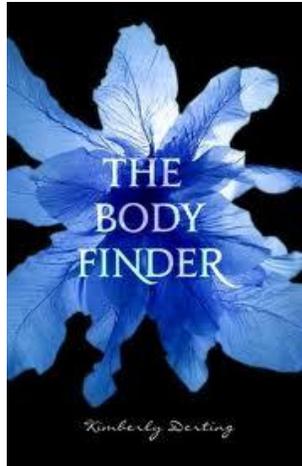
Rachel Wadham

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Derting, Kimberly. *The Body Finder*. HarperCollins, 2010. ISBN 9780061779817. \$16.99. 336 p.

Reviewer: Rachel Wadham

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Psychic ability--Juvenile fiction; Serial murder--Juvenile fiction; Detective and mystery stories--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Sixteen-year-old Violet has learned to live with her ability to feel the echoes of the dead not only where they lie but also those that attach to anyone who may have killed such as police officers and hunters. Soon Violet's tranquility busts when she finds a body, and it becomes apparent that a serial killer is on the loose. Also dealing with her feelings for Jay her long time best friend for whom she now has romantic thoughts Violet is trying to stay one step ahead of the killer as well as all the girls vying for Jay's attention. That is until the killer finds out about her ability and Violet finds that it's not just her heart at stake but her life.

First time novelist Derting has created a novel which combines the best aspects of the thriller genre with a great deal of romance. Based on an interesting premise with just a few twists that lead you to one conclusion while the truth lies in another direction, Derting adds just the right amount of a creepy excitement to find out the truth by interspersing Violet's story with the thoughts of the killer. Unfortunately despite the fast pace, the elements of the mystery often feel overwhelmed by the characters intense romantic feelings. While there is not a lot of remarkable elements that make this book stand out, the overwhelming emotions of first love and fighting for your life are enough to draw in a variety of teen readers who enjoy straightforward genre fiction.

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