



## Model Undercover: Paris

*Carina Axelsson*

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**Model Undercover: Paris** Carina Axelsson

**From super sleuth to supermodel**

Axelle Anderson doesn't care about fashion, in spite of her pushy fashionista aunt, Venetia. All Axelle wants to do in life is solve mysteries. But when top fashion designer Belle La Lune goes missing and Aunt Venetia becomes a prime suspect, Axelle must go undercover as a model to bring the truth into the spotlight.

**Who knew modeling could be such a dangerous game?**

## Model Undercover: Paris Details

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Author : Carina Axelsson

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Genre : Childrens, Middle Grade, Young Adult, Mystery, Contemporary

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# From Reader Review Model Undercover: Paris for online ebook

## CherryCarrot says

I like the premise of this series, but found the book a bit of a struggle to finish.

That being said, the parts focusing on fashion felt convincing, and although it is not my cup of tea, I can see readers enjoying it. Axelle was too ditsy and exaggeratedly clumsy for me to really like, but, again, I can see others liking her a great deal.

Unfortunately, the book felt over-long, poorly written in parts and the central mystery just wasn't engaging. Never was there a sense of pace or particular risk, bar the chapter in the catacombs. The inclusion of a number of letters from the past slowed everything down, especially as they turned out not to be especially important. There were also far too many characters to keep track of. The mystery would have been better executed had there been a smaller cast, and more happening in the present. Writingwise, Axelle used a large number of words that felt too adult, and the book would have been much pacier had it been edited down a good couple of thousand words or so.

Not for me, and I probably won't read the others, but I'm sure others will enjoy them.

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## DelAnne Frazee says

Title: Model Undercover - Paris - A Crime of Fashion Mystery Book 1

Author: Carina Axelsson

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Overall Rating: Great 4.5 out of 5

Reviewed For: NetGalley

Reviewer: DelAnne

Axelle Anderson used to love to spend time with her grandmother watching mysteries such as Agatha Christi's Hercule Peroit. Nancy Drew was her role model and she plans on being a private investigator when she is older. All this is much to the derision of her mother, who wants her daughter to be more like her and be into fashion and beauty techniques. When Axelle's detective impulses causes a problem during her mother's facial her parents come up with a sixteenth birthday present that seems more of a punishment than gift. A week in Paris working with her Aunt Venetia during fashion week.

After trying to get out of going to Paris, something even her best friend, Jenny, would give anything to have given to them, Axelle was off. Just after she arrived in Paris a breaking news story announced the disappearance of well known Belle La Lune. Axelle thinks are looking up. She is making plans to solve the mystery of the missing fashionista designer. When Aunt Venetia becomes the number one suspect Axelle

doubles her efforts. Who else had a reason to get Belle out of the way for the big Fashion week? Did she take off on her own? When Axelle's snooping gets a little too close will Axelle be the next to disappear?

I could understand Axelle's aversion to being a slave to fashion, but I would have loved to have a week to spend time in Paris. Like Axelle, I grew up on Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys and Jessica Fletcher. I used to imagine I knew enough that I could easily give Sherlock Holmes a run for his money. Upon opening the story I found the humor woven into the story compelling. I did not want to put it down into the story was finished. The characters were believable and very likable.

If you like light mysteries, then this is definitely a book to add to your to be read pile. Keep a lookout for future stories from Carina Axelsson. If they are all this good you have many hours of reading pleasure to look forward to.

Amazon Link: <http://www.amazon.com/Model-Undercove...>

B&N Link: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/model...+>

GoodReads Link: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1...>

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### **Ema says**

I picked this book up for a trip to Bali, for a quick read.

I did not enjoy this book as much I thought I would. I think it is a little bit of a cheap story, and also not so realistic.

I will give this book 3 stars, because I liked the ending, where you know there will be another story coming up.

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### **Sienna Toomey says**

It was a slow start but got really interesting towards the end

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### **Barker English says**

This book is about a teenager named Axelle. Her greatest wish in life is to be a private detective. She even writes investigative pieces for her school newspaper. Axelle is kind of a gawky, quiet, unusual girl. Her

overbearing parents wish for her to give up the private detective dream and do something more attainable and down to earth....like become a model. (?) So, Axelle is forcefully sent to Paris to help her fashion editor Aunt Venetia cover fashion week. As soon as Axelle arrives in Paris, a mystery pops up. Belle La Lune, the famous designer, has gone missing. Wanting to prove that she really can be a detective, Axelle resolves to solve the mystery. After becoming friends with Ellie the super model, Axelle enters the whirlwind world of fashion and neither she nor fashion will ever be the same.

This book was a fun and interesting read. It has adventure, a little bit of history, puzzle-solving, danger, and romance. I would definitely recommend this book to my 7th grade students. Axelle is a really likable character. She is smart, brave, daring, and always willing to stand up for herself and her friends. I really think that my students would love the inside look into the world of fashion and rooting for a character that they can believe in.

\*\*\*\*SPOILERS\*\*\*\*

Why I did not give this book a higher score.... plausibility. Yes, I know this is teen fiction, but some of the happenings in this book are just a little too far fetched. My biggest problem is with Axelle and her desire to purposefully look like an unattractive and awkward teenager. Axelle supposedly dresses this way as a "disguise" so she can blend in to her environment. I find it really hard to imagine any teenage girl who is attractive enough to become an "instant" model, sabotage her looks. My second implausibility is that Axelle changes her clothes, puts on makeup, and instantly becomes a super model. Not only does she get accepted as a super model, she is great at it! Even my 7th grade girls would have a hard time believing that. If it were true, than all of my students would be modeling right now. We are also supposed to get the impression that modeling is hard work. I'm not personally saying that it isn't, but Axelle does not do a good job of convincing us it is. She complains to us because her hair is pulled this-way-and-that and that her face is constantly prodded with makeup. That does not sound all that terrible to me.

So, overall the book held my interest and was fun to read. I enjoyed the diverse characters and quick pace of the plot. I will put this book in my classroom and book talk it to my students. It will be interesting to see what their take on the story will be.

\*This book was an ARC.

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## Liralen says

*What a day: hair and glasses gone, another disappearance, a new friend, a sidekick, a modeling career, a narrowly avoided attempt on my life—and a cache of letters to read through. (142)*

Dumb-cute, in the best of senses. Do I believe for a second that Axelle could do, oh, even fifteen percent of what she manages in this book? Nope. But it's an entertaining ride.

A couple of things to note: first, Axelsson makes a point to make Axelle run up against some of the seedier sides of fashion—not just the disappearances, but this: *"Is that the way fashion works?" I asked. "I mean, he clearly threatened to confirm me or cancel me depending on whether I went out with him!"* (244) Axelle is lucky to have a more experienced, compassionate voice in her corner, but it's interesting to me that that's the one thing Axelsson apparently really wanted to touch on. (On the other hand, she strips almost all mentions of weight, and the pressure models are under to stay slim, from the book...Although Ellie says something about a very specific diet, Axelle cheerfully eats whatever she wants, and measurements are not mentioned

as things that show up on comp cards.)

At any rate...it's fun. I got a little lost in all the historical details at time, but I enjoyed pretty much all of the characters, which doesn't happen enough. Good for Axelle for sticking to her guns. (But why o why does an English model [with a bit of Frenchified family] refer to her mother as 'Mom'?)

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### **Julianne says**

It's a pretty light, fluffy fiction with a dash of fancy-model-AND-cool-detective, but as one reviewer around here said (I'm paraphrasing, don't kill me) it does talk about fitting in and funding your identity. I had actually just read a book about fashion history and borrowing ideas from there, so this was perfectly timed.

(But was anyone else creeped out by that cockroach tunnel? 'Cause UGHH)

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### **Jess at Such a Novel Idea says**

*I received a copy of this book via the publisher in exchange for an honest opinion. It does not affect my review in any way.*

First of all, I just want to give that cover a big, giant hug. Both the US and the UK book covers are just all kinds of adorable. When I was asked to do the cover reveal for this book, I came down with a serious case of grabby hands, so I was really excited to be asked to read and review it.

Model Undercover: A Crime of Fashion was the kind of book that I can get behind. It's based in the fashion world, but the main character Axelle has her head on straight. She is a serious, dedicated girl who will be a wonderful role model for the girls who become attached to this series. She is the Nancy Drew for the next generation.

I loved that this book focused on a sixteen year old, but is targeted for middle grade and younger ya readers. This opens up the book to a wider audience, and allows them to grow with the series.

Axelle cares nothing about fashion. She is a serious detective who has a dream of becoming a private eye when she grows up. Not one to wait for things to happen, Axelle practices her detective work at sixteen. She works to blend in, she asks tough questions, and she shuns makeup. But then, her mother ships her to Paris during fashion week to work with her editor of a fashion magazine aunt and she kind of gets swept away. Basically, a mystery of a missing fashion designer leads Axelle on a whirlwind trip she'll never forget. She goes 'undercover' as a model to get the answers.

First of all, I loved learning about the fashion world. Most of what I know about these things come from movies and television, so it was really neat hearing the perspective from these characters, and an author who has actually been there. If you have any investment in modeling or the world of fashion, this will definitely keep you interested.

This is the kind of book that is light, but still makes you think. On the surface, it is an adorable mystery and a young girl trying to find her place in the world. But under the surface, it is a girl who is trying to adjust who

she is compared to who her mother wants her to be. This is a pretty common theme for teens — trying to be who you want to be (sometimes in spite of) who your parents want you to be. Axelle is not only thrust into a world she never wanted to be in, but learns that everything doesn't have to be all or nothing. Sometimes the world isn't black and white, but many shades of grey.

Overall, the writing in this book is incredible, the story is fantastic, and the book will keep you engaged from page one. I recommend this to all young teens who are looking for a great mystery!

This review was originally posted on Such a Novel Idea.

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### **Aoife says**

too much action

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### **Grace Sargeant says**

Really enjoyed this book.

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### **Sahar Sabati says**

Axelle Andersen has a family connection that many sixteen year-old girls dream of having: her aunt Venetia is the editor of a well-known fashion magazine based in Paris. But despite her mother's constant, almost desperate encouragement to make use of her long legs, Axelle does not want to become a fashion model. Having a knack for figuring things out and a deep desire to uncover the truth, Axelle would much rather pursue a career as a private investigator. Unfortunately, her drive gets her in trouble, and her parents decide to strongly encourage her to consider other career options by sending her to Paris for a week to intern as her aunt's assistant. Things start looking up for Axelle's aspirations when a well-known fashion designer disappears and she finds herself in the perfect place to solve a big case that would lend her hopes credence with her parents, thus opening the way for her to pursue her passion with their full support.

Although I doubt many teenagers want to become a private eye or want to look worse than they actually do, the lessons in this book remain universal. To be able to pursue her passion, Axelle hides what she really looks like. She explains that she does so to be able to blend in with the crowd. Why would she have to do so? One reason is that society trained us into unjustly tuning out people who look a certain way or paying more attention to those whose looks correspond to a narrow definition of beauty. Society also portrays beautiful people as having it easier, making Axelle's looks as a barrier to her aspirations a thought-provoking twist. Also, her desire to become a detective makes Axelle look down at those working in the fashion industry; but by the end of the book, Axelle has learned that she should not be making judgements about a world she knows nothing about, for it could offer her the very thing she wants.

Author Carina Axelsson also tackles the concept of false dichotomies. Axelle wants to become a private eye; her mother wants her to become a model. The two careers seem to be at odds, seemingly leaving Axelle and her mother in a struggle where only one option is viable. Axelle comes to realize that there is no need to make a black and white choice, and that there is a way of combining her mother's wishes for her daughter

with Axelle's ambition.

Well written and engaging, *Model Undercover: Paris*, the first in a series, takes us into the world of fashion and modeling as we follow Axelle for her week in La Ville-Lumière during fashion week. A light-hearted, fast paced, and clean page-turner, it would make a great summer read. Under the author's skilled pen, a world of renowned designers, big egos, and big names become as natural a setting as your average North American suburban utopia. For while some authors throw names around like bricks disturbing the natural flow of the story, Axelsson uses her experience as a former fashion model to make this integral part of her story seem like a day to day occurrence. If the author keeps developing Axelle's many complexities, she could become quite a healthy role model.

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### **LadyTechie says**

I received an early release copy of *Model Undercover: Paris* via NetGalley. One of the things I like about this book and other books that have teens in them is that they are quite enjoyable for adults as well. In between travels I love to read fiction based in countries outside of the U.S. Of course, Italy and Paris are my favorites so when I saw this title available at the NetGalley site my first thought was "this sounds great!" I was not disappointed. Off the top I can say that there was only thing I found odd. Axelle Anderson is a British teen who is given a trip of a lifetime, a few weeks in Paris to work as an intern in the fashion industry for her aunt. But, to Axelle it's more of a punishment since she is not interested in fashion. She hopes to be a top-notch detective and spends her spare time investigating small crimes. Her parents are trying to steer her away from this and give her the trip.

There is one thing I found a bit off. Though Axelle and her family were British the text of the book was written in American English so the characters felt American instead of British. I kept expecting Axelle to speak like a British teen but she felt very American to me. Outside of that the characters were great. Axelle makes two great friends and has some surprising things happen to her while in Paris. She gets her chance to investigate a great crime and spend some time with her Aunt Venetia who is huge in the fashion industry in Paris as an editor of a fashion magazine. She introduces Axelle to designers and Axelle in the process of becoming engrossed in the fashion industry in a huge way she gets a chance at investigating a huge case. She sees this as her opportunity to make a name for herself as a detective and discovers some surprising things in the course of her investigation. You cannot help but like Axelle and cheer her on as she works to find the answers and also as she gets a chance to do something she had absolutely no interest in and gets a bit closer to her mom, who also loves fashion.

I look forward to seeing Axelle travel and investigate more mysteries!

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### **Karen says**

This book isn't bad . . . if you turn your plausibility-meter to nil, and perhaps remove the reasoning portion of your brain. The book is, however, vastly entertaining.

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## Danniella says

Model Undercover: A Crime Of Fashion is one of the most intriguing books I've ever read, it's clear how Axelle feels about the world of fashion and being a part of it, but it's clear how much being a detective means to her and her passion shines through it. This book was excellent at keeping me guessing, the author added plenty of detail to the mystery and I could never think of who was the culprit, after rereading it, there are plenty of parts where I say, "How did I not see it?!" This book is so captivating that everyone must read it.

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## Neha Azhar says

The moment I fell head-over-heels in love with this novel...

Let me enlighten you.

First page, the first three lines:

***She was being pushed up a stairwell - of that much Belle was sure.  
"Come on, faster," urged the gruff voice behind her.  
"Do you think we're window-shopping at Chanel?"***

Yup, that's that moment.

I mean, a kidnap mystery wrapped in glamour topped with world-class brand references, covered in cheeky fashion advises/remarks? Sign. Me. The. Eff. Up! Don't forget a gorgeous sidekick who wears leather jackets and biker boots with a wicked smile. That's what I'm talking about, baby.

This is not my usual pick but after some usual bouts of depression and anxiety, with sad books topping everything off, I NEEDED a break. Aaand I'm about to start Virginia Woolf so God help me I could use all freshening up methods to wind my head around some Woolf philosophy. So I decided I'd go with Model under Cover: A Crime of Fashion. Thoroughly satisfied.

Toward the end, when I thought I had enough giggling at the expense of Italian my-tongue-refuses-to-pronounce-these names of fashion brands, Miss Carina Axelsson hits me with:

***It could't be my mum. With romance on the cards she wouldn't have rung me even if Ralph Lauren, Giorgio Armani and Coco Chanel, back from the grave, had called her asking to speak to me.***

That definitely sounds like my mother.

The best part was - which was pretty much bullshit (or so I think) but still the best part - how the protagonist chose detective work over overnight fame of being a supermodel, with brands lining up to book her and the world under her feet. I hate makeup and expensive brands and love detective work and I'd choose the latter in a heartbeat if given Axelle's choice. But then again, this specific thing makes the book really great and different from other in the genre. Also spices up the comical element.

The dialogues were outstanding; the narration fun, witty, and made me want to finish the book in a day (which I did, by the way, in less than eighteen hours), altogether a perfect combo of crime, fashion, romance

and family drama.

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