



Life After Theft

Aprilynne Pike

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Moving to a new high school sucks. Especially a rich-kid private school. With uniforms. But nothing is worse than finding out the first girl you meet is dead. And a klepto.

No one can see or hear Kimberlee except Jeff, so--in hopes of bringing an end to the snarkiest haunting in history--he agrees to help her complete her "unfinished business." But when the enmity between Kimberlee and Jeff's new crush, Sera, manages to continue posthumously, Jeff wonders if he's made the right choice.

Clash meets sass in this uproarious modern-day retelling of Baroness Orczy's *The Scarlet Pimpernel*.

Life After Theft Details

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Author : Aprilynne Pike

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From Reader Review Life After Theft for online ebook

Anastasia says

I received the book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

This is my second book by Aprilynne Pike, after reading her book EarthBound, I knew I had to read her other books! I was so happy I did! It definitely did not disappoint me, but it did surprise me. After reading summary of the book, I thought it will be some funny, light read, but it wasn't all that funny or exactly light. Jeff is the narrator of the story, and I love that the story was told from male perspective! Jeff comes to a new rich, private school. On his first day he walks in the hallway and sees a girl laying on the floor in the middle of the hallway, and of course he now thinks that the school doesn't seem that bad anymore (because of the hot girl laying in the middle of the hallway). But he then finds out that he is the only one who can see her, and at first he thinks he is going crazy, but then Kimberlee proves that she is a ghost, and not his imagination. She said she's stuck as a ghost and can't move on because of her unfinished business, and asks him to help her...or if he doesn't she will hunt him for life. You see, she is not really a nice ghost, she is an ex-popular, spoiled, mean girl. He agrees, but not only because of her threat, but also because he feels sorry for her. She said she just needs him to return some things she stole...what he didn't expect is a cave FULL of stolen stuff. He now sees that Kimberlee is a total kleptomaniac, but he still agrees to help her. So the story goes on, on his little adventure trying to get all of the stolen stuff back to people, almost everyone in his new school, and every store in the mall. While on his tasks, he meets a girl Sera, which Kimberlee is enemies with. Then he starts finding out secrets about Kimberlee's and Sera's past, and they are some dark little secrets. Kimberlee is not making his life easy for him, with trying to get him away from Sera and returning her stolen stuff faster. I really liked the book plot, I was glad it was not just light, romance story, but also a little dark. There were only some little parts that were a little bit unbelievable to me, but they were small, and it didn't ruin the story, and anyway its fiction:D

I really liked Jeff's character. I felt like he was a developed character, and really believable. I really liked how he was trying to do the right things through out the book, even if it made his life not easy...at all. I also liked Kimberlee. I know that she is a total bitch, and mean and you know everything else, but I actually liked her mean character. It made her relationship with Jeff a lot more interesting to follow. What character I didn't really like was Sera. Through out the whole book I thought she was a fake, like everything she did was an act...I don't if that's the expression the author wanted to leave. I did liked her brother though! He was cool, and I liked how protective he was. Oh! I almost forgot! I also liked Jeff's parents, I think a lot of teens would want their parents to be like his...actually I probably like them, because they remind me of my parents, because my parents are also chill like that:D

Overall, I really enjoyed this book. It was a fast read to me, and Aprilynne Pike is definitely a great writer, now I have to check out her other books. If you are looking for a fast, easy, at times funny and a little dark read, you should definitely read "Life After Theft"!

Jessica says

I was pleasantly surprised by this book. I liked it a lot. It had a very unique story and was well written. It's a quick and fun read.

Blythe says

Actual Rating: 3.5 stars

Life After Theft really surprised me. What I had originally expected to be an at least semi-fun read with little to no depth whatsoever soon turned out to be an entirely fun read with an appropriate undertone of depth, right up until the final chapter, which still makes me sad just thinking about it. Adding to what expectations I had in store for me prior to reading *Life After Theft*, I had anticipated a typical high school drama, poor writing, and poor character development, due to some reviews for the author's other young adult series from trusted friends of mine.

Those expectations, too, were not were not *entirely* met throughout the duration of *Life After Theft*, and with that I am able to say with complete and utter certainty that *Life After Theft* exceeded each and every one of my expectations. While a pretty large focus in *Life After Theft* is high school, and, inevitably, the drama going on inside it, that focus was met with an interesting and refreshing twist, although some if not most of the later revelations concerning high school drama were ones I saw miles away considering the fact that they've all been done before in most novels with high school drama. And as for my expectation of poor writing in *Life After Theft*, I'm thrilled to say that I absolutely enjoyed the fun, witty, and simple--yet not overly so--manner in which this novel was written, and it felt fitting to the plot.

But, with all of those positives, I have to say that my absolute favorite thing in *Life After Theft* was the character development. While not entirely unforeseen or original in concept, the character development was original in execution, and was incredibly well-written and believably paced. Of all the characters in the novel, I at the very least liked and at the very most loved the vast majority of them, the only character I can think of that I didn't like being the main character, Jeff, who, unfortunately, I found to be annoying, at times judgmental, with a mostly unbelievable male voice. However, despite that, I definitely grew to adore Kimberlee, whose relationship with Jeff is met with just as much development as her own character, and Sera, Jeff's girlfriend throughout the majority of the novel.

Thoroughly enjoyable, compulsively readable, and ultimately surprising in quality, *Life After Theft*, once again, exceeded each and every one of my expectations. And while I did find portions of it to be frustrating, mostly due to some of Jeff's actions and remarks, *Life After Theft* managed to impress me practically unremittingly, and I'm very glad I took a chance and chose to read it.

Ceilidh says

Did not finish.

I almost never DNF. This book beat me. It was just awful in every way. Juvenile prose, irritating characters, banal plot, nothing worked at all.

Fafa's Book Corner says

Mini review:

DNF

This is the second time that I've read this book. I've realized that my problem with this book is the writing style. Something about it read ridiculous and very dumb. I think this would've made a better movie than a book. Maybe it's better as an audio book. But I can't deal with audio books because I lose focus and feel like sleeping.

I definitely recommend this! The friendship that forms between Kimberlee and Jeff is sweet. And maybe you'll like the writing style better than I did.

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales.

Quick & Dirty: A fun, witty YA contemporary read with a paranormal twist and a good message.

Opening Sentence: I HATE THIS SCHOOL.

The Review:

Jeff has just recently moved to Santa Monica and has to start a new school. His family moved to Hollywood so his mom could pursue her dreams of being an actress. He is going to a private school full of rich kids, and horrible uniforms. On his first day things start to look up when he sees a very hot girl laying on the floor blowing a bubble. Then he finds out that the girl is dead and only he can see her, so much for things looking up.

Kimberlee drowned in an accident about a year and a half ago and she has been stuck as a ghost ever since. No one has ever been able to see or hear her until Jeff. Kimberlee had a pretty big stealing problem while she was alive, and if she ever wants to move on she needs Jeff to help her return everything she took. Jeff, being the nice guy he is, agrees to help her, but when he sees how much stuff she took the task becomes pretty daunting. Then Jeff starts to fall for a girl at his new school, but it turns out her and Kimberlee didn't get along very well while she was alive. Death hasn't changed their disdain for each other and Jeff is wondering if he made the right decision to help Kimberlee.

The book is all told from Jeff's point of view, and I have to say that it was refreshing to read from a male POV. Jeff is funny and a little nerdy, but he is a really good person. He is pretty laid back and likes who he is. He really wants to help Kimberlee, but he also likes that he is helping all the people she stole from as well. Jeff tries to always see the best in people even when there aren't a whole lot of good things to see. I really loved Jeff, he has a great personality and it was fun to get inside his head.

Kimberlee was your typical beautiful rich girl. She was mean and unhappy for most of her human life, and she hasn't really changed much since becoming a ghost. She had a serious problem when it came to stealing, she tried to stop but it would make her physically ill when she did. That resulted in a cave full of things that belonged to other people, and she had no way to give it back until she meets Jeff. Kimberlee hates being a ghost, so she swallows her pride and asks Jeff for his help. Kimberlee is snarky and annoying at times, but she has a few redeeming moments throughout the book. She was a good contradiction to Jeff's good boy persona, and I enjoyed learning her story.

This was a really fun read for me. There is witty banter, laugh out loud moments, memorable characters, and a good story. The plot was a little predictable, but there were a few fun surprises. This was a fast read and I enjoyed it the whole way through. The highlight of the book was the message Pike was trying to communicate to the readers. Everyone has made mistakes, but we always have a choice to become what type of person we want to be. I have been a fan of Pike's work for a while now; her writing style is very entertaining and fun. I would highly recommend this to anyone that likes a good laugh, but also appreciates an underlining good message.

Notable Scene:

She tilted her head to the back of the cave. I turned and blinked, letting my eyes adjust to the darkness. When they finally did, my jaw dropped.

There must have been a hundred boxes stacked in the back of the cave, which was way deeper than I'd expected. "A few things? A few things! Are you insane?" My voice echoed through the cave, repeating my words back to me.

"Jeff. . ." Her voice was uncharacteristically quiet.

"This is ridiculous. You lied to me."

"I did not."

"No one in their right mind would ever classify this as 'a few things. You lied to get me up here and hoped you could just flutter your eyes and it would be all better. Well, it's not.'" I backed away from the massive pile of boxes. "I'm not doing this."

"Jeff. . ."

"I should call the cops," I said as I backed away. No way could I return all this stuff on my own, not in any reasonable amount of time. "I'll bet they could—"

"No!" Kimberlee shouted, running after me. "They'd just confiscate it all. Then I'd be stuck here forever! Jeff, please."

"No. I'm leaving," I said, as much to myself as to Kimberlee, "and I am not coming back."

FTC Advisory: Harper Collins provided me with a copy of Life After Theft. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

♥Rachel♥ says

3.5-4 Stars.

What would you do if a ghost asked you for help to move on? I know what I would do (run and scream!) but this isn't about me.

Jeff has moved from Phoenix to Los Angeles and is starting school at Whitestone, a private and exclusive school in Santa Monica. He quickly runs into Kimberlee, a girl no one else can see. Kimberlee is ecstatic that someone can finally see her after a year of wondering the school hallways. You see, Kimberlee died a year ago and can't move on. She thinks she knows why but needs help to make amends. After some convincing she gets Jeff to agree to help her return "a few things" to people she stole from while alive. Jeff is shocked, to say the least, that he can see Kimberlee and doubts his sanity or the reality of the situation. But if returning a few items will get Kimberlee, a conceited and abrasive ghost, out of his life, the sooner the better. Two things he doesn't count on are falling for Sera, who is basically the prime enemy of Kimberlee, and something in regards to the items stolen. I won't elaborate on that.

Jeff was sweet, smart, and easy going, so it was no trouble being inside of his head for this story. He provided humor with his inner commentary and his male perspective felt authentic. He also provides a wake-up call and conscience to Kimberlee who was quite unlikeable as a ghost, but even more so in real life. When her deeds come to life I couldn't help but be disgusted with her. Sera was a great contrast to Kimberlee. She was imperfect, as we all are, with mistakes in her past but she's strived to change for the better. One of the chief reasons Kimberlee hates Sera so much is because her changes show just how deficient Kimberlee's character was/is.

It's been hard for me to nail down my thoughts and emotions on this read, but I think I've finally figured out why. This story is both light and dark. Light in the parts with Jeff: his growing romance with Sera, his wonderful and open relationship with his parents, and in his sweet and steady personality. The romance was a highlight for me (shocker!). Here's a swoony quote to sample:

Her mouth was so soft and warm I could hardly believe it was real. But when I got nervous and pulled away, her fingers pressed tight against my back and she ran her other arm up around my neck, pulling my face back down to hers...Her hands gripped my shoulders, almost like she needed help balancing.*

By contrast there is the darker story of Kimberlee. She's trying to right her wrongs, but mostly for selfish reasons throughout much of the story. I didn't like her at all, especially when the full extent of her actions is revealed. She really hurt so many people, but Sera and her brother Mikhail in particular, and horribly!

Jeff was the perfect person to finally see Kimberlee because he was just such a good guy. Kimberlee's past actions and how wrong they were finally started registering to her, but sometimes this is too little, too late. Anyways, my feelings were both happy and sad when I finished, and I'm still not sure what I feel exactly, but I did enjoy the story. I was totally invested in seeing how things played out.

This was between 3.5-4 Stars for me. I'm still going back and forth.

*Quote taken from an uncorrected proof and may change in the final copy.

A copy was provided by Harper Teen in exchange for an honest review.

Come visit The Readers Den for a chance to win an ARC copy of Life After Theft.

Jaime Arkin says

3.5 stars

First of all let me get this out of the way. This is an example of a book where, in my opinion, the cover alienates an entire group of potential readers. This book SCREAMS female contemporary to me. Imagine my surprise when I found out that the book is told from a male point of view.

No teen boy will ever be caught dead carrying this book around with a cover like that, yet, I think that this is a story that would appeal to many boys!

phew... okay that's out of the way...

In *Life After Theft*, Jeff is the new kid at a private school for the rich and the first 'person' he encounters isn't even a person at all. She's a ghost. Kimberlee has been trapped in her school uniform haunting the area for the last year and it turns out that Jeff is the only person that can see her.

It turns out that Kimberlee was the 'mean girl' of the school and before her death had done some pretty horrible things. She also thinks she has figured out what her 'unfinished business' is and she needs Jeff's help to complete it so that she can move on to where ever her next stop might be.

Jeff finally agrees to the ginormous task, but when he and Kimberlee clash on just about everything, he wonders if he is really doing the right thing.

This was definitely a cute, light, fun read and if you're looking for some deep dark reasons as to why Jeff could see Kimberlee and others couldn't, or why Kimberlee was such a kleptomaniac in the first place or why she was such a bully, you're not going to get them here.

I truly liked Jeff's character. He was snarky and fun and very very likable. But, in all honesty, I didn't really feel the connection between him and Sera (his love interest). Maybe it was just me, but I just didn't connect with her as a character or get why he liked her so much.

Kimberlee had me on the fence. I get that I wasn't really supposed to like her character... she was despicable. But I felt her connection with Jeff was a bit more solid than his with Sera, and she was alive! I was able to understand a bit (i.e. teeny tiny bit) why she did some of the things she did, but I don't know if I buy the reason for the extreme bullying. That seemed a bit flimsy to me.

The writing and the pacing of the story were both really well done and for the most part I was pretty engrossed in the story. I think if you're looking for something light, cute and funny - maybe a good summer beach read, *Life After Theft* might be a perfect choice!

Thanks to HarperTeen/HarperCollins and Edelweiss for the advance copy in exchange for an honest review!

This review can be found on my blog, Fic Fare:

Melanie says

See more reviews at [YA Midnight Reads](#)

3.5 star

This copy was given to me for review purposes, no compensation was given to alter this review.

Aprilynne Pike strikes again, with a light fun ghost story that caught me from the second I began to read. I've read her 'Wings' series, and wasn't a big fan. However, Ms. Pike really outdid herself with this baby. Magnificent piece of work!

I think I have already stated this but I like to avoid creepy ghost stories, they scare the hell outta me and I get scarred for life. Literally. However, my fellow wimps, this is surprisingly a light read. There is nothing scary about this ghost novel.

Jeff has just moved to a new school, rich and sophisticated. And when he thinks everything will just be fine, the first person he meets happens to be a girl. A girl ghost. He also happens to be the only person who can see Kimberlee so she drags him into her ghostly afterlife to finish some unfinished business.

Life After Theft is one of those books that have exceptionally well defined characters and personalities. The author manages to make a really average, unimportant person, Jeff become the central character in an amazing story. While such Jeff seems like a insignificant person at a glance, his personalities are so likeable and humorous as the story progresses.

I really dont like Sera all that much. Imagine the typical cliché girl who has everything, head cheerleader, rich, messed up family and then has some problems of her own that just take over the entire story. THANKFULLY, Life After Theft is not Sera's life story, she is Jeff's crush with a gravitating role to the plot. Ahh...Kimberlee. What can I say? Another cliché girl (used to be and still is as a ghost!) but has such a likeable aspect to it that it's kinda hard to get frustrated at her for too long. Yes, sometimes Kimberlee just acts like a 6 year old *cough* like my sister *cough. cough* but there is always an empathetic side of me that resides to her.

Here is one quote from 73% of the way in of why Kimberlee is so awesome. (The following sentence(s) may be altered or removed in the final copy)

She was on this nostalgia-for-childhood-kick so we were on about our tenth episode of My Little Pony.

OMG. OMG, that was just seriously awesome. I squealed when I read that. LITERALLY. My little Pony<3 Me and Kimberlee are like Pegasisterssss!

One concern when I went into Life After Theft was the romance. Will this be another ghost-human relationship? Is there going to be a stupid love triangle? Fortunately, there is none of that crap. NONE OF IT. The romance was cute between Jeff and Sera--even though it was awkward at the beginning.

One small thing I wasn't one hundred percent happy with was the plot. Sure, it was a great premise but lacked twists and depth. I felt like there was more to the plot than trying to return bags of stolen goods. Sadly, when I turned that last page, it dawned to me that there was no more elaboration, plot wise.

Talking about the ending, it was probably one of the worst ever. Not in the way that it was horribly written, in the way that it was so well concluded that I didn't want it to end. I was so pissed...

All in all, Life After Theft was a refreshing, light ghost story that pleased me well and truly. Aprilynne Pike has officially redeemed her spot in my 'liked' authors list! I am so definitely looking out for more by her! Recommend to anyone in for something quick and humorously intriguing.

Rachel (The Rest Is Still Unwritten) says

Sounds awesome. Reminds me of Stacey Kade's Ghost and the Goth series (which I love) so I'm eager to see what Pike does with this!

Darla says

(Genre: Teen Fiction) Okay, I really didn't read this book, but I did start it. I was not a huge fan of Aprilynne Pike's first book/series "Wings" (it was okay, but not terribly compelling and I got tired) but when I heard about this book, I was intrigued. Here is the premise: Teenage boy (Jeff) moves to new school and finds that he is the only person that can see Kimberlee, a former student at the school. Kimberlee died a year ago but is unable for some reason to move on. She decides that she needs Jeff's help in returning all the items that she stole while alive, hoping that this will release her spirit to move on. It sounded fun and very different than Pike's previous offerings. But I didn't get very far into the story (maybe a chapter or two) before I was worried about content due to some profanity & sexual innuendo, so I skimmed ahead and definitely decided that this was not a book I wanted to read. I understand that some writers feel like they have to use profanity to be 'realistic' since many teens speak like that, but I think that it is overused and there are other (and better) ways to bring 'realism' to your writing.

Everything from here on out will contain spoilers (and me ranting) so do not read any further if you don't want to know. You have been warned. Because there were several sexually-toned remarks so early on in the story, I was worried about content. And sure enough, the main character/hero has sex with his girlfriend towards the end of the book with the attitude that "it's okay because I really love her, I used protection, and my parent's were sexually active in high school and it all worked out okay for them." So not the message that I would want to give to one of my teenagers (or anyone else's). I have ranted about this topic before in other reviews, so I will try to keep this brief. The teenage years are not a good time for sexual relationships (evidenced by how few of those relationships work out long term). I believe that they are a time to discover who you really are as a person and to learn basic relationship skills (like being a good friend, thinking of others, etc.) that will enable you to form a lasting, meaningful (and at the right time, sexual) relationship later on. Teen dating should be focused on the friendship aspect--what qualities do I like in others and what qualities should I develop to be a better friend, partner, and person? Sex isn't love and I really hate it when teen books (and adults books for that matter) imply that it is or has to happen in order for the feelings to be 'real'. Grrr. Anyway, I was disappointed and chose to not read this book after all.

Booknut says

Well. That did *not* end as expected!

I felt a little let down. I mean, it's probably a massive cliché, but I wanted to grab Jeff and Kim and just go:

That didn't happen...unfortunately! But great book - very reminiscent of *The Ghost and the Goth* with a little kleptomania thrown in :)

Lili says

4.5 stars

I'm struggling to properly describe this book. Think...*John Tucker Must Die*. And please, nobody act like you don't know what movie that is because everyone secretly knows what movie that is. You know how it's based off of a totally ludicrous plot-line that cannot be further from reality, but it's executed in such a spectacularly entertaining manner that you love the movie, the cast, and everything about it? Yeah, this is just like that. The plot is nuts, the characters are nuts, everything is nuts, but it's perfectly nuts. I loved every minute of it (and I'm not ashamed to admit it). It brings about the warm fuzzies and the kind of one-liners equivalent to *Mean Girls*. And, damn, am I happy to say that it's been a while since a book made me crack up so hard. Then again, this is Mrs. Pike we are talking about. I adored her Wings series, so I've bent over backwards in anticipation for this book, and I jumped with joy when I was able to get my hands on it.

This book is written from a male perspective, which Pike nailed. Jeff's a genuinely nice guy, but he does have the concerns a-typical for a male teenager. However, they're not overpowering. He's no jerk, but he's no jock. He's a realistic nerdy kid who went from a poor lifestyle to a wealthy one, and he's just trying to fit in. I loved every minute of his characterization, his thoughts, his attempts to fit in only to come full circle and realize he likes himself the way he is without the necessity to drink himself into oblivion. Really, I just loved him. He is perhaps one of the most realistic male protagonists written by a female that I have come across in a while. What a great feat by Pike.

And his wonderful characterization sets us up for Kimberlee's insane characterization and the plot that she brings on. See, Kimberlee's a ghost. She died over a year ago in the riptide on the private beach in her posh mansion, mysteriously ending a ring of thefts that haunted her rich neighborhood for quite a while. To put it simply, while alive she was a witch with a capital "B." And some of that has translated into her ghostly self. She's controlling, manipulative, rude, and mean. She lies, she schemes, but she has a heart buried somewhere deep. This is her story of redemption. When Jeff moves to town, she realizes that he is the first person ever that can see her. And with him, she believes, comes her freedom. She takes him to a cave hidden on her property and inside that cave, alphabetized, bagged, and dated is every item she has ever stolen. It's his job to return everything to their rightful owners since she can't touch it all. Logic says that if she makes amends and gives it all back, she can move on instead of continuing on in her hellish reality where her only friend is a nerd named Jeff (who I still like very much). Nutty, right?

But the plot gets better when Jeff's attempts to return everything slowly causes the town to question who the original string of thefts belongs to. And at the same time he gains unlikely allies, makes unwanted enemies, and somehow finds true love in Sera, the once-broken cheerleader who cheers for her love of gymnastics. But as Sera shows signs of lying and deception, Jeff worries if all women in his life, aside from his Mom, cannot be trusted. Kimberlee, then Sera, who next?

I have to say that I find every aspect of this novel compelling. And I really liked his parents as well. They were there some times and weren't there other times, so they don't exactly fall into the cliché of having missing parents, but I did have a few issues with them. See, Jeff's parents had him while they were still in high school and they got married on the night of their high school graduation. They're young and still in love, so they're naturally laid back. The times they are not in the house are chalked up to their romantic weekend getaways they take to keep their romance going. So, yes, I liked that their disappearances were explained.

And I liked how they were laid back, they trusted Jeff and his true intentions even when there was a small issue where a Cop was wrongfully called. But they're perhaps a little too laid back. When it comes to the topic of losing one's virginity, his Mom was content and even smiled at the mention of his girlfriend having condoms. And this is where their believability went completely out the window for me. They seemed okay accepting. He mentioned that they had him young, so they can't have a problem. They needed to put an iron fist down in this scenario instead of being so laid back, you know? They accepted the entire "I love her and it's the right time and place thing." Even if I gave my parents that spiel and they approved of the guy I was dating, if they caught me red-handed I'd be grounded for life. I was so thankful to have a set of parents that I found to be real, only to realize that they weren't really strict parents. To me, in that instant, I realized their ideals were slightly screwy and they had me rolling my eyes a little. Really, the only plot point I had issues with, but it led the way for some unbelievable interactions between parents and son that made my nose scrunch up enough to dock half a star.

All in all, I highly recommend this book. However, it is to slightly mature young adult readers. There's mentions of homosexuality and drugs. There's death, the mention of suicidal thoughts, and one instance of partying and getting drunk. And from the above paragraph you can infer there's one instance of sex, though not detailed at all. I loved this book, and I can't imagine anyone else disliking it. I have never read a book with a klepto in it before and Pike's great detail in regards to Kimberlee's weakness makes me curious about what other amazing and unique stories she can turn out. Once again, Pike has managed to blow me away.

Muse-ic ? says

3.75

I enjoyed this book. With the constant promise of imminent capture, I was always on the edge of my seat!

Kimberlee is a kleptomaniac asshole who died. Now her ghost is stuck and can't move on. She decides that the new kid, Jeff, has to help her move on because he is the only person who can see her. She figures her ghostly unfinished business is to return that shitload of things she stole.

I liked the whole "Kimberlee learning to accept and regret what a shitty person she was when she was alive" thing. I really did like her, especially at the end.

Jeff's relationship with Sera was cute, although the "I love you's" after a month were a bit of a stretch. But cute all the same :D

My main criticism of this book is that I feel like there were too many loose threads at the end, too many questions left unanswered. Some were obviously on purpose, but I still didn't like them:

What happened when Jeff talk to Sera about all that happened with Kimberlee the next day? We'll never know. Did she believe him? Did she think he was mad?

What happened with Mikhail? And Preston? Did he ever learn that he was caught?

Why is Jeff the only one who can see Kimberlee? Honestly for this one, I kind of have an answer and I think it's because he was meant to get together with Sera, so he was the only one who could have helped Kimberlee somewhat fix her relationship with Sera.

Why did *no one* question where Jeff got all the stolen stuff from? They should not have been stupid enough to not ask. And had they asked, they would have discovered that he trespassed multiple times on private property, and those are real chargers that could be pressed against him.

What happened with Jeff's parents? We don't see him telling them what happened. How did they react? Was he grounded?

The principal is a jerk face.

I listened to this as an audiobook and it was strange in the beginning because the narrator was Jesse Bernstein, the one who narrated Percy Jackson and the Olympians. I kept associated him with Percy in the beginning.

But yeah. Fun!

Katy says

2.5 stars - I liked this book, but I'm a bit disappointed after reading Pike's Wings series. I wasn't expecting more than a cute, fun read, but Life After Theft just felt really ordinary. Maybe it was Sera. Or maybe it was because there were a few things that made me stop and think, "What?"

First of all, it took me a few paragraphs to realize this book was written in a boy's point of view. Actually, it was when it said, "Hi, my name is Jeff." I think it was the cover that threw me off, and after rereading the summary, I thought maybe it was one of those books that had boy's and girl's point of view. Not like it mattered, but it kind of made me stumble a bit.

Life After Theft wasn't a book to analyze, and there were a lot of things that I was wondering about. (view spoiler)

Also, there were a lot of things in the book that just felt unreal. I mean, yeah, we are talking about a paranormal story, but the rest of it. (view spoiler)

The sad thing was, I wasn't a big fan of Sera. I think it was the way her character was written, but I didn't trust her. I kept waiting for her to unveil her big, "Aha! I tricked you! Don't you feel like a fool?" and hurt Jeff. And I understand she has a past, but her good-goody-two-shoes perfect image kind of annoyed me. I almost could understand why Kimberlee didn't like her very much. And yeah, Kimberlee was an evil spoiled brat, but I thought she was more interesting. I really do wish that Pike had written it in a dual POV because Kimberlee's character did show a lot of development.

At the same time, the book was cute with a similar tone to Stacey Kade's "The Ghost and the Goth" although I felt the that book had more of a "personality" than this one. Still, it was heartwarming and conveyed a good message. So yeah, I still don't know how to rate this one. And I'm one of those who will give a cute, cliché book 4 or 5 stars if it's entertainment. It's just that, there were things with this one that just didn't sit well enough for me.

~~Aprilynne Pike has a new book!!! And it's said to be "Paranormalcy meets Heist Society in this new twist on ghosts from #1 New York Times bestselling author."~~
