



Planet Janet

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With a Mad Cow for a mother, an eccentric psychotherapist for a father, and a dweebie for an older brother, it's no wonder sixteen-year-old Janet Bandry is ready to enter the Dark Phase of her life. As this determined British teenager sees it, the DP requires dressing in black, listening to jazz when she can find the right radio station, and thinking about Deep and Meaningful Things — when she isn't thinking about boys, what color to dye her hair, or whether her nose piercing is infected.

Planet Janet Details

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Potassium says

Beware! You are reading Janet's diary as she enters the "Dark Phase" (or DP) of her life/high school career. All I could think about during this book was "Wow... teenage girls are dramatic! Was I that dramatic?" Heh... Probably. Anyway, Janet is definitely over the top dramatic most of the time but she does point out some common feelings that I know I experienced as a teenager. Mostly those of self centeredness and being completely oblivious to the rest of the world. Janet also acts like she is completely grown up even though she seems actually very naiive. Ohhhh teenagers. I wonder if young adults would enjoy the book better/agree more with Janet than I did (only because I have exited that phase of my life).

Kristine Shahverdyan says

The book Planet Janet, took you deep in Janet's thoughts and emotions. Janet She is in a crucial time in her life and thinks she should express her feelings. However, she describes her mother as a mad cow. Her father is an eccentric psychotherapist. Janet is finally turning seventeen and she decides to go into a dark phase. During the dark phase she will dress in all black, and think more about deep and meaningful thought. She will write in her diary when she's not to busy thinking about guys and her hair or her nose piercing. Now, the question is if the dark phase, will take her to a higher level of existence. I usually don't read books like this, however I gave it a try and I really enjoyed it. I would probably recommend this for 13 year old girls.

Farah says

Dalam beberapa minggu terakhir ini, gue menghabiskan sebagian besar waktu gue untuk membaca buku-bukunya Dyan Sheldon.

Bukan karena gue ngefans banget sama tulisannya, tapi karena buku-buku itulah yang lagi diobral dengan harga yang sangat murah di bazar buku Gramedia kemarin. Dengan alasan yang cukup jelas: bahwa ceritanya ngga ada yang bagus.

Dari segi ide cerita, buat gue sebenarnya ide ceritanya begitu menarik.

Sebagai contoh, Planet Janet ini. Buku ini menceritakan tentang anak yang sebegitu fokusnya sama diri sendiri, sampe ngga bisa menyadari apa yang terjadi sama lingkungannya, dan bahkan sama keadaan keluarganya yang sebenarnya sedang berada di ambang kehancuran. Dia terlalu fokus sama dirinya sendiri; dia pikir dia normal, dan kakak laki-laki serta orang tuayalah yang ngga normal.

Di akhir cerita, baru pembaca akan tahu apa yang sedang terjadi. Dan gue malah jadi bertanya-tanya, mengapa ide cerita sebagus ini, mesti disampaikan secara tertutup? Nalar pembacanya dipaksakan untuk melihat melalui sudut pandang si tokoh utama melulu, yang berkali-kali meyakinkan bahwa dia adalah anak yang normal, dan dunia di sekelilingnya lah yang ngga normal.

Mengapa pembaca tidak diberi hint-hint yang mengarahkan kepada, "jangan kaget jika pada akhirnya kenyataan berbanding terbalik dengan apa yang selama ini kalian lihat."

Kenapa tidak bisa menyampaikan konflik dengan cara yang cerdas?

Wajar-wajar aja kalo dunia anak perempuan yang beranjak remaja akan dipenuhi dengan percintaan, konflik di sekolah. Tapi buat gue sih aneh aja, ngga ada keterikatan emosi sama sekali antara anak perempuan dan ibunya. Sekalipun dia menganggap si ibu akhir-akhir ini sakit jiwa dadakan, apalagi dia sebenarnya sudah sadar kalo ibunya dulunya ngga seperti itu.

Yang penasaran pengen baca bukunya, silakan aja dibaca. Tapi fiksi tetaplah fiksi. Dan fiksi yang satu ini, tidak merefleksikan apapun yang terjadi di dunia nyata. Karena penuturnya terlalu dibutakan oleh kacamata di gadis remaja, yang terlalu egois untuk membuka mata dan melihat keadaan disekitarnya.

Ariel says

Two places I've been very suprized to find books are the local dollar store and just about any thrift shop (Such as Goodwill). Going to a Goodwill one day, I happened to see this book and decided to get it, thinking it would be a simple kids or super early teens book I could finish in a few days, I was wrong. This book is not for kids, or early teens even, it's for more mature teens or even slight twenties. I was happily suprized at this book, and I auctualy enjoyed reading it. The best part was I could relate to it in some ways. Like with the parents constantly fighting over stupid stuff. It was kind of funny too, and I really liked the fact it was set in England. While teens are teens, it's funny to get a take on how British teenagers live, even if it is somewhat smiliar to teens around me. However, if there is another and it is a series, I might not read the next for fear of having to auctualy track it down (Since I came across this one by complete chance) and that it might ruin what I like about this one. But I'd probably read it again.

Anastasia says

This review was originally published at Birdbrain(ed) Book Blog on January 25, 2012!

Diaries-as-books are some of my favorite things, and I especially like reading teenage diaries. Maybe because I find them so funny nowadays? Teenagers can be melodramatic and selfish and very silly-- and Janet's all those things. In a funny way, of course! Well, mostly funny.

The funny bits stem primarily from Janet's complete inability to understand what's going on around her. She's 16, convinced she needs to go through a "Dark Phase" (which consists mainly of listening to jazz, wearing black clothes, and thinking deep thoughts) before she gets any older, and in despair of her very uncool family. Luckily she's got a diary where she can write everything down!

So Janet's basically a normal Western teen who thinks her family is weird and that she's super special and that her friends are the best people ever. Which is adorable! And also hilarious, the way Dyan Sheldon write it. And, also, kind of annoying, if that sort of thing annoys rather than entertains you.

I'll admit that while I was entertained for the most part, I was annoyed with Janet for being such a dunderhead. She's so self-involved that she doesn't realize her parents are going through big problems, that her brother is being stalked, and that she's being fought over by two of her friends. I didn't find it particularly charming, either, that her codename for her mother was "The Mad Cow."

Sometimes it's nice when the reader realizes things that the protagonist doesn't, and then we see the

protagonist realize those things and it changes them, etc. But when Janet finally figured all that stuff out, it didn't change her at all! Which is a shame, because some character growth at the end would have been very refreshing. I like my comedy books with a bit more depth, I suppose.

Still, *Planet Janet* is a cute book, with some fun plotlines and a great setting (London!). The characters are all ridiculous, but in a lovable kind of way, and while I don't think it's as LOL-funny as some other YA diary books it's still pretty entertaining. I'd read the sequels!

Scarlet says

These are very usual things that happen to us, teenagers. But *Planet Janet* is just so over. If it was me, I wouldn't start the Dark Phase. Just listening to Jazz is no use to me. I wouldn't call my beloved mom Mad Cow, too. Ok. Janet isn't Scarlet.

Gloria Fransisca Katharina says

Quote:

"Orang berpikir cetek dilarang membaca buku harianku."

Planet Janet!!! Buku zaman SMP yang benar-benar mempengaruhi cara berpikirku tentang seorang remaja berhadapan realitas yang tidak menyenangkan dalam keluarga dan lingkungannya. Gugatan-gugatan seorang remaja perempuan tentang kehidupan, dan pertanyaan-pertanyaan soal jatuh cinta yang mulai dirasakan.

Segera berpisah dengan buku ini supaya dia bisa mempengaruhi anak muda lain di seluruh Indonesia. Terima Kasih, Dyan Sheldon!!!

Anna says

I read 102 pages. I couldn't do anymore. This truly is Bridget Jones' Diary but a teen version of it. Lots of babble and no real point. "Cutesy" observations about the harsh world only they are not cute or entertaining. Not my cup of tea.

Marie says

Good book for teachers to use as an example of an unreliable narrator and for learning to read between the lines. Also a handy glossary in the back for young American readers to learn some English dialect.

The main character is an English teenager who fancies herself a deep, intellectual person and sees her family as shallow idiots, when the opposite is true. It's fun piecing together the clues from Janet's anecdotes to figure out what's really going on. However, Janet's constant cluelessness may become tiresome for readers who want someone more intelligent as a main character. It's all in fun, though, so don't take it too seriously. (view spoiler) The voice of Janet is relatable and appealing, so it's worth checking out if you're a teen or

enjoy the occasional foray into the teen world.

Ruby says

I had a hard time getting through this book because Janet was the type of teen that makes you want to shake some sense into her (more than likely, even many teens would want to slap some sense into her). Sadly, I found her self-absorbed nature too realistic in terms of many of the young people today. The “I’m too deep and intelligent for anyone to understand me” is a common theme, and this was just too “in-your-face” to make Janet a likeable character.

Kaymon Neal says

"Planet Janet" is an excellent book and I would recommend it to teens like me. The main character Janet is just like any other average teen. Going through a dramatic phase of teenhood with her best friend Disha. The title, I think, fits the book perfectly. She's alone and nobody understands her. It's like she's on her own little planet that orbits Earth trying to communicate but the Earthlings don't understand. Janet's parents were a spot on representation of parents dealing with teens. Her mother "the mad cow" is very stern and has no logic behind her actions. Janet's father "sigmund" doesn't really care what Janet does just as long as it doesn't cost him money. Her brother Justin is an annoying older brother still living with his parents. This book really didn't have a goal to achieve. It's Janet's diary so you're just seeing her life as she sees fit. The plot of this book was unique. Usually when you have book like this it's in the united states. This book takes place in the UK. With this setting you're introduced to new kinds of vocabulary. For instance a Hoover is a vacuum cleaner. Bisquits are crackers and the list goes on. I felt like the end of the book had some loose ends let untied. And I guess the author thought so too because she made a sequel. Janet's parent's marriage begins to fray so something must be done.... Once again "Planet Janet" is an excellent book and teens and adults can relate to the story of Janet Brandry.

Sarah Crawford says

This is a book about a British girl, Janet Foley, who is 16 and going through a dark phase. She calls her mother the Mad Cow, and she has a psychotherapist for a father. The book is also written in an unusual style in which certain words will appear in bold print and in different, usually fancy fonts.

Unfortunately, that's about all I can say good about the book. It is very rare when a book proves so boring to me that I don't bother to finish it, but this is one of those cases. After reading around a third plus of the book, I found that I just had absolutely no desire to try and slog through the last two-thirds.

I found what I did read to be horribly boring. It's usually written in a diary style and usually that will be interesting, but not in this case. I didn't find any of the characters interesting at all. I didn't find what was going on to be that interesting. One of the very, very few books that I have given up on.

Janine says

I'm not the target market for this book but I read it for research purposes on YA fiction. I found *Planet Janet* to be mildly amusing with a few standout lines that were very funny. What I felt the book lacked was a coherent narrative drive and enough character development to make me feel it was worthwhile to slog right through to the end. Janet's self-obsession is not overly endearing or easy to stomach and some of the plot developments were too OTT for my taste (eg. who puts up with a stalker living on their doorstep without taking out a restraining order? Also, it had really never occurred to Janet's mother that she could kick her philandering husband out until Janet mentioned it???)

The lack of realism aside in the plot, I think the author made the error of treating this book too much like a real diary which is just a collection of thoughts and observations. To be a compelling read even an epistolary novel needs to have something at stake for the main character. The only coherent thread running through this book was Janet's desire for Elvin, but this wasn't developed enough to pull me into the story in a significant way. The focus on the DP didn't play much role in the storyline apart from occasional references.

Overall I felt *Planet Janet* was trying a too hard to be *Adrian Mole* and that it sacrificed a coherent plot and well-rounded narrator to superficial humour.

Kricket says

aaaand yet another book i felt sorry for and took home (my bedside table is piled with them.) this was cute and funny, and also british, which made it less cutesy cute and more lots-of-hilarious-british-slang cute. janet is a ridiculously self-absorbed teenager exploring her "dark phase" by thinking intellectual thoughts, wearing black clothing, and seeking the company of mature older men. meanwhile she is completely oblivious to the problems of her family & friends. this was amusing at times but became annoying to the point where i'm going to skip the sequel. still, a fun read that fans of georgia nichols & my new friend angelica cookson potts might enjoy.

Jennifer says

Basically the main character tries to alter herself just to get close to her crush. Whatever she does always ends up making her feel like life is always against her. To top it all off, with a dysfunctional family it makes her situation more or less annoying—the lack of communication and respect sort of triggers this small behavior of "Just LEAVE me ALONE!"

Again this was a filler for time and this was definitely something that I would not pick up twice. I personally thought this book had to do with a character that went through something life changing, but all it was, was the thought process of a young teenage girl who is not willing to be herself around others—hence the self alterations. Anyway, I would recommend this book to people who like to eat the and get full off of a dumb teens decision.
