



Tunnel Vision

Susan Shaw

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On her way home one evening, Liza has to force her way through a group of men in a train underpass. She doesn't think anything of it, but when her mom is shot dead moments later, Liza's world turns upside down. Even worse, Liza was really the target. Only hours after her mother's death, Liza is nearly killed again and she and her dad are placed in the witness protection program. Leaving everything she's ever known behind, Liza and her dad pick up and move, never staying in one place for long. It's too big of a risk--and Liza's worst fear is realized when she gets recognized. The would-be killer is still on their trail, so all Liza and her dad can do is keep running. Unsure whom to trust and where to go, they're just trying to stay alive.

Tunnel Vision Details

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Author : Susan Shaw

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From Reader Review Tunnel Vision for online ebook

Savannah (Books With Bite) says

If you ever wondered what it's like to be suddenly put under the Witness Protection Program, look no further than this book. This book amazed me from start to finish. Why? It has great technique in the writing style that you felt like you were on the run. My heart raced as I read this book. I felt emotions, just like the character. And even after finishing reading the book, I think I might change my appearance! LOL

What I liked most about this book is the writing style. Ms. Shaw did an absolutely great job in hooking the reader from the very first line. What's even better is that she kept me on my toes, thinking to ever bit that I had read, "What did this girl witness?" Even as the reader, you are left clueless as to what she saw. The main character, Liza, is pulled from the life she knows and into a life of running. She must drop everything. School, friends, relatives, phones, her appearance down to what she orders to eat, had to be change.

I loved the mystery of this book. As I continued to read, I thought I be able to crack what really happen. Liza herself, didn't even know what she saw till it came together in the end. I was in shock and thought, Wow. Such a small incident, in which she didn't even realize what is going on, change her entire life.

You need to read this book. I can't express enough how much I looked over my shoulder and even had to takes breaks. My heart broke for Liza. So much change, in so little time. Amazing writing, amazing characters and one heck of a story line, Tunnel Vision is my favorite book this year. I have never been so taken back and surprised by a book. Simply fantastic!

Ms. Yingling says

Liza is coming home through a crowded overpass near her home, stumbles into her yard, and is shot at. The shot hits her mother, killing her by the time Liza and her father make it to the hospital. In shock, the two accept casseroles and try to figure out what happened, but bigger problems intervene-- someone tries to kill Liza. There was another murder under the overpass, and Liza was an unwitting witness. The two are shuttled to a seaside town nearby, but they see familiar faces there and are in jeopardy. Even in a remote farm in Kansas, people recognize Liza's unusual red hair, and they are followed. After taking off on their own for a while, Liza and her father are brought back into protective custody in order to find the murderer and put him away for good.

Strengths: Shaw does problem novels beautifully (Black-eyed Suzie, The Boy From the Basement), and has a real talent for writing from a baffled and disjointed perspective. Liza's pain at losing her mother is palpable, and the saga of the two on the run is good adventure, if sad.

Weaknesses: The mysterious identity of the murderer is handled a bit abruptly at the end, and I didn't quite buy it, but this is more of an on-the-run book than a murder mystery.

Katie says

Well, where should I start? The beginning of the book was very strange and I couldn't really get into it. I

nevertheless read on hoping for it to get better. But even though it got slightly better it didn't really arrest my attention. It was just too odd for me. The names alone were really special. I mean who names a boy Jellyfish? I found that very odd and didn't think of anything other than the animal when I read his name. So that was just one of my problems. Liza, the main character, got on my nerves often as well, because she often stammered incoherent words and I didn't find her a bit convincing. I mean her mom was murdered and her murderer is after them and she just wants to go home? I would have expected this from a little child, but not from a 16 year-old girl. Furthermore, the plot was very weak. They always had to escape, which of course was realistic, but after one move you just knew the scheme. They arrive, soon they see the murderer of her mom, the pack, they escape and hide somewhere else. Well, and I didn't like the end, because it really didn't say anything and left me really unconvinced. I also didn't like the sudden outbursts of Liza's dad, when he thought he didn't need the FBI. How could he do that? They were in great danger and he thinks he can deal with this on his own? Oh, well. But besides these negative points, I really liked the "normal" moments. Even though Liza was very naive, I thought it was cute that her and her dad drank tea in memorization of her dead mother. I just had hoped there was more about the witness-protection program and a more detailed explanation of why her mother was murdered and Liza and her dad had to escape. So, it wasn't really my piece of cake, because it was just too unconvincing for my taste.

Erica says

Tunnel Vision was an interesting read. There were some really great things about it, but in the end I found the things I didn't like more overpowering than the good things.

I really disliked Liza. I thought she was super whiny and annoying - she was 16, but acted like a 6 year for about the first half of the book. From there on out, while I was still not a huge fan, she got slightly better. I really liked the characters that played a smaller role like Hanna and Cassie, though I really wish they had been developed more. So many of the characters in this book felt very 2D to me.

I absolutely loved the idea of the premise, but I wish Shaw had done more with it. I felt that the book was simply a flat line instead of expanding into bigger and more exciting things. This book was just full of unbelievable circumstances. I found so much of it hard to believe - I mean, I'm willing to bend reality a bit but so much of it was just too coincidental and there was absolutely no explanation.

I really did enjoy Shaw's writing style. Tunnel Vision was a fast paced read, and I did read it all in the same day. This book came to no conclusion. I finished the book, with absolutely nothing happening. The plot ties hadn't been tied up, nothing like that.

While there were some great things about it, I would recommend picking up Tunnel Vision from the library or borrowing from a friend.

Bennett says

A thrilling and action packed mystery novel that will keep your eyes glued to the pages. the story follows a young girl and her father on the run from a killer who previously killed her mother. very very very mild gore.

Cristina says

For Liza there are many problems she has to face. Things seem to get harder for as the days pass. One day as Liza is going home, she decides to take a different way, but finds herself walking through a crowd of older men under a bridge. She hurry's to get home where there her mother is waiting for her. As gets to her house her mother suddenly threw herself on top of Liza without realizing what happen, the only thing she sees is blood and no sound from her mother. Everyone around the two them and still not a clue of what happen. They take her mother away and her and her father are left there with tears in their eyes and speechless. But they do get in some trouble and have to leave everything behind and go into the witness protection program not knowing what was going to happen to them.

Days later her and her father are on going place to place to get away from the gang name The Cope who are after them. Liza is the main person who they want and are after. No matter where they go pictures of her and her father are everywhere wondering where they are and people seem to recognize them which leads them to more running. Everywhere they run to they always seem be run into The Cope. When they finally find a place to settle down, they think there safe till they see one of the members from the gang outside their home. With no time to think they leave and are being chased. No phone, nowhere to go, and scared they don't know what to do but drive to get away.

Setting: Current times, Where ever they go to get away from danger.

Protagonist: Liza is a girl who has to run for her life after she becomes a main target. She is being chased by dangerous people who want her dead and will not stop till she is. She is a strong person and is very brave for what she has to do. At first she want things her way and is selfish but later finally realizing its not only about her but her father too.

Antagonist: Gary Carmichael is very dangerous and does not like anyone to get in his way or else bad things are to come. I do not like him at all hes all about killing and getting away with it. He brings misery to Liza and her father. Without letting them have a normal life hes after them ti kill Liza.

Conflict: Liza is a girl who is in danger and has to run in order to survive. She She cant live a normal life and and can trust no one. She feels as if if shes never safe and never will be.

Other Characters: Mr. Swense is a man from the witness protection program and is trying to help them. Hanna is a young girl whom she met when she was in Ohio. Mr. Oberman is a man who is helping them while there were in Philadelphia. Cassie is a girl who is two years older then her that lives next to them in Kansas. Seth a boy she met in Sea Isle City who turns out to be Casie's boyfriend. Jellyfish was a boy who she a crush on back home. Mr. Barber was the principal to where she was going to attend home schooling.

Peep (Pop! Pop!) says

I couldn't finish this one though I really tried hard. The dialogue is just weird and doesn't make sense. The

main girl is supposed to be 16 but she thinks like she is much younger. I thought for sure that this was supposed to be from the perspective of a kid with Aspergers or somewhere on the Autism spectrum (as her thought process reminded me of the girl from *Mockingbird*), but no, she was supposedly fully-abled. Then after she describes herself walking over a sidewalk, I thought maybe it was from an animals point of view. At the very least I thought it was a dream sequence. No, she really does talk and think like that. It just didn't ring true and I could not get into it. It was all just *weird*.

Since this is was an ARC, I can't quote from the story. If you read even the first few pages, you'll see what I am talking about.

Still, it's a short book so if it sounds like something you'd like, read it.

Amanda (Born Bookish) says

I don't even know where to start with this book. Honestly, it was a trainwreck. If this hadn't been my Random Reads book for the month I would have quite reading after the first chapter. Determined to finish, I gritted my teeth and forged on. I knew things weren't going to get better as the story progressed because my issue was with the writing and the writing alone.

I usually don't like to talk bad about an author's writing in particular because I know that it takes A TON of work to write a book and I don't want to seem like I'm criticizing the person and not the book. In this particular situation however, I really don't know how to talk about why I didn't like the book if I don't talk about the writing.

One of the main lessons in writing is show don't tell. All this book did was tell. There was no emotion, not once did I see what the character was seeing or feel what they were feeling. Things as simple as sounds were written out; bang, clink, slam. Even emotions were written out like, "Giggle, giggle giggle!" or "Sob, sob, sob!" And everything was always in sets of three like that, which got very irritating after the first dozen or so times.

The "big action" scenes were so anti-climactic, the tension stripped away by telling us to death. For example:

"My arms lashed out against the moving target. Kick, kick, kick! How long could I last? The knife, the knife, the knife! This way, that way, glinting in the sun. Close and closer. Closer- he's going for my neck! 'AAAAAAHH!' I CAN'T SEE IT! 'AAAAAAHHH-' CUT!"

The main character, Liza, is supposed to be sixteen or seventeen yet she comes across as an immature, whiny, child. Her thought process was so naive and unbelievable for a teenager. Her dad even called her "little one" all the time.

Don't even get me started on the witness protection program side of things and how utterly unbelievable it all was.

I could go on for awhile pointing out all the things that bothered me, but I think you get the picture of how much I disliked this book.

Rachael says

Liza is just trying to get home. All she has to do is walk through the train underpass to meet her mom, but there's a group of men in her way. They make her uncomfortable, but she decides to suck it up and make her way through. But moments later, everything goes wrong, and her mom is shot. And when Liza learns that she may have been the intended target, she knows nothing will ever be the same again. Still reeling from the tragedy of losing her mother, Liza is reluctant to leave everything behind to enter the witness protection program with her father, even though a new identity in a new place may be her only chance for safety. But even with moving from place to place, Liza knows that her mother's killer is hot on her trail and that it's only a matter of time before someone recognizes her and all hell breaks loose. How did she get in this mess in the first place? Liza desperately wants to know why she, of all people, is being forced to run, but in order to find out, she'll need to stay alive.

Tunnel Vision is a story that is just packed full of questions and non-stop action. Now, I do like a healthy dose of action in my books, to keep me excited about reading, as well as questions to keep me interested, but it's rather unsatisfying when the book is only about action and questions. Unfortunately, in Tunnel Vision, Shaw's character and plot development left much to be desired. I found it quite difficult to relate to and care about protagonist Liza; there was something off about her that made her feel not very realistic. The fact that readers really only see her immediately before her mother is shot and in the wake of the tragedy doesn't help either. I was told that Liza's life was very different, as having to enter the witness protection programs should be, but I couldn't see those changes in Liza's character. My interest in this story was further dulled by a plot that was rather uninteresting, despite the constant atmosphere of danger. Liza and her father just keep moving around, spook at the slightest things, and receive help from possibly corrupt government agents. This would have been forgivable had the ending been particularly spectacular or clever, but sadly, the conclusion to this story was frankly lackluster and anticlimactic.

Though I didn't find this novel a particularly enjoyable read, Tunnel Vision may still be enjoyed by fans of The Last Thing I Remember by Andrew Klavan and Severed Ties by Kevin Krohn.

reposted from <http://thebookmuncher.blogspot.com>

Sierra says

2.5 stars. I'm used to my books having a beginning, a middle, and an end. That was not the case here. This book felt like just a beginning. All this buildup that never led anywhere. This book kind of just...wasn't good. I didn't like the plot. I didn't like the characters, except for maybe the dad. And really what else is there? It kind of felt like this book could have really been something, but it wasn't. First of all, I had an issue with the whole premise, the reason they were on the run. A girl witnesses a murder and the murderers want to get rid of her and tie up any loose ends. Fine. That makes sense. Except Liza didn't know that she was witnessing a murder. If no one had come after her, she never would have thought twice about that incident. Now obviously the Core doesn't realize that she didn't know what she saw so they feel they need to go after her. That's at least believable, but it's incredibly frustrating. The second thing I really didn't like about this book was the role the media played. It made me so angry how difficult the media made it for them to disappear. And what made me even angrier was that I don't think the reporters would stop if they knew how much they were putting the lives of Liza and her dad in danger. It would have just made it a bigger story for them. And the people reading those news stories are the same. Knowing the truth would just make everything more

exciting for them instead of doing what it should, which is making them want to turn a blind eye to help Liza and her dad stay hidden. It really makes me disgusted with the way our world is and it makes me angry, because I could see it playing out the same way in real life. However, I don't think that absolutely everyone would be following the story closely enough to be able to recognize Liza even with a different hair color which seemed to be the case here. Another thing I didn't like was the ending. If Liza had been kind of enjoying being on the run in spite of herself or getting some sick thrill out of it then an ending like that might have been okay. But the whole entire book all she wants is to go back home. So essentially we're leaving our main character miserable and she will presumably stay that way for the rest of her life while she is on the run. I don't like the characters in this book as I already mentioned. Specifically, I hated the main character which is a big problem for a story to have. She was so whiny and annoying. I get that she just lost her mom, which is a big deal and that she's running for her life, also a big deal, but she just never shuts up. I also didn't like the writing style in this book, especially in the beginning. Liza spends the first few chapters dazed and out of it, which is a very annoying thing to have to read through considering we're in her mind. And it never really goes away as we deal with her flashbacks and paranoia. This is one of those books where it's hard to read every word, because the main character spends so much time rambling. I didn't like this book. I'm glad it's over. I wouldn't recommend it.

Christie Brown says

I'd like to give this a zero, but then it would look like I didn't rate it. I'm generally not this harsh or difficult to please, but this book was horrible. I only finished it because I had to. This book was not realistic at all, and if you argue that it wasn't meant to be, I have a hard time believing it. I enjoy unrealistic story lines like fantasy and science fiction, but this was set up as realistic fiction. First, I'd like to believe that the witness protection program is a bit more effective than depicted in this story. Second, where was the grief a husband and daughter would have felt and displayed over the death of their wife/mother? A one sentence statement here and there that mom was missed hardly makes a plausible explanation. Third, would the people running the witness protection program really permit the media to constantly run pictures of the people they are trying to protect? I could go on, but I won't. I tried to look beyond these figure ground problems, but then I found myself simply bored with the story and the author's writing style.

Bailey (IB Book Blogging) says

This one was a DNF for me. Couldn't get into the story at all. The situations were unbelievable, the protagonist whiny and annoying, and the writing was awkward at times. I tried so hard to make it through the whole story, but I gave up a little over half-way through.

Mo says

From ReadingWithMo: <http://www.readingwithmo.com/2011/08/...>

What would you do if someone you loved was horribly murdered right in front of you? Liza is forced to go into hiding with her father after her mother is shot outside of their home. How can she possibly deal with her loss while becoming someone new in a witness protection program? Father and daughter search for a way to exist while living in mortal danger each day.

The first section of this novel deals with Liza's loss of her mother. It is very emotional. I found myself with tears in my eyes at several points. The situation she finds herself in is so horrible, yet so plausible, that it is easy to walk in her shoes and feel her pain.

The middle of the book focuses on Liza and her father moving around to avoid the bad guys. It was, honestly, a bit boring. After such an emotional start to the book, I expected things to move along at a quick pace, but they did not. I stuck with it, though, thinking that the plot was building to a big finale, or at least some more action. But I was wrong.

The climax never happens in the novel. I really dislike novels that end with no resolution. It can be negative or positive, but I need resolution. Otherwise, what is the point? That is exactly how I felt at the end of this book. I was asking myself, why would someone write a book that goes nowhere?

I give this one a three out of five. The beginning was really good, but after that, there just was not much there.

Sandra Stiles says

This book held my attention. I hated when I had to stop. You know how it is, someone has to fix dinner. I felt so sorry for the main character in this story. Her whole life and that of her father's had been turned upside down. I just couldn't imagine what it would be like to be on the run and know you couldn't trust anyone. I wondered how they were constantly found by the bad guys. Part of it is explained but part of it leaves you hanging. However, that would be the way it would really happen if you were in the witness protection program. You wouldn't know how the bad guys found you most of the time, especially if you managed to escape to live another day. This was a great book and one I definitely want to have on my shelves at school. This is one I'll recommend to my students. The actions just keeps building to the point you can't put it down and it becomes a very quick read. I look forward to reading more by this author.

Ally says

I should have abandoned this book. But I didn't. I was hoping it will get better, but it didn't.

Road Trip with a bunch of killers and a delusion girl and her dad. They are running for their lives, away from everyone including the FBI.

Doesn't it sound awesome? I thought so too, until I was at the halfway mark of the book. Then I realized how boring and dry this book is. Tunnel Vision may seem promising, but fails to deliver a good and addiction story. I fell asleep for the second half of the book, so don't ask me what happened in that part. I will not remember it, even for my own life. I will make up an awesome plot, involving high speed chasing and all that stuff instead.

It's probably why Tunnel Vision doesn't have a sequel. That's right, it doesn't have a sequel because of how horrible it is. Look at the fellow reviews and take a look if they agree with me. The plot is so mundane and there's no arguments. Well, Liza has arguments in her mind, but that doesn't really count. There's no

arguments with her dad. No face-off with the gang, or at least with Liza and the gang (sorry, Dad v. the gang doesn't count. Most of the details of the fight was rather blurry).

What's even crazier is that the gang is going after Liza for a witness to a murder she doesn't even remember. Yes, that's right. A murder she doesn't even remember. How stupid is that? Stab. Stab. That's something you would notice right? But not Liza. She doesn't even remember anything. Someone else had to tell her what exactly was going on.

The villain, or the true villain, never appears. Apparently, there's a boss behind all of this and he never even appeared. Never even appeared. There was no heart to heart talks with the bad guys or anything. I was sorely disappointed in the number of illusions Liza had. Basically everyone is the enemy in her eyes. She's very delusional.

The ending made me slap a hand to my face. I just can't believe that book ended like that. We will continue living and surviving for the rest of our lives, with or without the help of the FBI. Safety matters more. I'm pretty sure that the FBI has to watch over them when they are in witness protection. Send in an agent or something like that. Maybe the FBI gave up on them too, after realizing how off Liza was.

Liza herself was a big yellow warning. I'm not sure why she didn't spend more time mourning, but she was running for her life. Less tears, more running. I guess that's the motto of Tunnel Vision.

Rating: One out of Five

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