



## Streaks of Blue

*Jack Chaucer*

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Adam Upton and Thomas "Lee" Harvey are plotting the next big school massacre at their New Hampshire high school. Nicole Janicek, who knew Adam in elementary school, tries to reconnect with the damaged teen at the start of their senior year. But will Nicole's attempt to befriend the would-be killer disrupt the plot and turn Adam's life around before the clock strikes 12:14?

## Streaks of Blue Details

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Author : Jack Chaucer

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## From Reader Review Streaks of Blue for online ebook

### Ren The Booknerd says

This book has a great lesson about friendship.

Nikki was such a good friend. I would love to have her as a friend. She became friends with Adam, one of the bad guys in her school, to save many lives. She dreamt that Adam will do something really terrible that would cost so many lives. She tried to stop him by being friends with him. She thought that he just needed a friend who would listen to him and whom he could lean on. Well, she's right.

I loved the story because it's so realistic. I think it's perfect for everyone especially that teenagers nowadays are trouble-magnets. What Nikki did was a perfect example to help those people who have issues concerning family or others. She also taught me not to judge people based on the outside, but know them personally.

Overall, I loved the book. The only thing I don't like is that there are so many point of views that some chapters are kinda confusing. I think it would be better if the author just focused on a single point of view or two - Nikki and Adam, besides, they're the main characters after all.

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### Ashlynn says

**Disclaimers: The synopsis section is ©Goodreads but the rest of the reviews are completely my words and of course the quote section is *obviously* from the book reviewed.**

**Disclaimer: I was given an ARC of this by Jack Chaucer in return for an honest review.**

Review is also on my Blog.

I'm going to be honest, I have *no idea* how to review this..

**3.5 ? MAYBE 4.**

I liked it, I *disliked* it.

The detail was precise, well written, sometimes overwhelming with words. There was **SO MUCH** description. I think he could've put more effort into the characters *instead* of shoving so many adjectives into us.

Overall decently written though. The first page had me wanting more and I'm not even sure why. It just drug me in with confused thoughts.

The storyline was undeniably simple, which I expected more from. And I think he tried adding so much description to make up for the lack of plot line?

The characters were given plain personalities which I didn't appreciate and then added arrogance was intertwined.

I liked this book because it tended to be inspirational at times and relatable. It took me right into the whole

"high school" scene which (*I'm homeschooled so idk what that's like personally*) was something I enjoyed experiencing through this novel. I really liked a few of the friendships as well.

I didn't like this book because the characters seemed quite flat most of the time. The book had me hooked and wanting more, but another part of me was rejecting it thoroughly at the same time. It took me AGES to finish which isn't typical for me, I'm a 2-4 days to finish kind of girl.

I wanted to love this, I had such high hopes for it. I really did. It just didn't sit the greatest with me. I will not be continuing the series but I thank Jack Chaucer for sending me an ARC of this.

Short Girl Out, Signed;

-Ash

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### **Natalie Monroe says**

Time for another trip down the memory lane with Natalie!

A couple years back, I was late for my physical therapy appointment (I suffer from myopathy). So like all evolved and rational people, I limped as fast as I could to the elevator and pressed the 'close' button repeatedly even though I know perfectly well that it has no impact on the doors whatsoever.

Of course (because these things always happen when you're in a hurry), someone outside halted the elevator and a bunch of other people walked in, including an old woman with pigtails and appeared to be wearing pajamas.

Screenshot from this video

Just mash the two together and you'll get an idea of what I'm talking about.

Anyways, I was standing there, waiting for the damn doors to close when the lady says in a loud voice, "I know you cry at night."

I looked around. She was staring straight at me. So I said, "Um, no, I don't."

"Yes, you do," she answered. "But it's okay because Jesus loves you."

Okay, I thought, this lady is nuts. "No, I really don't," I insisted.

"You don't have to deny it." She lowered her voice to a conspiratorial whisper. "Jesus told me."

By then, the whole lift was staring at us, so I said, "Sure, whatever," because frankly, she was starting to freak me out.

The lady then proceeded to dig out a couple of twenty dollar bills from her purse. "Little girl, Jesus told me to give them to you." She shoved them at me. "Take them."

Severely creeped out by this point, I avoided eye contact and said, "No thank you." Why is this stinking piece of machinery so slow, goddammit!

She tried again, repeating her initial statement about Jesus. I refused them again. This went on well after we were out of the lift and subway station, until finally, after my 15th "I don't want them", she stopped pursuing me and left with a very offended air.

That wasn't my only brush-in with overzealous religious folks, but certainly the weirdest. For some reason, they seem to think that disabled people are the ones most needed of 'saving' and every now and then, someone will walk up to me with a wad of pamphlets and try to convert me.

**I am agnostic.** I don't entirely rule out the idea of a higher power out there, but I don't think religion is all that either.

Now before you storm into my house and burn me at stake for blaspheming, let me clarify by saying **I have nothing against religion.** Most of my friends are devout Catholics and go to church every Sunday. And I think it's great if it helps you become a better person.

**What I don't like is when people get all preachy, and snobby, and try to shove their beliefs and values down your throat.** **Streaks of Blue: How the Angels of Newtown Inspired One Girl to Save Her School is the equivalent of those people.** From the title, you can already guess it's an inspirational take on school shootings. But whereas similar titles like Keeping Faith and The Green Mile were thought-provoking and handled the controversial subject matter with grace and class, this book had all the subtlety of Homer Simpson trying to...well, do anything actually.

**The religious elements are very overt.** Basically, if you believe in God, like the protagonist Nicole, you're a good guy. If you don't, you're going to Hi-diddly-ell!

*"Thanks for driving Brody home, Nicole. You're a good Samaritan."*

*"She was basically a messed-up chick who screwed a lot of guys and shot herself up with heroin..."*

*"Anyway, the point is Cheryl was going down a terrible path until she went on this hike. She found a way to survive, met some cool people along the way and basically turned her whole life around in one summer," Nicole said, locking eyes with Adam and hoping he could grasp her message as it related to him. "It's a very inspirational story."*

**The villain/school shooter has as much depth to him as a kiddie pool.** He's your stereotypical kid from the wrong side of the tracks. Trailer trash. Anger issues. A bully. Takes drugs. Alcoholic dad. The type society expects to grow up to be a criminal.

*"I thought you were gonna do her and now she's already banging someone else?" Thomas snickered. '*

*"Well, Valerie just told me Thomas Harvey got suspended today for calling Mr. Barnes 'a half blind, faggot Oreo douchebag' in history class."*

Their name choices are ever so clever:

*"His real name is Thomas...Thomas Harvey," Adam noted...*

*"Oh," Nicole said, processing his macabre assortment of names. Her enjoyment of Stephen King's 11/22/63 a year ago and her subsequent interest in the topic of president John F. Kennedy's assassination by Lee Harvey Oswald suddenly came in handy. But right now, she wished she knew far less about the subject. "Lee Harvey. I get it. How clever."*

*"She spent her lunch period in the school library instead, using the computer to do Internet searches on bipolar disorder, Columbine, Newtown, Asperger's syndrome and the Adam Lanza, the Newtown shooter. It troubled her that she was dealing with an Adam too."*

Right, because they have the same names as past assassins means they'll become killers too. Nice symbolism.

Also, I once went to school with a guy called Saddam Hussein and he didn't rule the school with an iron fist. Make of that what you will.

**The villains want to shoot up the school..just because.** I suspect this is because the writer wants to highlight the healing process so when we entered the scene, Adam and Thomas were already sulking assholes and wanted to kill people. But like I said, they are utterly two-dimensional in their douchebaggery. In Nineteen Minutes and Hate List, we actually got to see how the shooters descended to the depths they did. We breathed their thoughts and emotions. We could understand why they did what they did even though it was horrible and heart-breaking.

These guys?

*"We were going to be famous—more famous than that baby killer Lanza or that punk in Norway."*

Yeah, through their justification, Katy Perry is out to get you.

**The writing consists of a lot of telling and unnecessary adjectives.**

Playful smirk. Goofy grin. Covered her mouth shyly. She said enthusiastically. Adam asked seriously.

Stephen King's rule of the thumb is to only add an adjective if you are absolutely sure the reader will not understand what you.

*"Get used to it, son. Life is bullshit," Adam said with a nasty edge to his voice.*

From the context, I can already tell Adam is a douche so the 'nasty' is redundant and plain clunky.

**The author seems to have an natural obsession with colors as well.** Any piece of clothing or object that is mentioned will have a color.

Lemon yellow wall. Blue paint. Orange pack. Black sneakers. Yellow-and-white blanket. Blue windbreaker. Lavender bow tie.

Let's not forget the heroine's hair ~~because the author will never let you forget it~~:

*"Undistracted by the long, fine strands of light brown and dyed-blue hair whipping around her in the gusty mountain air, the teenager's sportily blue eyes dance from peak to peak as they faded into silhouettes"*

*She added, grabbing a small headband and strapping the black band around her bi-colored hair..."*

*"Adam kept his mouth shut and glanced at Nicole, who twirled her blue hair with increasing vigor, looking visibly uncomfortable with the situation she had driven herself into."*

*"Glints of sunlight highlighted Nicole's fair skin and clean, striped hair."*

*"Your hair is down right now," he countered with a smile as his eyes followed her blue streaks down the side and back of her gray-and-white dress."*

*"She ran her fingers through her brown-and-blue hair and allowed her years to make trails of their own."*

We find out later that it's to emphasize her connection to the America flag (SYMBOLISM!!1!!!1), but seriously, overkill.

If you want to read a well-written and thought-provoking book on school shootings, pick up *Nineteen Minutes* and *Hate List* instead. Way more depth.

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*ARC received through Netgalley*

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### **Stacy says**

A thought-provoking fictional story inspired by the Newtown tragedy. A young lady, in her senior year of high school, has a dream/ vision (she isn't sure which) where angels (at least that is what she thinks they are) reveal to her that a guy she is in school with and had been friends with when they were very young but have since drifted apart, has "strayed off the path" is about to do something bad. She is told she must try to reach him to prevent whatever he is planning on doing. She awakens with the impression that what he is planning is on the scale of the Newtown tragedy. She is determined to befriend him against everyone's wishes. Her friends persecute her for her choice, even the school counselor acts as though she is not using good judgement, because (in most everyone's words) the boy is "trailer trash". Provides food for thought in that how often are our own decisions based on what "other people" will think, and not about what is right. How often do parents tell their children that "that" kid is not good for them to play with? etc, etc. And how often could tragedies like the mass murders been prevented had someone just reached out and tried to love the unloveable? I would recommend this book for everyone, and think it would be especially good for teens. I received this book from the author for an honest review.... thank you Mr. Chaucer!

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### **Rebecca McNutt says**

*Streaks of Blue* does something that no other book has tried - it asks, "if just one person stepped in to love someone capable of murder, would that love be enough to stop them from hurting others?" Definitely a really worthwhile one to read.

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### **Kailyn Kausen says**

If I could take one quote from this book to describe it, the quote would be, "You look like you could use a friend right about now."

Rating: 3.5

Good: quick read, beautiful cover, good stance on touchy issue

Bad: soooooo description heavy, characters not the roundest

When I started the book, I wasn't sure I was going to like it because there was so much description. I was like, I don't need twelve reminders in the first 10% of the book telling me her hair has *streaks of blue*. I didn't need to know her entire hiking outfit, from her jacket, to her pants, to her tan boots with red laces (the shoes

actually related to something later). Honestly, when I'd see the descriptions I'd just be like "Yep, skimming this entire paragraph because I know it's just description." But then I apparently learned to skip the descriptions or there were less of them because I stopped noticing the descriptions and the slowing-of-pace they would bring.

I didn't think the characters were that fleshed out. Maybe Adam (depressed, bad family, does drugs) and Nikki (popular, likes hiking, dyed hair, perfect student) were fleshed out more than the others, but even then they didn't have those weird little quirks like really round characters. So a little work could be done there...

Okay, now moving on to the good stuff.

Lets start with the cover. Look at the cover on this book. I could marry this cover. Is it because she is pretty? Is it because her hair is partially blue? I can't lay my finger on it, but I love the cover. I'm slightly mad my kindle doesn't do color because the cover just isn't the same in grayscale.

Now lets talk about how it only took me like three hours to read this supposedly 260 paged book??? I read about a page a minute, so it should have taken me more like 4 hours and 20 min to read (plus you've gotta factor in the time I had my kindle open while taking my eyes off the page to text friends about #1 getting boba later and #2 things that were happening in the book). Maybe the print is extra large in the book, maybe I was so into it my eyes were skipping every other word and filling in the blanks, I don't know. Or maybe I was thinking about the ten paged research paper I haven't started due in less than 72 hours and trying to rush the book a bit, I'm not exactly sure. What I can say for certain is that the book is fairly short, fast paced where the story flow isn't clogged by descriptions, and you'll finish it pretty quick.

So - the touchy issue. BE PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE SPOILERS!

(view spoiler)

Anyways, *Streaks of Blue* handles the issue well, which you can find out for yourself by reading it.

And with that, I'll leave you with some quotes.

"I'm not a hero. I was just trying to be someone's friend. If that qualifies for heroism today, then our country really is in trouble."

"We have to reach out to kids sooner. Everybody needs to steps outside their comfort zone and become friends with someone who is different, no matter what that difference is. And we all have to do it much, much sooner than senior year of high school."

My personal favorite - "Getting high on drugs is not my idea of fun, Adam."

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### **Paula Ribeiro says**

\*\*\* A copy of this book was sent me by the author in exchange for my honest opinion. \*\*\*

Rate: 3.5 stars

What I liked about this book:

- 1) The cover is beautiful (It's simple and fits the title very well.)
- 2) The subject of this book is a really important one (High School is a hard experience for a lot of people. Teenagers can be very mean, and it's important to bring this subject out, to reach out to those teens that might be going through a hard time. It's important to talk about this, because, most of the time, people just need a friend, someone to talk to, someone to rely on. But no matter what life throws at you, nothing justifies a mass murder.)
- 3) It's a very quick read (I just didn't finish it earlier, because I was a little busy this week)

What I didn't liked:

- 1) There was a lot of description that I thought was unnecessary.
- 2) The characters were a little one dimension (I wanted to know more about Adam and Thomas, to understand better what took them to plan such a horrible thing. I think that more description about the characters' lives and personalities was needed, instead of the excess of description about the clothes of every character and the colors of everything.)
- 3) Some dialogues weren't compatible with the age of the characters (Sometimes I felt that Nikki was much older than 17 years old.)

But, overall, I enjoyed this book. In the end, I cried a little. So, it touched me, moved me. And besides the small problems that I listed above, I think people should give this book a try!

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### **Deedi (DeediReads) Brown says**

First, thank you to Jack Chaucer for providing me with the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review. I definitely enjoyed it, and I am grateful!

3.75/5

This is a very quick read that makes a quick impact. When I first started it, the prose felt a bit description-heavy and blunt, and I was definitely turned off when the girls said that Cheryl Strayed "was a real slut back in the day" (can we not exemplify teenage girls slut-shaming each other?), but as I kept reading, there weren't any other major transgressions, and I got used to the writing style. In fact, it almost reminds me of the style in which *The Shack* is written. The best part about this style is that you can read it quickly; I got through this book in one sitting on a Saturday evening.

Nikki is a very self-aware young woman with a big heart, and I instantly liked her. I'm looking forward to reading Chaucer's other two *Nikki* books in the hope that even more depth is added to her character. From the moment she receives the message that Adam is planning a massacre at her high school, her moral compass points her in the right direction. She battles mean girls, peer pressure, biased administrators, social stereotypes, and her own will to do good, but her heart never waivers.

I appreciate the way Chaucer obviously took his inspiration from Newtown and the heroes who gave their lives that day. He took his pain from that event and turned it into a story that demonstrates our need to reserve judgment, to reach out to those who are different from us, and to *do something*. I do think that further storyline and character development could have taken this book from a quick bite of morality to a true heart-rending piece of inspiration. BUT. It was absolutely worth my Saturday evening!

You can read more of my reviews on my blog!

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### **Alex says**

I would have wanted a more plausible explanation for these students' actions, maybe more insight into their brains so that one can logically understand why they would resort to such extreme measures against their colleagues and teachers. Otherwise, this book left me to believe that teenagers do that crazy stuff because they're just stupid.

The conversations and the characters were boring at times. I'm sorry to say that Nikki came across as shallow and annoying. Finally, Adam should have gotten a harsher punishment.

If only dreams could truly predict the future, the world would be a much better and safer place. I mainly liked the book because it was optimistic and the writing was good. But again, the characters could have used more work.

### **3 solid stars**

*Free copy kindly provided by the author in exchange for an honest review*

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### **Lucy Rojas says**

#### **ENGLISH REVIEW AT BOTTOM!**

*"It's often the simplest songs with the most heartfelt, honest messages that move us the most"*

No puedo creer que leí esto en un día (~~por eso amo los días sin escuela~~)

Ok, comencemos.

*Streaks of Blue* fue una experiencia un poco rara, debo admitir. Bastante rara y con muchos sentimientos. No puedo creer la cantidad de citas resaltadas que saqué de esta novela. Eso me impacta hasta a mí misma.

Trataré de reunir mis pensamientos y hacer un review bien merecido. Haré una compilación de mis cosas favoritas de SOB:

*"Dreams aren't supposed to make sense"*

- Al principio, debo admitir que no me estaba convenciendo mucho la idea de que Nikki en el primer capítulo, por inspiración divina, ya sabía todo lo que iba a pasar. Y me sentí así como hasta el primer tercio del libro, más o menos. Pero después, con la pila de acontecimientos siguientes, se me olvidó el inicio tan abrupto que tuvo.

*"The longer you let it go and don't deal with me, the more pissed off I get"*

- Nikki me pareció un personaje bastante interesante. Su amor por la música, la poesía y la exploración la hacen perfectamente una chica de 17 años, cursante del último año de secundaria, y eso me hace querer ser su amiga. Normalmente no me caen bien las chicas, pero últimamente sí, y eso no lo entiendo. Nikki tiene mi

bendición y amo su slow love con Derek (~~él es muy guapo, rayos~~).

*"Big hero out, big zero in here"*

- Me he dado cuenta de que un gran héroe, debe venir de una familia disfuncional. En un 80% de los casos es así. En el caso de Nikki y Adam, los protagonistas de esta historia, y me parece que el arco de transformación del papá de Adam es más significativo que el de Nikki. Lo que Gary le dice a su hijo en el hospital ha sido una de las cosas más emotivas que he leído recientemente y me sacó un par de lágrimas. (view spoiler).

*"He's lost and he needs to be found very quickly"*

- Adam ha sido un personaje muy querido para mí a lo largo de esta historia, pues me identifico con algunas cosas que hace y siente. Cuando le dispararon en el trasero yo no pude evitar recordar esta escena en *Forrest Gump*:

En fin, Adam me conmovió mucho y espero saber más sobre su esperanzadora amistad con Nikki en los libros que siguen.

*"And if you find your hands are still willing  
Then you can turn murder into art"*

- El plot me pareció bueno, bastante interesante, sin embargo hubieron algunas cosas que no me convencieron tanto, como el hecho de que al final Lee se escapó (o eso creo), que consideren a Nikki como una heroína por haber estado en el lugar equivocado a la hora correcta y que a veces en la narración saltaba del punto de vista de un personaje al otro sin utilidad alguna. Fuera de eso, estuvo muy bien.

*"Mountains move me, too"*  
*"Ah, but, can you move mountains?"*

A fin de cuentas, *Streaks of Blue* es una historia sobre la amistad y la fe, y debo decir que me gustó muchísimo.

Gracias Jack Chaucer por el e-book gratis, por enseñarme que los profesores de literatura son asombrosos y que *"again and again, more trees fall"*.

*"It's often the simplest songs with the most heartfelt, honest messages that move us the most"*

I can't believe I read this in one day ~~that's why I love no school days~~).  
OK let's start.

*Streaks of Blue* was a bit of a weird experience, I must admit. Quite strange and with many feelings. I cannot believe the number of highlighted quotes that I got from this novel. I will try to gather my thoughts and make a well deserved review. I'll make a compilation of my favorite things from SOB:

*"Dreams aren't supposed to make sense"*

- At first, I must admit that I was not very convinced by the idea that Nikki in the first chapter, by divine inspiration, already knew everything that was going to happen. And I felt like that until the first third of the book, more or less. But then, with the pile of events that followed, I forgot the abrupt start it had.

*"The longer you let it go and don't deal with me, the more pissed off I get"*

- I found Nikki a very interesting character. Her love of music, poetry, and hiking make her a perfect 17-year-old, high school senior, and that makes me want to be her friend. I don't usually like girls, but lately I do, and I don't understand that. Nikki has my blessing and I love her slow love with Derek (~~he is very handsome, tho~~).

*"Big hero out, big zero in here"*

- I have realized that a great hero, must come from a dysfunctional family. In 80% of cases it is so. In the case of Nikki and Adam, the protagonists of this story, and it seems to me that Adam's father's transformation arc is more significant than Nikki's. What Gary tells to his son at the hospital has been one of the most emotional things I've read recently and he pulled me a couple of tears. (view spoiler).

*"He's lost and he needs to be found very quickly"*

- Adam has been a dear character to me throughout this story, because I identify with some things that he does and feels. When he got shot in the ass I couldn't help remembering this scene in *Forrest Gump*:

Anyway, Adam was very touched and I hope to know more about his hopeful friendship with Nikki in the upcoming books.

*"And if you find your hands are still willing  
Then you can turn murder into art"*

- The plot seemed good, quite interesting, however there were some things that didn't convince me at all, as the fact that in the end Lee escaped (or so I think), they consider Nikki a heroine for having been in the wrong place at the right time, and sometimes in the narrative jumped from the point of view of one character to another's without any subtlety. Out of it, it was very good.

*"Mountains move me, too"*

*"Ah, but, can you move mountains?"*

After all, *Streaks of Blue* is a story about friendship and faith, and I must say I liked it a lot. Thanks Jack Chaucer for the free e-book, for teaching me that english teachers are awesome and that *"again and again, more trees fall"*.

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## Rose says

I have to be honest, I'm really angry at this book for more reasons than one, and it's not for the intended reasons that I should be angry at the book.

I'm angry about how one-dimensional, prejudiced, and assuming this book comes across with respect to its difficult subject matter. I'm angry at how poorly written this book was and that it seemed to lecture and talk down to its audience in an unrealistic way on the respective subject. If this was intended to be an inspirational journey of a young woman who did a courageous thing and helped a troubled boy in the measure of things, it failed miserably. I'm sorry, but it just failed completely with its pandering, unsubtle tones and meandering focus.

Where do I even begin?

Let me make a disclaimer on this review before I go too much further. I read a lot of inspirational fiction. So I know how some authors have different ways of presenting a tough subject matter, and I know there are certain methods that the authors employ to convey hope in the face of overwhelming odds. But I never like books that try to force readers what to think about a tough subject matter through the dialogue or respective situations. There's a difference between telling and showing - you want to show the complexities of the people who may find themselves facing incredible odds or conflicts. I do not like books that portray characters in singular dimensions, as being wholly good or evil, as being right or wrong - with no middle between. People are complex characters, with complex thoughts about our moralities and the things that happen to and around us.

I felt that Jack Chaucer's take on a school shooting happening around a young protagonist was **manipulative and trite** to say the least. And I emphasize that it was also **very prejudiced** in its portrayal in parts. I'll explain why shortly.

Let's start with the roots of the story - Nikki is a young woman who has a vision from angels that one of her former classmates, who has fallen in with the wrong company, is going to participate in a school shooting in which she and others may end up dead. This vision shakes her and she becomes determined to set herself on a mission to change this boy from the path he's set on to avoid the event all together.

And get this: the angels evoked are supposedly taken from the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

I probably should've had every warning bell ringing inside my head when I came across those revelations because, number one: directly invoking the memories/references of people who died in a horrible, real tragedy in a fictional account in such a way as this always bothers me. I think more often than not, it tends to be insensitive, but I was willing to give this book the benefit of the doubt and wanted to see if it would take it in a direction that was meaningful, even inspirational.

This did not happen. This was such a Mary Sue-ish account of a "chosen one" character who made it her mission to change a boy who presumably hung around the wrong crowd because of another character's presumed "evilness," especially given (and cited multiple times) on the basis of his name.

WTF? Just because the character shares a common name with Lee Harvey Oswald does NOT make him prone to shoot up people in a school and be the "end all, beat all" expression of a character. If the author was going symbolic transgression here, it was a complete failure. It just ended up being this one-dimensional account rooted in prejudice - with multiple people in multiple situations championing and re-emphasizing that prejudice, from the adults to other peers.

This whole narrative had not one lick of subtle storybuilding - it was lecture after lecture of so called "bad" elements whether it was suggestive lyrics in a song, an all encompassing portrayal of the intentions of a

character to kill people, with pretty much every adult acting like they didn't have two cents worth to them (the stupidity and blanketness of the adults revolted me), and Nikki being the so called person whose "visions" are the end-all/beat all compass of "rightness" that had not a lick of true dimension to it. And then directly invoking Nikki in an interview with Anderson Cooper to twist the knife further in the sensationalistic, one dimensional portrayal?

I could not with this. It made me so angry to see such a heavy topic with so much significance treated in such a juvenile, force-fed manner. There are other books that treat the subject o school shootings/massacres/tragedies with so much more depth, weight, and resonance than this book could EVER touch, and actually allow you to think on the matter and yet at the same time be inspired at the shown resilience and faith that one may have when in such circumstances.

I cannot recommend this at all.

Overall score: 0.5/5 stars

Note: I received this as an ARC from NetGalley, from the publisher.

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### **Catherine says**

3.5 stars.

During the summer before her senior year of high school, Nikki has a dream (or a vision?) that warns her of a shooting that will happen at her school. If she reaches out to one of the potential perpetrators and befriends him, the attack can be averted. As classes begin that September, Nikki remains convinced of the validity of the dream, and actively seeks out Adam Upton, trying to forge a friendship with him despite his bewilderment (which is a feeling shared by most of the student body).

I went into this the way I do with almost every book I read - I go in blind, not reading blurbs or synopses, so as events unfold and characters are introduced, I can follow the flow of the writing without having many preconceived notions. Once I realized one of the main themes was school shootings and the circumstances that lead up to them, I felt on edge. It's an important but difficult subject to tackle. While I don't think it is the sole and ultimate solution to the ongoing problem of school violence, I appreciate the author putting a spotlight on the idea that being a friend can make a difference. Reaching out to others, learning about their lives, supporting them through difficult times.. maybe if we do more of these, then perhaps we as individuals will feel less alone, and when we recognize ourselves as having a positive support system, the chances are less likely that someone would plan out an attack and carry it out.

As far as characterization goes, I think there were one-dimensional portrayals within the secondary cast. I found Nikki, our protagonist, to be almost too good to be true, but then I'm reminded of friends I knew many years ago in high school who had elements of Nikki's altruistic personality, and chided myself for generalizing teenagers as only being driven by selfish motivations.

Thank you to the author for providing an ebook to me in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Angela Auten says**

Streaks of Blue Review

Book Rating: 4.5 stars out of 5.

Story Line: 4.5 stars out of 5. While sleeping under the stars Nikki had a dream that warned her about Adam Upton. The "angels" in the dream said that Adam was going to be heading down the wrong path. They wanted her to save Adam from doing something foolish. Nikki realized that she used to be friends with him when they were younger. She decided that she was going to friend him to help stop him from committing mass murder with his friend Thomas James "Lee" Harvey. A lot of events occurred throughout this book. It did touch on what drugs can do to you. I found this book to be awesome. I liked it a lot! The ending left feels for me. I enjoy when books do that. I will be reading the second book in the series. (After I finish the Last Ever After.)

Characters: Nikki was a great person through out the book. She showed that she cared for Adam although she didn't have to. She could have just left him alone. She didn't want to give up on him. She did have her moments where I wanted to high five her. She was a complete bada\*\*. I was nervous for her at the end. I thought she was going to die. I'm just really glad that she didn't. I would have been crushed if she was.

Adam was messed up, but he ended up getting better. I felt really bad for him. He went through so much that he didn't need to. That made him depressed. I could relate to him. He did have his moments where I wanted to punch him in the face though. He really had a big turn around in the end. It was great. I also loved his little brother, Brody. He wasn't as messed up as his brother. He was an innocent 13 year old. I felt bad for him also especially at the end.

Candace was a great character as well. She was very concerned about Nikki. That's what best friends actually do. They don't tear each other down. They help build each other up. She at least was able to stand up for her friend. I found that part to be amazing!

I wish Mr. Richardson was my teacher! I would have loved his lessons! He was also very poetic and interesting. I loved his character!

I didn't like Valerie, Melanie, and Thomas. They were just the worst. I hated their attitudes especially Valerie. You don't call people trailer trash. You just don't do that. (I wish I could have hopped into the book and beat the snot out of her.)

Writing Style: 4.5 stars out of 5. There were a few mistakes, but overall the writing was beautiful. The flow was disrupted a little bit, but not too much.

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## **Jay G says**

Want to see more bookish things from me? Check out my Youtube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfer...>

\*I was given a copy of this book by the author in exchange for my honest review\*

Nicole Janicek is a 17 year old senior at a high school in New Hampshire. When she has a strange dream about Adam Upton, a boy she used to be friends with, planning a mass school shooting with his accomplice Thomas 'Lee' Harvey, she makes it her mission to try and reconnect with him and stop him from going through with his plans.

I read this book in one sitting, the writing flowed nicely and it was a very quick read. Although I think the book had a bit too much necessary description of everyone's outfits to the point where it just became repetitive. I also felt that the characters were a bit one dimensional and didn't have many characteristics other than 'troubled teen' or 'good Samaritan'. I would have liked to know more about each character. Also, some of the dialogue got on my nerves at times because teenagers would definitely not be talking the way that Nikki would to her friends. It seemed a bit forced at times. There were many quotes I really loved in this book and I think the author did a great job throwing in some wisdom at times through out the story. I liked the pacing of the book and how the plot developed quickly.

Overall, I think the book handled the very difficult topic of school shootings well. I liked the idea that reaching out to become someone who is deemed 'different' friend may cause a difference in their lives.

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### **Deborah Obida says**

Thanks to the author Jack Chaucer for providing this book in exchange for an honest review.

When I started reading this book, I had no idea it will be this intense and inspirational. I love the way the book started, no unnecessary introductions or descriptions. I love the characters a lot especially Nikki, Damn that girl is so brave, deep, kind, considerate and selfless what she did for Adam and her school is amazing. The only problem I have with the book is the POV, it's kind of messed up to me, it's dual and third person narrative, would have preferred if the author just picked one. The writing style is also great, I love it.

This is my first by the author and I liked it, will definitely read other works by him.

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