



# Identity Crisis

*Melissa Schorr*

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*Who does she think she is?*

Annalise's audacious freshman-year hookup with Cooper Franklin has a trio of friends thirsting for revenge. So they catfish Annalise by creating the perfect virtual guy, with Noelle playing along reluctantly only because her lifelong crush, Cooper, is in love with Annalise. As Annalise falls for it, even scoring tickets to the concert of the year for her and her mythical new guy, Noelle feels more and more guilty. Then, the whole thing blows up. Annalise must face her betrayers and decide whether or not she can ever forgive.

## Identity Crisis Details

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Author : Melissa Schorr

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# From Reader Review Identity Crisis for online ebook

## Crina (Reading Addict) says

Original post on Reading Addict

I went into this book without expectations, to be honest, because this genre is a hit or miss for me. And this time it was a hit!

This book kept me busy for few hours and I had so much fun reading it, trying to guess what was going to happen, and I failed, and I ended caring so much for the characters, even though I tried not to.

But I can't speak about the plot without giving you spoilers, so I'll shut up. But I can tell you that if you want a fun and easy read this is perfect. If you want something romantic and fluffy this is good. And also, if you like revenge stories and things that turn up completely different in the end then this is a good pick.

Identity crisis is a novel that deals with a ton of stuff, even if is short and you read it so fast, the tone is light and you have the impression that everything is pink and happy as the cover. But if you look closer and you read between the lines, more serious themes are discussed and really well, to be honest. Especially this read being a YA contemporary and you don't expect that to happen. I didn't. And also the fact that we have the insta-messages makes the lecture even more fun and full of suspense.

I wasn't expecting this book to keep me guessing and play with my mind, and hit me with so many twists and turns and I'm so glad that I've read it. It left me with a smile on my face and a warm feeling inside. This is a great book for young readers but also if you read other genres or you are older than the characters. Because putting the highschool life aside, you can feel the serious nuances and issues thrown in it, between funny and fluffy things. You can see the consequences of something that started just innocent and people paying for it. You can take this book both serious and entertaining, and I think that is a win-win for everyone.

You can read this if you want something easy, relaxing, with romance and drama, or you can read it if you want revenge, twists, action, suspense and more serious stuff. You can read it as a teenager or older and I think you'll have lots of fun! I did!

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## Nicole Hewitt says

This review and many more can be found on my blog: [Feed Your Fiction Addiction](#)

I really enjoyed *Identity Crisis* because I felt like it was a somewhat lighter take (though not too light) on what can be a very serious issue – and sometimes we need that. There are lots of “issue” books out there, and they’re all important, but they might not always feel accessible, especially to a younger YA crowd. This one does.

The synopsis describes the book pretty accurately, so I’m just going to jump straight into my review

### What I enjoyed:

The issue of catfishing explored.

Unfortunately, in today's age of technology, catfishing is a very real issue – it's far too easy for a person to pretend to be someone they're not. And bullying in this way is certainly not unheard of – some kids may see catfishing as a fun "joke" and others might be using it to be intentionally cruel – but either way it's not a laughing matter. The fact is that being made a fool of in this manner is hurtful and leaves the victim feeling used and confused and more than a little sad. And, of course, then there are the cases where catfishing can be truly dangerous – where the perpetrator has harmful intentions. YA readers (and, really, all of us) need to be aware of these types of dangers and any book that helps them recognize the signs of this sort of situation is a positive, as far as I'm concerned.

Noelle and Annalise.

This book was written from the perspectives of both Noelle and Annalise. Noelle has felt pressured to go along with her friends' actions and finds it nearly impossible to stand up for herself in the beginning of the book (we see lots of growth there, though!). I think that she embodies a lot of teenagers out there who know that certain actions are wrong, but they don't feel strong enough to stand up to their peers – especially their friends. Noelle never feels comfortable with what she's doing, but she ends up finding an actual bond with Annalise and holds onto the guise partially because of that. Annalise, on the other hand, was possibly a bit naive (there were signs that her online love interest wasn't real that she chose to ignore – but that's pretty much human nature), but she was a stronger person in general. She stood up for herself and didn't let people walk all over her. That doesn't mean she wasn't hurt by the actions against her – after all, even strong people feel pain when people treat them badly – but she never let the mean girls at her school "win." She never gave up her own sense of self-worth. I appreciated that an unlikely friendship that developed between Noelle and Annalise online – two very different girls who both felt alienated and needed someone to talk to. (I almost thought for a little while that the book was headed toward a romance between the two girls, but it didn't go that way – which I was kind of glad about because the issue of sexuality seems a little too complex to cover in an online context – just because you connect with someone online doesn't mean that you're going to be attracted to them in person!)

### **The negatives:**

Easy ending.

The only flaw with this book is that things were wrapped up a little too quickly and easily at the end. I would have liked to have seen a little bit more of the actual repercussions of everything that happened. Still, I did feel like the happily ever after ending kept the book lighter – and, like I said, I appreciate a lighter take on these types of subjects sometimes!

I felt like this book took a serious subject and shed light on it without getting too heavy. It definitely fills void in YA fiction in that way. Just to set the expectations, I feel like I should mention that there's barely a hint of romance in the book (unless you count the fact that Annalise thinks she's starting to feel romantically toward someone who doesn't exist – and there's one other romantic angle, but it's more of a side note than anything). Romance isn't the point of this book, which I find kind of refreshing for YA. Overall, I give this one 4/5 stars.

*\*\*\*Disclosure: I received this book from Edelweiss and the publisher in exchange for an honest review. No other compensation was given and all opinions are my own.\*\*\**

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## **Emily♥ says**

A chapter and a half.

That's as far as I got into Identity Crisis before I couldn't read anymore.

I'm sure if were reading this as a 14 year old, I would have loved it.

But the juvenile language ("puh-leeze", I rolled my eyes at this), the dissing of Kanye (even the god awful chick in Fangirl loved Kanye) and country (but have you SEEN Luke Bryan), was all too dramatic for me.

From what I read though, it seems like a mix between Mean Girls and Catfish and a One Direction concert.

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## **Jennifer Alvarez says**

This is a great book! I found myself completely engrossed in the characters and the story line. As the mother of two teens, I can tell you that this author nailed suburban high school teen life. The characters leap off the page, the drama is just right, and the parents feel as real as their kids. No one is all good or all bad--they're complex, as people are. I thoroughly enjoyed the storytelling. This novel is perfectly plotted and paced.

Besides being an enjoyable read, this book speaks volumes to today's teens and the social media pressures they endure. You can be whoever you want behind your avatar, or you can more yourself than you are in person. The problem is this: How does anyone know if you're authentic or genuine?

This compelling novel explores online relationships, identities, and a modern phenomenon called catfishing. Catfishing is the crafting of a false identity to lure someone into a romantic relationship. This isn't just something that happens on dating sites, this happens in America's high schools too. This book is an excellent choice for teens, parents, and educators!

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## **Kristen (kaymaldo) says**

3.5 stars

Identity Crisis follows the story of a girl named Annalise whose high school career goes downhill when a rumor spreads about what happened between her and the boyfriend of the school's queen bee Eva at the Freshman Fling. It's a year later, but no one's forgotten about it, especially Eva and her minions, Tori and Noelle. When Noelle's crush Cooper starts flirting with Annalise (who is totally not interested!), Eva forms a plan to catfish Annalise to get revenge for the Freshman Fling and keep her away from Cooper for Noelle. But now Noelle, the quiet one in the group, is tasked with keeping up the facade of Declan, a super Brass Knuckles fan and Annalise's dream guy. The only problem? She starts to feel bad about it. And when she begins to learn the truth about what really happened between Annalise and Eva's boyfriend, she feels even worse.

This book flips between the perspectives of Annalise and Noelle and focuses on the issues of high school rumors, online bullying, Catfishing, speaking up for yourself, and doing the right thing despite what others may think. The story ends in a neat little package with loose ends tied and everyone ending up with who they're supposed to. This was a fun, quick read and I recommend it to anyone who enjoys stories about high school drama and the Internet.

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## **Michelle (Pink Polka Dot Books) says**

Identity Crisis is an adorable book that is so very high school. Annalise, a Brass Knuckles fangirl (think: Directioner), finds out she didn't get tickets to the band's one and only concert in Boston. Annalise isn't the most popular girl. Ever since 7th grade she's been receiving unwanted attention due to her overly developed chest. Everyone thinks she's lucky, but all the guys act like pigs around her, and all the girls think she's a slut.

Noelle is part of the popular clique. Her BFF Eva has had it out for Annalise ever since the incident that happened with Eva's boyfriend. When Noelle's crush starts showing interest in Annalise, Eva decides something must be done. She decides to make up a fake online profile to catfish Annalise away from Cooper. The thing is, Eva (the mastermind) leaves the dirty work up to Noelle who doesn't really want to do this at all. Along the way, Noelle finds out that there's more to Annalise than she thought. When things blow up, Noelle misses the bond she felt when talking to Annalise, while Annalise decides she's getting revenge.

Even though this book felt a tad young for me (a 30-something), I thought it was the perfect young people book. I loved the way the 2 narrators felt like they were talking directly to me. I felt an instant connection to both Annalise and Noelle. They both have a cute, honest sense of humor and two distinct personalities. Both sides of the story kept me reading. Some of the IM-ing conversations were a little irritating. I kind of don't like "teen talk". Okay, I really don't like "teen talk", especially if it sounds like an adult trying to mimic the way teens talk. There was some of that going on. But not too much. I also had a lot of cringing moments when Annalise talked of her crush on boy band member Viggo Witts. It was like visiting a One Direction or Justin Bieber fan page and reading comments from girls who think they are "so misunderstood" and "if they could just meet me, I know we'd have an instant connection". But I am reading YA here, so I will overlook that.

Throughout the book I felt terrible for Annalise. It made me think of all the things that teenagers deal with because of all the internets stuff. And YIKES!! I'm so glad that stuff wasn't possible for most of my childhood. The internet really wasn't a "thing" until I was in high school... and then it was all AOL chat rooms and IMs, until Facebook came in on it's demon train. I'm sure people were "catfished" (although that particular term didn't exist), but the online bullying and the invasion of privacy stuff wasn't happening much at all. I also feel so grateful that all my stupid mistakes from back then weren't documented for the world to see.

I love books that show issues like these. Catfishing someone is serious stuff. Making someone think that they're connecting with someone in order to humiliate them?? It's pretty sick and very sad. I thought this book did a good job at showing it, without glamorizing it.

**OVERALL: I loved the way I connected with the writing and characters' voices. It deals with heavy issues, while also being completely adorable and fun. It's definitely a high school book with a high**

**school feel. I would more recommend to high school age readers because of that.**

**My Blog:**

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**Jess says**

This and other reviews can be found on <http://princessicaofbooks.wordpress.com>.

*\*I was sent this from the author for reviewing purposes.\**

Melissa Schorr tells a modern story of technology, romance, and the problems that come with it.

Technology, specifically the Internet, is a risk. Everytime I post, tweet, email, etc., that data will forever be there. I can't erase it, which is why it's important to be careful of what you put online. I'm not trying to lecture you all about Internet safety. No, this book will do it for me.

Identity Crisis is the perfect story for modern technology and the risk that comes with it. It is pretty short; my ARC is two-hundred-twenty pages. However, I find that it covers a pretty serious and unknown problem we may occur everyday-- catfishing.

In case you missed last night's MTV special, catfishing is " [to] lure (someone) into a relationship by means of a fictional online persona." This is what the main character, Annalise, goes through. After some drama, her arch-nemesis decides to catfish her for revenge. However, she leaves it up to one of her followers, Noelle, to handle it. Of course, Noelle starts to care about Annalise and it just goes south from there. I really liked how Annalise handles it though. She is actually pretty tough, now that I'm thinking about it.

The characters really got into my head, but in the best way possible. Every emotion I was suppose to feel-- sadness for Annalise, anger towards Eva, annoyance at Tori-- I felt it. Schorr does a fantastic job of creating her characters and making them relatable. I was able to picture real people in my life fitting into the roles of the characters in this book.

I will admit that I thought of DNFing this one early in the beginning because the language was just so high-school and the conflict was all started over some petty drama. It kind of reminded me why I don't read books that take place in high school that often. I mean, not every1 talks like dis. it's kinda annoying, tbh. I also felt that Annalise was pretty naive. Didn't she know not to meet random people? That DecOlan's excuses were a

little vague? That everything she does will forever be on the Internet?

I also wouldn't have minded if this turned into a LGBTQ+ story. Mild spoiler: it doesn't.

Overall, Identity Crisis covers a really important but also unknown issue, especially in the twenty-first century. For these reasons, I'll be giving Identity Crisis four out of five stars.

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### **Monica Tesler says**

I was lucky to read an Advance Reader's Copy of IDENTITY CRISIS. A brief encounter with the boyfriend of a popular girl leads to Annalise's reputation being trashed. She finds escape in the online fandom of her favorite band. But the mean girls still have it out for poor Annalise. When queen bee Eva hatches her next plan to humiliate Annalise--posing as a guy fan online and seducing her--Eva assigns the dirty work to one of her lackeys, Noelle. But the longer Noelle chats with Annalise online--safe behind the avatar of the dream guy--the more she comes to question what they're doing. When you're in that deep, though, there's no easy way out.

This was a great, gripping story of mean girls with today's technology. But to say it's a mean girls story really sells the narrative short. Annalise is independent and resilient, despite being the target of a catfish prank. The story is told in dual narrative, so we also get a glimpse inside of Noelle's perspective. Even though Noelle is the main perpetrator of the online prank, her character is sympathetic, and a great example of how easy it is to get swept up in online bullying, particularly as part of a group. Adding in great teen voices and a fun overarching plot line about an of-the-moment band, IDENTITY CRISIS is a terrific read for teens and anyone enjoying relatively clean, contemporary YA.

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### **Carol Masciola says**

Highly recommended. This is a very suspenseful story of a cat-and-mouse game between a clique of high school girls, led by nasty ringleader Eva, who are conspiring to trick a girl they're jealous of (Annalise) into thinking she has an online boyfriend. But the plan crumbles, leading to unexpected friendships and shifting alliances, when one of the clique decides what they're doing is wrong. You sure get a dose of the hazards of high school here. What a dangerous recipe, adolescence plus social media.

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## **Ally says**

I receive a copy in exchange for an honest review.

The internet is a scary place for many people. We hear a lot of things about a man selling something on Craigslist and then butchering people when they approach him for a sweet buy. We hear about mysterious scammers in Nigeria taking hundreds of thousands of dollars from unsuspecting individuals. But what we haven't heard is the emotional toll on these victims. And that is where Identity Crisis comes in.

Catfishing is a very serious crime. (Please don't think that this is a light prank. There is nothing light and funny about this prank.) Noelle and her friends cruelly decides to play a nasty "prank/joke" on Annalise by catfishing her. While Annalise thinks she is talking to this cute boy who likes the exact same things she likes, Noelle knows better. And shoving down most of her guilt, Noelle continues the prank her friends started. It's a cruel thing, and kids... are sometimes very nasty to one another.

The prank is almost bullying. Is bullying, actually.

From the very beginning, it is so clear that Noelle is doomed once Annalise finds out. Despite knowing the ending, I can't help but chew my nails out in anticipation and continue reading for the prank's inevitable downfall and its conclusion. Will Annalise forgive? Will Noelle feel regret? What will these two girls do now? It's an addicting storyline that shows the rise of the prank, the discovery, and the reconstruction of the girls' relationship.

Annalise is a character with less development when compared to Noelle. Of course, readers can't help but root for Annalise when she is being catfished and horribly humiliated. Then there is Noelle, who is wrangled into the entire conflict because of her friends. Noelle, who feels undeniably guilty for being a part of this, has a problem with her conscience, and she is unable to say a thing when Annalise discovers everything. Noelle (who is a narrator/character I strongly empathize and understand) gets into heaps of trouble, and she really does be better. Noelle is a far more complex and interesting character than Annalise.

The ending is perhaps the weakest part of the book. It rushes the story, and Annalise (too) quickly forgives Noelle for catfishing. It seems to be a huge letdown for angst. (It also makes this story for a little light reading, but I'm utterly disappointed that no one is punished. Catfishing... It's dangerous, not all fun and games.)

Overall, Identity Crisis is told from the perspective of two girls. It has an awesome and nail-biting plot, and the conflict is simply irresistible. Noelle is a character most readers can probably empathize with. The story is unique, and it's definitely for those who are looking for something out of the ordinary.

Rating: Three out of Five

-ofpaperandwords.blogspot.com

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## **Gaby Onorati says**

I thought that it was an interesting topic and story line and that it had the potential to be a great book. I feel

that the writing was mediocre I enjoyed the book but I feel it was executed poorly. It was a quick read and some parts were really sweet and I definitely shipped Noelle and Cooper, but I feel I would've enjoyed the book more if it was written in a different way.

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### **Kimi (Geeky Chiquitas) says**

Light and easy read! Way past reading books about high school drama but enjoyed reading this one nonetheless.

Full review soon! :)

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### **C.A. says**

Hmmm. This is a hard book to rate. On one hand it was good. It was interesting and entertaining from the very beginning, I didn't put the book down for a second since I started, which wasn't much of a problem because it was a short read and only took a little over 2 hours for me to finish. I was always satisfied with the ending, which is good because I HATE dissatisfying endings. And then there were a lot of likable characters, and interesting sub plots, and the author always managed to keep me on the edge of my seat. So that was great.

But I was expecting a light little chick - lit read. Something with petty girl drama and funny moments and boy troubles. But this book was actually a bit more serious than the cover and the blurb gave off. It dealt with issues including divorce, bullying, parent infidelity, parent job loss, etc. I felt really bad for Annalise throughout the story. My heart hurt for her. And ugh Eva was just so awful. I know the reader was supposed to hate her, but still. I couldn't stand her. That's part why I was so content with the ending. But yeah this book caused more sadness than happiness for me, and I didn't even get much out of it, so reading it felt like kinda a waste of time. And the plot seemed kind of like basic at times. Not the content of it, but the frame. With the POV switching between Annalise and Noelle, it started to feel a bit like a routine. It got pretty predictable, like because we knew what happened with Annalise, we'd know what was going to be happening in the next chapter with Noelle, and vice versa.

But these are just my personal opinions, and I know that I'm just overly sensitive so the book of course made me sad, which is why I only took off 2 stars. I know that this book was, to an extent, realistic and well written. And the character development was good. Overall the book was good, but it honestly wasn't great, and if I found out there was a sequel to this, I wouldn't in the least bit be interested in reading it. So yeah, this book gets 3 stars.

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### **Maryam Dinzly says**

I definitely enjoyed this book, given the fact that it was fast-paced. It was written in two different point of view - Annalise and Noelle. This makes the story much more interesting as we get to see two different perspectives in which one of them is the bully, and the other is the victim.

Noelle was my favorite character by far, despite being the "*bad*" one in the book because I loved seeing her

character develop, as she tried to battle between doing what she assumed was right, and doing what really is right. I actually had a love-hate relationship with her character, because I do admit that there were times when her actions made me wanna pull my hair out.

Annalise was basically the victim in this book, and I feel that her character gave a refreshing meaning to this book. It's like, she does want to get revenge, but at the same time, she doesn't want to stoop as low as her bullies. And I cheered for her, every time she stood up for herself, because for some weird reasons, main characters **tend to not stand up for themselves**.

Basically the whole story touches on the topic of cyber bully and self-identity, and I honestly think that this was one of the best 2016 books that I've read so far.

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## **CassieRose says**

**\*I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review\***

Identity Crisis cover a very important topic in this era of technology, the fact that a computer screen is easy to hide behind and that not everyone is who they say they are. This story alternates back and forth between the perspective of Annalise, a sophomore that has been wrongly accused of hooking up with Eva's (the most popular girl in school) boyfriend at the freshman fling, and Noelle, who is smart, shy and close friends with Eva.

Eva wants revenge for Annalise's "hookup" with her boyfriend and she suckers Noelle into her plan of Catfishing Annalise by saying it is the only way to keep Annalise from Cooper, the guy that Noelle has had crush on forever. Noelle ends up being put in charge of the catfishing and slowly after talking to Annalise she feels a connection and starts to feel bad for what her and her friends are doing to Annalise. When things start to go south Noelle panics that she will end up in serious trouble for what she has been doing.

Melissa Schorr did a wonderful job creating her characters and making them easy to relate to even if you are not in high school. I really connected with the emotions that the author was trying to get her readers to feel and this is one of the many things I enjoyed in this book.

I would definitely recommend this book to people that enjoy you adult fiction but I want to also point out that if you don't want to read something that revolves around high school drama then this is not the book for you. I really enjoyed this book and I am glad I was given the chance to enjoy it.

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