



# serafina67 \*urgently requires life\*

*Susie Day*

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The hilarious online misadventuring of a teenage girl, as told through her blog.

Serafina doesn't have a boyfriend, doesn't have a best friend, and her parents fight all the time. But she does have a shiny new laptop (a present from her guilt-ridden and therefore overly-generous dad). And with the shiny new laptop, comes a shiny new identity: serafina67, blogging (and kissing) addict.

But in a year when the secrets turn serious, and friends and parents might not be what they seem, is spilling your whole life on the Internet such a bright idea? It might just lead to tears, trouble, hilarious online adventures and a fresh new take on writing - a novel told as a blog.

## serafina67 \*urgently requires life\* Details

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# From Reader Review serafina67 \*urgently requires life\* for online ebook

## Laura says

For those that just understand the idea behind blogging and basically exposing your life on the internet for everyone and his mate to see then perhaps Big Woo will be a shock for the system. However in this age of social media and the internet it's probably a long overdue shock that is needed. Big Woo is the totally honest and all laid to bare life of Sarah or as we know her in this tale as Serafina67. She starts a ULife blog (probably similar to the likes of LiveJournal and Blogger formats) and decides to give herself set goals toward her own Happiness. She wants to tick off her list and a deadline and a list is clearly in order to achieve this.

Now I'm pre warning you that if the sight of 'LOLs' and 'KTHXBAI' every few pages makes your skin crawl then you're just going to have to get over it because it's just as much of Serafina's life as the language and humour of a teenage girl. It's part of what makes this book true to Serafina's voice. You have to buy into her world completely and just remember that this is the language of the internet generation and it's nothing to fear. Even if in the back of your head you can hear your English GCSEs teacher pointing out the mistakes and glaring at your use of the word OMG.

The book/blog covers just over 4 months in her life and charts her day to day life and the big stuff that generally comes and goes in the world of teen. From the marriage of her dad to his new woman or as she is referred to as 'The Monster' and then the small stuff that just seems huge like being honest in meme's about her appearance. In reality as many blogs at that age is isn't generally beyond the norm of what you'd expect to hear from a teen girl but it's the way it's told that grabs you. Its 1st person and you are the audience that gets to see her feedback from friends and internet friends. Sometimes you agree and sometimes you don't but part of the internet and blogging is the variety in opinion. It's also a frank look at what a teenager lives through and how they deal with it from the often heard 'i hate my parents' whine to the more specific to this character's dealings with a therapist as she has 'an incident' less than a year previous and clearly it needs outsider help to deal with. You never know the details of what happen really but it's clear it wasn't good and hopeful it won't happen again if she can help it.

The format of blogging is become much more of a normal way of teenage expression rather than the old style diary of sharing with friend's one on one. Blog's can be anonymous, they can be freeing and can let the blogger express themselves however and whenever they want to. I myself had a blog like this at this age and still write on it today. Girl's and Boy's at that age need an outlet and more than anything they like an audience so blogs are a haven for the misguided and emo-driven rants of the youth. Not that I'm judging; I made more than a few myself back then but the key is to never reread old posts. Bad times rest within that venture!

I found Big Woo! To be a giggle inducing fun filled tale that made me relive those days of poor drinking decisions, family drama and the drag that is school life. Even without living Serafina's life exactly you can sympathize with that need to find the real you outside of friends and family and how this generation seek in on the internet. We all know this has it's own dangers with strangers on the internet and how things taken out of context from the internet spread out of online world into real world. Big Woo! Is like dipping into someone's diary and leaving feedback for all to see. On the flip side what you put out into cyber space can be bigger than you can handle. This is a laugh a post book that is worth a read just to read the witty retorts and sarcastic banter that fill the pages.

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## Caitlin says

Very boring book, didn't enjoy it at all

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## Anna says

Saying that the Internet is changing communication falls in the trite-but-true category; what's often missed while bemoaning chat acronyms and the much-hyped isolation of the young is the way "social utilities" like MySpace and Facebook create once-impossible chances for connection. A small-town kid with broadband can find kindred souls all over the world. Every misfit has a niche on the web. Young adult novelists who understand this have turned to a new form of epistolary fiction: the blog novel. Susie Day's "serafina67" (titled after the protagonist's screenname) is an engaging entry in this new genre, imported from across the pond.

After her dad gives her a laptop for Christmas, 15-year-old Sarah finally starts a ULife blog, for purposes of "documentarying my proper grown-up life, just as soon as I start having one." To this end, she makes a series of resolutions, ranging from making her mother happy to forgiving her father to losing some weight to, finally, "BE HAPPY AGAIN BY APRIL 22ND," the one-year anniversary of what she mysteriously calls The Incident. Through Sarah's entries, Day follows her progress as she tries to change her life. The diary format brings Sarah's funny, self-deprecating voice to the forefront, and following her moods is sometimes as simple as noticing she hasn't posted for a week. Her friend's comments reflect the ebb and flow of teenage relationships. All in all, it's a compelling way to tell a story, and the language sometimes approaches Joycean levels of inventiveness.

\*kthxbai\*

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## Tiani \*The Writer\* says

IT WAS SOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO SOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO AWESOME!

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## Kirsten says

In a comical way author Susie Day tells the amusing story serafina67\*urgently requires life\* in a bright pink 235 page novel. This realistic fiction novel is told in an interesting text/blog form.

Serafina is a teen who's parents divorce has newly impacted her life in the U.K. She writes frequently and goes through friend, boyfriend, and family troubles with her blog. When her father's affair turns into an engagement it adds one more trouble to her list. Read to find out the unexpected turn of events that come when Serafina reaches the breaking point.

In my opinion this book was very exciting and lively to read! However, the middle of the book was a little dull to read after so much happening in the beginning. The resolution was very exciting and definitely not what I was expecting. This book is a must for all the Facebook or text crazed people!

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## Miss Ryoko says

I picked this book up at the library book sale because I tend to enjoy reading books written via technology (such as Lauren Myracle's fabulous TTYL series, which is written in AIM messenger format). And this book, while at times annoying because of the "teenagery" context (I'm finding myself talking more like Serafina these days), was witty and fun to read. I think I felt a connection with Serafina because we have a similar voice in the way we type online (though, I'm not AS...imaginative ;-)) with my language as she is), and a lot of the things she said I thought were hysterical (see my quotes section :-p). The storyline itself is pretty basic - teenage girl whose parents just got divorced and she's trying to deal with that and other life issues, such as friendships, boys, and body image issues. But for the most part, I thought that teens reading this book would really be able to connect with her and understand her. That being said, there were, of course, moments of utter teenage drama rubbish...but once I thought about the age of the character, I could forgive her behavior a little bit ;-)

All together, I liked the book. It was cute and youthful and creative. I think many teenage girls would love this!

Awesome win-points mentions:

\*My husband!!! Sera talks about watching a movie with Jake Gyllenhaal and the most important part of the movie is his bum XD

\*Betch!! Yay Kelly!!!

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## Sarah says

this is one of the BEST books i have EVER read. i usually just read internet based books to relax, but this one really drew me in. it was so funny, so sad, so happy...everything a good book ought to be. i recommend it to everyone!

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## Jada Grant says

I found it quite boring and the language was so childish you would think the narrator is 10 and not 16. Also some of the abbreviations were so weird, what does 'zomg' even mean? But there were quite a few bits I found funny and I liked the usernames some of the characters had

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## Sydney S says

I thought this book was soooooo good after reading the back. I thought if this is a blog book I would love it. WRONG. Personally I hated this book worst book I ever read.

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## Fiqa says

Cool and amazing boooookkk♥♥♥

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## Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Natalie Tsang for TeensReadToo.com

Susie Day's SERAFINA67 \*URGENTLY REQUIRES LIFE\* is a hilarious and intimate peek about being a British teenage girl, which besides the weird slang is strikingly familiar to being an American teen. It takes place over approximately four months and is entirely composed of Serafina67's blog and accompanying comments. (Note: There is a glossary in the back with definitions to weird English slang. Don't be like me and discover it after you've finished reading.)

Serafina67 is a fifteen-year-old girl who lives with her mum and visits her dad on weekends. She has a witch under her skin that makes her act terribly sometimes and has made a resolution to be accomplished on April 22nd (blog starts on Christmas) to be happy. On the way, she is helped and hindered by her real and blog friends, Crazy Pete the therapist, her parents (and their significant others), and, of course, her blog.

It's hard to describe Serafina, because she's very full-fleshed and complicated. She can be bouncing off the walls and wonderfully excited about her VTN (Very Thrilling Novel) at the beginning of one day and feel fat, miserable, and prone to chocolate by mid-afternoon. And even when she's at her lowest, she finds humorous ways to unload it onto her readers. She often summarizes horrible events with hilarious but appropriate imaginary dialogue, but one of my favorite moments is when she doesn't feel up to posting and hence composes a blog post entirely in haiku and her friends comment accordingly.

This book reminded me a lot of Stephen Chbosky's epistolary novel THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER, not only because of its content, but also because it feels almost interactive. As I read the posts and the character's reactions, I realized that the format was really cool because it's a mixture between first person (Serafina) and third person (various comments). It was also a neat blur between the privacy of a journal and the public-ness of the Internet. One of Serafina's friends, Georgia Darkly, finds her by Googling "mermaid" and "anorexia."

This is a really fun read and the author, Susie Day, touches on a lot of issues -- I won't call them teen issues, because teens don't have a monopoly on being unhappy even though it sometimes feels like it -- without getting motherly, moral, or "I've-been-there" about it. And I swear that you don't even have to be(en) a teen girl to enjoy it. This book applies to anyone who has ever thought the Parents are crazy, said something they shouldn't have, or just hates their life.

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## Michelle (Fluttering Butterflies) says

This review was originally posted at Fluttering Butterflies

Big Woo by Susie Day is such a wonderful little book! The first half made me grin like crazy and laugh out loud and I had the general feeling of giddy happiness reading it. And then in the second half of the book as the story touches on some more serious things, I felt my heart absolutely ache. I think it's wonderful how connected to the characters I felt, despite the structure of the novel.

The subtitle for the book is 'My not-so-secret teenage blog' and it is exactly that! Serafina67 has set up her own blog on this social networking site and uses it in order to vent about all aspects of her life. Can I stop right now and say how much I love books involving blogging? I think blogging is fantastic and has positively changed my life and I recommend that absolutely everyone should get involved.

But of course as some bloggers do (I know I certainly have!), Sera goes slightly overboard in the things that she reveals on her blog. At times, I felt like I was reading a personal diary as opposed to a blog written in a very public space, and it then came as a surprise reading comments to these very personal outpourings. Nothing seems to be off-limits, from her friends, her family and her new relationship.

Sera is finding it difficult to adjust to her parents' divorce some years ago and she's blogging about some life goals she has in order to achieve happiness. She has a great voice and goes through so many ups and downs throughout Big Woo. I really felt for her. There's this unexplained event which happened that cannot be mentioned that seems to be the main things spurring Sera on in her quest for happiness.

Even though we don't get to see the whole story around Sera and her friends, through Sera's blog posts, I felt Sera was pretty well formed. And I loved witnessing her journey, as she attempts to build up her relationships with her parents and with some friends both old and new, and with varying degrees of success. I did very much love the layout of the book, with the blog posts followed by comments. I don't always love text speak or really conversational text filled with exclamation marks and everything, but I thought everything just felt right when used in this book.

I think what Big Woo shows very well is how things often don't turn out like you think they will and that strong connections with friends and family are very important, both when things are going good and also when they're not. This is my second book that I've read and loved by Susie Day and both books come highly recommended!

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### **Loveliest Evaris says**

Oh my God shut this brat up. There is something about 12 year olds that irks me. Well, even if this kid ISNT 12 years old, she sure acts like it. All hyper and whiny over the internet. And to top it all off she's a BRITISH brat. I can barely handle American brats here at home, no way am I gonna read about some snot nosed pigtailed pile of slag and her "Mummy" issues.. Barf.

And I created THREE -- count em -- THREE new shelves JUST for this book! Hurray?

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### **Runa says**

I was...well, disappointed may put it mildly, by this book. I figured, hey, a book about blogging, how perfect for me! How wrong I was. This girl, taking on the identity of serafina67, blogs about her life. Her blog

entries are filled with nothing but vain remarks, rudeness, and really bad spelling. She is a horrendous gossip, and is mean to pretty much anyone she encounters. I guess it's true what they say--don't judge a book by its cover. It's true. I chose this book because it had a pretty eyecatching cover. Big mistake. I feel like a lot of potential was wasted. This could have been a pretty interesting book and an interesting blog, if the blog writer hadn't been an absolute spazz (of the bad kind). Upon finishing the book, I honestly felt as if I had just read a book entitled "Why You Should Not Give Your Personal Information Out Online" by Susie Day. The only thing that kept me reading the book was daisy13. The reveal at the end was pretty epic, and I guess I'd thought of every possibility (ranging from psychostalker to Crazy Pete) for "her" true identity.

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## **Michelle says**

To sum up this book in one word, it would be \*blah.

It was a fun idea, but the characters did not interest me at all, and I kind of feel like I wasted two hours of my life reading this book.

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