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Pointe of No Return: A Dani Spevak Mystery

Amanda Brice

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#2532573 in Books CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform 2012-06-11Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .37 x 5.251, .39 #File Name: 1470013304146 pages | File size: 20.Mb

Amanda Brice : Pointe of No Return: A Dani Spevak Mystery before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pointe of No Return: A Dani Spevak Mystery:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fun For Any AgeBy FrancesGI enjoyed this book, although it was written for teens or maybe even preteens. Yes, it was pretty obvious "who dun it", but it was still a fun read. Dani acts with typical 14 year old impulsiveness as she strives to solve the mystery of WHO might want to disrupt a TV series filmed on her Arts high school campus. Her reactions to various handsome boys are handled in a purely non-sexual

way, making Dani a great role model for younger readers! The other characters range from the BFF's to the campus snob, and are well-drawn. It's not often a book can have such a wide appeal to all ages, but this book does this remarkably well. There is a side bit about eating disorders which I found to be a good touch, again mostly for the younger readers who might be experiencing them and who need education and encouragement to seek counseling. I am looking forward to more in this series.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Perfect for young readers - or the young at heart

By Debra Dunbar I wasn't sure how I'd like reading a young adult book with a 14 year old protagonist who goes to an elite arts school to practice dance (ballet specifically) and solves mysteries. But hey, I did have fond memories of Nancy Drew, so I took the plunge. I'm glad I did. Dani Spevak is a typical young teen (extraordinary dance skills aside). She's a freshman at a nationally recognized dance school in Arizona, a boarding school where the kids have a grueling academic, as well as arts schedule. Tryouts are on for the Nutcracker production, and although good, Dani realizes that this first year, she'll probably be assigned a snowflake role. Imagine her surprise when she discovers she's an understudy to the Sugar Plum Fairy role, and the dreaded diva Hadley Turner. It's a great honor to be an understudy to the lead, especially as a Freshman, but since she's been given no other role, Dani will work hard for the production and never make it on stage. Unless, that is, something happens to Hadley. Hadley vanishes, and Dani enthusiastically begins investigating her disappearance, as much because she loves amateur detective work as to clear her name as a suspect. The plot is nicely put together, and everything moves along at a steady pace. There is a bit of a love interest, and a whole host of friends and frenemies. This book is written from the point of view of a 14 year old, and not an adult stuck into a young body. The language, the tone, the thought process is absolutely true to the age of the heroine. That's a skilled bit of writing on Brice's part. I've got a 15 year old son, teen nieces, and since I horseback ride, I hang out at the stable with a lot of teenage girls. Teens are desperately trying to find themselves, and their place in a competitive and fast moving society. Dani Spevak is no different. The one complaint I have about the book is something that I've found typical with teens, especially girls. Dani meets Hadley's mom and can't see anything past the designer clothes, the bumpit hair, the botox and fake boobs. Kristen Taylor comes across as vapid, shallow as a saucer. There's got to be something deeper, something about Hadley's mom that we can connect with, but we just can't see it through a 14 year old lens. Later in the book we see Kristen Taylor a wreck, crying over the disappearance of her daughter, but even that seems flat. Yes, I know, the protagonist is 14, and I should give her a break, but I wanted Dani to be more sleuth-like in her assessment of others. I wanted her to shrewdly see beyond the surface. That made it difficult for me as an adult to give it a five star, but I did love it, and I think it will absolutely appeal to teens and to those adults that love young adult fiction. Rating it within the genre and as a book suitable for ages ten to fourteen,

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Inspiring

By K. Cook Begin an ex Ballet Dancer I had to see what this book was about. Truly delightful! A great read very interesting!

It's the most wonderful time of the year... Aspiring ballerina Dani Spevak's visions of sugar plums are dashed when she's assigned to understudy her nemesis, Hadley Taylor, in *The Nutcracker*. Pretty, popular, and rich, that girl has all the luck. Or so she thought. When Hadley mysteriously disappears with opening night just around the corner, Dani can't sit idly by, even if it means losing the part. Now she's running all over Phoenix in a race against the clock. From reality TV trophy wives to sleazy real estate developers to a possible drug ring, the cast of suspects begins to add up. Will she find Hadley before the curtain rises? Book 3 in the series (*PAS DE DEATH*) will be released in February 2013. Visit Amanda's website and sign up for the Amanda Brice newsletter to be notified of its release!

Praise for Amanda Brice and the Dani Spevak Mystery Series: "From the authentic atmosphere of a ballet boarding school to the recognizable humor and angst of teenage girls, *POINTE OF NO RETURN* hits all the right notes and kept me turning the pages." - Former professional ballerina Miriam Landis-Wenger, author of *BREAKING POINTE* and *GIRL IN MOTION* "References that include everything from Snooki to Chewbacca will have you laughing out loud." - Romantic Times on *CODENAME: DANCER* "A perfect example of YA done right." - *I'd So Rather Be Reading* on *CODENAME: DANCER* "It's Nancy Drew meets *Dancing with the Stars*! What could be better?" - Broadway actress/dancer Cara Cooper on *CODENAME: DANCER* "Fans of *Pretty Little Liars* and *Ally Carter's Gallagher Girls* will love *CODENAME: DANCER*." - NY Times bestselling author Gemma Halliday "Even if you don't know a thing about dance, you'll be easily drawn into this quick-paced series with authentic characters and big stakes." - Rhonda Stapleton, author of *STRUCK* "*CODENAME: DANCER* is a mystery-filled romance that will twirl its way into your heart." - Melissa Francis, author of *BITE ME!* and *LOVE SUCKS!* "An excellent read with crisp writing and a compelling story." - Juli Alexander, author of *MY LIFE AS THE UGLY STEPSISTER* on *CODENAME: DANCER* "Dani is such a vibrant character that she leaps right off the pages and into your heart." - Cynthia Justlin, author of *HER OWN BEST ENEMY*