



Stitch

Samantha Durante

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Her heart races, her muscles coil, and every impulse in Alessa's body screams at her to run... but yet she's powerless to move.

Still struggling to find her footing after the sudden death of her parents, the last thing college freshman Alessa has the strength to deal with is the inexplicable visceral pull drawing her to a handsome ghostly presence. In between grappling with exams and sorority soirees - and disturbing recurring dreams of being captive in a futuristic prison hell - Alessa is determined to unravel the mystery of the apparition who leaves her breathless. But the terrifying secret she uncovers will find her groping desperately through her nightmares for answers.

Because what Alessa hasn't figured out yet is that she's not really a student, the object of her obsession is no ghost, and her sneaking suspicions that something sinister is lurking behind the walls of her university's idyllic campus are only just scratching the surface...

The opening installment in a twist-laden trilogy, *Stitch* spans the genres of paranormal romance and dystopian sci-fi to explore the challenges of a society in transition, where morality, vision, and pragmatism collide leaving the average citizen to suffer the results.

Stitch Details

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Author : Samantha Durante

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From Reader Review Stitch for online ebook

Sandra "Jeanz" says

MY REVIEW

I was sent both a kindle copy and paperback copy of *Stitch* to review by Samantha Durante. I loved this as, although I like reading on my kindle, I still love holding and reading a physical book too!

I like the cover of this book, the eyes draw you into the book and make you want to know more. I would certainly pick this one up in a store. Then the blurb would make me want to know even more.

It's a difficult one to describe without giving away any spoilers, so forgive me if I don't describe in great detail. The book starts down one path, (that I thought was going to be a ghost story), then it twisted and I thought it was a time-travel story and then the final twist made it fall into the post apocalyptic/dystopian genre.

I love the descriptions and the visual images produced of the characters. So my favourite character is Issac, his eyes sound so gorgeous *sighs* I love how he feels so protective of Aleesa even though, at certain points in the story he doesn't know who she really is, and what she really means to him. Of course I like Aleesa as she is a main character, she is a strong female character, in that she doesn't sit down and let things unfold around her, if she doesn't like something she isn't afraid to rebel and/or make a stand. I also like Janie, the sacrifice she makes in the book for her sister to escape is done with no fuss, without her sisters knowledge, it is done so selflessly.

I loved all the twists and turns in *Stitch*. I usually don't go for ghost type stories, but I loved the way this one was going and it really drew me in then it twisted to bring in a time-travel element possibility, and I thought I wasn't going to like the direction the book was going in. So then I just got used to the time travel possibility, when the direction twisted again to a more dystopian edge. Then you read further and realise that there had been this undercurrent of a dystopian edge running in the background throughout the whole book. I really loved this book all the way through. The book ends on a cliff hanger, which makes you want book two straight away. Then right at the end of the book there is a sneak peek into Book 2, *Shudder*. I am now (im)patiently waiting for book 2!

So did I enjoy the book? Yes it was totally different from anything I have read so far. Would I recommend? Yes. Would I read a Book 2 or more by Samantha Durante? Yes to both!

Arlene says

What a great debut novel by Samantha Durante! *Stitch* was nothing what I expected. I purposely stayed away from the reviews and blurbs because I wanted to experience this novel from a fresh perspective. So color me impressed when I thought I was jumping into a paranormal ghost story, then later to discover there was a dystopic twist to the world building, and ultimately deciding it was probably more scifi because of certain unique elements Durante weaved into her story-telling. So ultimately, I'll leave it to the author to give me her take on how she'd categorize this intriguing tale of mystery, intrigue and sinister plots and twists.

In *Stitch*, we get to meet Alessa who is trying to get accustomed to her new life as a freshmen in college. In the aftermath of her parent's death, she is faced with another challenge when a ghost begins to appear in her sorority house. As she starts to investigate the history of her house and who that apparition could possibly be, she begins to uncover a sinister element to her world that ultimately leaves her wondering what is truly happening around her.

I have to give props to Durante for being able to incorporate metaphysics into her plot without making it overwhelming and contrived as I've seen happen in other novels. The author gives us just enough information to create her environment and not make you feel like you need a degree in physics to understand why and how certain things can happen in her story. So I have to say I enjoyed that aspect of her book.

Also, the author does a great job of creating an extremely likeable cast which is mainly made up of Alessa, Isaac and Janie. They have a bond and strength about them that really made me root for their cause and I hope we get to see these characters continue to develop in the subsequent installments. I have to admit now... I really don't believe Joe is completely out of the picture... something feels off about that piece of the storyline so I'm wondering if there's more to come where he's concerned.

Overall, I have to say that Durante delivered an intriguing story that incorporates some interesting elements, which ultimately makes *Stitch* uniquely her own. I can't wait to see what happens in the world of *Paragon*!

Oh and guess what???!! I got to interview Samantha Durante, so be sure to check out my **Author Spotlight** scheduled for September 9th on:

Alana ~ The Book Pimp says

My, oh, my. First of all, I would like to thank Samantha for providing a copy of this book in exchange for a review. The initial blurb drew me in, although by the time I read it I had completely forgotten everything except that there was a ghost angle going on. Where it ends up took me by complete surprise and makes me want to beg Samantha for book 2.

I will admit, the beginning of the book drags some. I was sucked in, and kept trudging along but my enthusiasm was waning at one point. There were pages about mundane tasks, primping and preening... I was starting to get apprehensive at that point. But then there is just this 'click' where everything fell into place and the wool was removed from my eyes. It all seemed to make sense; I understood the 'why' of the dragging parts and how they add depth to the story. There is method to the madness, and by the end of the book I was nearly beating myself up, "Why didn't I see that before? Now I totally get it!"

As you begin it seems an almost basic paranormal premise. Alessa has lost her family the year before, goes to college, joins a sorority ... yadda, yadda, yadda... sees a ghost, gets sucked into the mystery of 'who is the ghost'? Been there, done that, have the blog post. *BAM* That's me all of the sudden getting hit over the head and putting on the special 'They Live' glasses. From ho-hum paranormal it suddenly gets launched into this dystopian conspiracy. My brain needed a cigarette after that reach around!

It's like this book got rolled around in a pile of different genres... it's a little bit YA (or rather 'New Adult'), a little paranormal, a hefty spoonful of vanilla romance, add a dash of conspiracy theory suspense/thriller, and then douse it in dystopian. It surprised me how much I enjoyed this book; had anyone told me, "You're going to be head over heels by the end and be begging for book 2!" I would have totally rolled my eyes... "Yeah, right. We'll see, sounding a bit optimistic." But they would have been right. Apparently, I need to be reading more dystopian because it seems almost every one I pick up I've enjoyed.

Give it a chance and power past the slower sections, the ride is totally worth it.

Books says

I've wanted to read "Stitch" since the first time I saw the beautiful and original book cover. The book summary skyrocketed my curiosity, and with all the positive reviews and hype this book has been receiving, I was seriously looking forward to reading it. Sadly, the cover and the blurb ended up being the best part of the book for me.

I had lots of difficulties settling into the story and liking or connecting with the characters. Alessa, in my opinion, is too miserable and rather dull. Reading from her point of view, I often found myself yawning or dozing off due to an overload of unnecessary information not advancing the plot in any way. Much time is spent on her inner voice and her observations and conclusions which, again, didn't add much to the story. It only started picking up for me in the last half of the book when Alessa discovers the truth about herself, her sister, Isaac, and the rebellion. Although the story developed at an incredible pace after Janie's confession, it became rather ridiculous. The whole tv show scenario was just too much and if you ask me, simply not a good enough "twist". I was enormously disappointed with this development in the storyline as it is somewhat of a weak twist, and I guess I just expected something a lot more fascinating and imaginative. I was hoping for something new and exciting; something I've never read before.

"Stitch" is not a complex read. I finished it in less than a day as the writing is utterly simplistic and very precise. Durante is a good writer and where I've found a lot of grammar errors in more than half the books I've read in the past year and a half, "Stitch" is – grammar wise – well edited. I came across a few inconsistencies, though minor hindrances, but ones I noticed right away. "Stitch" is a clean, family-friendly read which can be enjoyed by readers as young as thirteen years of age. Despite some shortcomings, and as is clear from all the positive reviews, I think a lot of readers who enjoy romance and dystopian will find this book to their liking. It just wasn't for me, and with hundreds of thousands of books out there waiting to be read, it's unlikely I'll be reading anything by this author in the near future.

Erica (Reading Kitten) says

Well, that was strange.

The summary made this book sound so interesting, but as you can see by my rating... I'm incredibly disappointed.

I read the first 11 chapters of this book, and I felt like nothing really happened. There was a lot of "telling" going on in the chapters that I read, and also a serious lack of dialogue. The main character goes on and on about stuff that happened before, but whatever she tells us, it's not interesting at all.

The first few chapters of a book are supposed to suck me into the story. They should make me want to read more and make me want to know what'll happen next. They should *not* be boring!

It takes like 5 chapters of nonsense before we even meet this "ghost" the main character is so fascinated with,

but he disappears almost immediately without saying or doing anything at all. Then the main character tries to find out who this ghost was when he was still alive and I felt like... Why should I care about this ghost? I don't know anything about him. Show me why I should be interested in this ghost, before boring me with research on who he used to be or what his name is.

So yeah. I guess this book wasn't for me.

Caro [The Book Rogue] says

I'll sum that up with two short words: rollercoaster ride. I'm perfectly serious, this book was emotional and factual a mess pretty much unparalleled -- and it was awesome! I'm sure I wasn't the only one led by the nose through the first half of this book.

I really thought this would be about time travel. Although usually not a fan of the subject, I was perfectly fine with the idea that female lead Alessa was seeing a ghost named Isaac, and was supposed to travel back in time to save him, since this didn't sound totally absurd and the emotional level was startling. Everything was so perfectly in place, I was totally forgetting that the blurb already mentioned she wasn't really a university student and Isaac wasn't really a ghost, so there wouldn't be any travelling through time. Go ahead and laugh if you must, but it's making me give a lot of credit to the style if any reader might get so lost in the story like I was, especially since this turns out to be a dystopian story where deception and control plays such a major role.

Speaking of dystopian... Although it was kinda nothing new since it was about a virus breaking out and people herding together in quarantine where a new government is established, thought to be temporary, and then they misuse their power to create a totalitarian society which exploits its working force, and of course there is a rebel movement. I have no problem with the commonness of that, maybe because I don't read dystopian all that often, but even regulars on that setting are hopefully rattled by the new aspects tossed into the mix: control through drugs, and being imprisoned in another persona.

I mean, usually you find a small group of people who hold the power using fear to keep their workers in line, which inhibits the oppressed population to make a move, although everyone knows they should, meaning they all want to rebel, but only a few dare to do so. In *Stitch*, the working force is drugged through their food, and then kept occupied with work and social media, meaning they are to watch reality shows very night. What they don't know: the actors in those shows aren't playing. They are prisoners who are made to believe they live exactly the life on set (which has come to get called "stitched" because this is how the memory re-wiring process feels like). It reminds me a bit of what was done to Peeta in *The Hunger Games* trilogy by Suzanne Collins, and I still find only one word within me to describe it: cruel. I mean, can you imagine being "stitched" into a totally different person, living a life as far from your own as possible, having forgotten all that makes you yourself, and being watched for entertainment of others nonetheless?! The whole idea creeps me out, so I'm shocked every time I stumble across it, and of course that's getting bonus points from me.

Which brings me to our stitched main characters, Alessa and Isaac. Starting only with the names, I like them. Can't say exactly why, but I feel like they aren't too common and sound quite well together. The second plus is that Alessa is actually two years older than Isaac, a combination you really don't find that often in YA lit, so I'm giving credits there. Now the book is written mainly from Alessa's PoV, but Isaac has a few chapters which give intel into his feelings as well, and it makes me like them both very much, even more so after it

was revealed they were stitched, and then when their memories returned in a few flashes for the reader. Their relationship definitively is one of the more unusual ones since Alessa was originally the love interest of Isaac's older brother Joe, but then they naturally find together after his death. However, I think this might remain a point of conflict in the future, which could prove very interesting. Anyway, they both get lots of bonus points for feeling so authentic, so human, which is made clear through all the little things presented in the flashbacks but also in the beginning, when they only see glimpses of one another without knowing the truth about the stitch.

Of course, the supporting characters get credit as well. I kinda liked Nikhil, and was shocked over his short cut appearance. Janie was awesome, a perfect complement to Alessa, Isaac and Joe; as was Lizzie and Regina. I'm curious to find out more about them and the other rebels that were only briefly introduced; because there are some many awesome stories to be found behind their involvement, I'm sure of it. Lizzie's story was already... omg, I can't even pinpoint it with a word that'd give enough credit to her.

All in all, as you might see on the lengthy review, I loved this. Granted, there was only a brief touching of the romantic surface there, but I still liked what I found and I am very, very sure we'll get more of that in the future. But of course I don't want to read on just because of that, but for about a thousand other reasons as well. I'm still thrilled and entrapped in this, and I can't wait for Shudder to come out, which is the title of the second installment of the Stitch trilogy.

Area Scan: Style: 5/5 -- Plot: 5/5 -- Characters: 5/5 -- Suspense: 5/5 -- Romance: 3.5/5 -- Drama: 5/5 -- Humor: 3/5 -- Fantasy: 5/5

Brooke Banks says

Stitch: Disappointing Ghost Story With Dystopian Promise I wanted to be apart of this tour because I love dystopians. Honestly, one of my favorite preferred genres. I haven't read ghost love stories before because they don't appeal to me - not my cup of tea. However, I figured since the blurb guarantees that it's not what it seems, the best way to find out about ghost loves stories is if it's actually wrapped up in my favorite genre.

As far as Stitch is concerned, I was wrong.

Pros:

Cons:

Liked the characters

Felt like nothing happened during the first half

Dystopian end was a step in the right direction

Didn't care for the ghost story

Back story is the best part, interesting

Predictable and formulaic

World isn't fleshed out or build solidly

The first majority deals with the whole straightforward ghost love story, which I wasn't really moved by. I got to know Alessa, her best friend, Janie, and the perfectly bubbly movie star beautiful sorority head sister, Lizzie. And the ghost of course, but again, can't say much there otherwise I would ruin everything. I did like the characters, I just found it all very standard fare and bland. The whole first half is under this fog with minor irritations that bloomed to full on frustration as it took soooo long to get to the twist I was waiting on.

The twist certainly was mind boggling and completely out of left field that finally moved the book into the science fiction dystopian genre. I did continue reading to figure out how this was all going to work. After 40 or 50 pages of flashbacks, I still can't give a good picture of how this world works. It is rather typical dystopian set up and doesn't include details needed to flesh it out at all. I kept asking basic questions about how it was all set up and wasn't satisfied with the world building. Then there's this whole action sequence with pauses for dramatic effect (How were you not caught taking so long to get away?) and questionable logic (like what tool can put a hole in a pipe?). There's mini-reveals that didn't land for me because it all felt really formulaic at this point. The whole ending devastation for Alessa? I'm snorting and saying, well, duh. There's other issues like just how stupid some people came off because they kept saying "We don't know" or "We know [this] but talk about several incidents that contradict [this] and be oblivious about it all". The worst of it being they didn't follow through on some things that just seemed so common sense and basic. It felt like giant gaps I couldn't move around or make sense of. The whole world is painted in broad, general strokes as is so I can't even begin to try to parse this all out myself. It's not even all big-important-keep-it-as-a-surprise in the next book, it's stuff like how big is said place? One building or lots of buildings? What's the division like? How many people are we talking about here? As far as what I was looking for the second half-ish is definitely a step in the right direction nonetheless. The back story was really the best parts of the

book. After the fog of first half lifted, I really starting liking the characters more because they made sense and were far more interesting and compelling to me. I love how it's not including the typical love triangle as well but considering the holes in place I'm worried it's not going to stay this way. (dun, dun dunnnnn love triangle! predication. No, seriously I'll be surprised if it doesn't happen.)In the end, I'm wondering if the very reason I picked up the book may have been the downfall for me. The clash between the first part in an unloved genre vs. the high standards of one of my favorite genre second part was just too much. Does this mean I hated Stitch and don't recommend it? No, I just recommend it more specifically and say it wasn't personally up to par.

While I had my issues, I'm actually open and interested on how the next book turns out. The end is what I wanted in the first place and with where the storyline is going I think it's quite possible to like the next book more. I mean without the problems of the beginning just not being my preference and I think I'll get the facts I want just by the nature of where the character are going, so Stitch #2 isn't necessarily ruled out.First books in trilogy are usually susceptible to issues like not having it's own storyline (not an issue here), having to open the door to a new world (started the foundation, but not really framed well), and leaving readers wanting to continue (true here).Conflicted, lots of different pros & cons =

Recommended for:

those who like ghost love stories, science fiction dystopias and won't pick at the little things, I'd say definitely give it a shot. You're more likely to love it, then hate it. There's certainly promise and hope but I didn't find it executed to my liking.(Note: All my reviews are honest opinions. Obviously, subjective and I was not compensated for this review. I simply received a free e-copy of Stitch in order to review it as part of this tour.)

Neyra ♦ says

FREE on Amazon right now! Ends June 11th

http://www.amazon.com/dp/B008RC3NAM/ref=cm_sw_r_tw_ask_DIsgF.18M8HTF

With a whole new outtake on Dystopia, Stitch by Samantha Durante delivers a refreshing new world where all is not what it seems.

In the beginning, we are introduced to Alessa Khole a freshman at Eastern State University. After the death of her parents, Alessa struggles to keep herself focused and moving forward; and the last thing Alessa expected upon arriving at ESU was to be seeing ghosts. What I loved from the beginning of the story was that there was no going around the matter. We're diving straight into the heart of the book...but who is this mysterious ghost with the alluring blue eyes? And why is Alessa the only one in a house full of women (Sorority) that can see him?

What I was expecting from the character and what we got was totally different. I was thinking Alessa would

be interacting w/ the ghost here and there that it'd be THAT kinda ghost love story, but once again Samantha surprised me. Cause and I hope this doesn't spoil it; there was NO interaction what so ever. And it was frustrating, but at the same time kept me on edge thinking, "Shit, will they- and how- or when will they finally communicate??"

The more the story progresses, the more the characters develop and you begin to sense that there's something, *more* sinister lurking about the University. And what's amazing about this book is that the writing captivates you and transports you into the story. The world building, as with any dystopian novel, is necessary, but the story flows beautifully that you hardly notice it, making for a very easy, light and fun read.

Once things begin to pick up, it gets really interesting, I was glued to the pages once the action started. There are plot twists you can't see coming, and things finally begin to click into place by about halfway through the book. And the secondary characters are more than cardboard cut outs just to fill space, you get a sense of who they are even w/ little interaction.

This book is engaging, though it was a slow start for me at first, it was still very appealing, and I loved every minute of it! 5 awesomely naughty bunnies for Stitch, & Thank God it's not over! Expect a sequel to come out soon ;)

Lottie Eve says

[image error]

Editing Services by Cynthia Shepp says

Alessa is a college freshman whose parents died in a car crash when she was 18. She pushes past her depression, or tries to, by attending college and living in a sorority house, even though she does not fit in. Alessa has one friend that she can count on in the house, Janie, who is also a freshman. Alessa starts seeing flashes of something out of the corner of her eye, and it evolves into seeing a ghost, a boy that looks to be her age, maybe a little younger. Alessa is drawn to the ghost with a magnetic pull that she does not understand. Terrified by the sightings, even though they only last a few seconds, Alessa is also strangely bereft and depressed after she sees him, longing to catch a glimpse of him again. Then, she starts having strange dreams, dreams where she is locked in a prison, or fighting in a type of war, and the boy is with her. When she starts researching the house in hopes of finding out who the boy is, she discovers that his whole family dies because of a fire. Alessa starts off on a quest to try to change the past and try to save him and his family.

Only Alessa discovers something sinister along the way...she is not truly a college student...the boy is not a ghost...and both their lives...and the lives of thousands of other people...are on the line. They have all been STITCHED! This is reality TV like you would never have thought possible! (Caught your attention yet lol?)

Let me just say OMG! I remember reading the back cover when I first received this book for review, but by the time I started reading the book, I only vaguely remembered that it had a girl and a ghost in it. I thought it would be like so many countless other books I have read about a girl falling in love with a ghost. I WAS WRONG! This story is not what you expect at all. I was floored when I hit the twists and turns that finally

explained what was going on. I never expected it at all. This book was so intense that I literally read it in 1 day and could not put it down. The main characters are well thought out and you instantly connect with them. The storyline was complex, and I love books that keep me guessing to the very end, and this one did. Besides, I love dystopian books and this one was one of the best I have ever read. This book is a must read. I give it 5 stars and I cannot wait for the next one. I want it BAD! Oh, and I have to mention the cover of the book because it is awesome. It is one of those books that you know just by looking at it, that you HAVE to read it!

For more reviews of great books, visit <http://cynthiashepp.wordpress.com>

Kat says

WOW was the first thing I thought when I finished Stitch. There's a whole bunch of genre's going on here - it starts out contemporary, moves to paranormal and then BAM!, right into dystopia.

I thought Alessa was a fantastic main character - she was easy to relate to, likable, down-to-earth and a pretty tough little cookie. Her friendship with Janie, her attraction to Isaac and her interactions with other characters all felt very real. She is definitely a character I want to know more.

The connection between Alessa and Isaac was very realistic - I could see their passion and attraction for each other, despite the evil Paragon's attempts to thwart their relationship.

The plot is full of seamless twists and turns, and just when I thought I had things figured out, I was completely knocked for six when things took a turn that I couldn't even have imagined. The world-building was great for the first half, and only improved when the book took its first big twist and secrets started to be revealed, both to me and to Alessa. In fact, I even had to stop a few times to gather my thoughts and process exactly what had just happened. The pacing is spot on - it builds gradually and then reaches an action-packed climax at just the right time. Although there are a few small gaps in the history of how the Paragon came to be, I'm sure they will be expanded upon in the following books - I can't imagine that Samantha Durante won't flesh these out a little more as she has done such an excellent job of convincing me of the world thus far.

Despite the fact that Stitch is part of a trilogy, the ending is a perfect balance of cliffhanger and a resolution to book one - and I can't wait to see what happens next.

Samantha Durante has written a fantastic Young Adult Paranormal/Dystopia in Stitch - all the elements come together perfectly to create a thrilling, real story with incredibly likable characters that feel just like friends.

Read more of my reviews at The Aussie Zombie

Jill Swanson-Diaz says

I have an exclusive interview with the author on my blog! Stop by and check it out!
<http://littlehyuts.blogspot.com>

I LOVED this book! It has one of the best dystopian settings I have read. Samantha Durante is an extremely

talented writer who has written an impressive debut novel. Stitch keeps you on your toes. The premise is original and thoroughly immerses you in it's structure. I would have loved this book even if it had remained strictly a paranormal love story. Of course the transition into a society under the oppression of a ruling class makes this story one of a kind. There are many dystopian books out there right now, but Stitch was definitely not what I was expecting. It was full of twists and turns. I was hooked from page one.

The character and world building throughout this story are impeccable. Everything unravels at exactly the right time and the story progresses flawlessly. I was swept up in Alessa's story and her love for Issac. I'm a sucker for a story line that acknowledges that soul mates do exist! Alessa is a strong female lead. I enjoyed her determination and heart. She is thrown so many curve balls yet seems to continue on without losing sight of what she needs to achieve. The idea of a 'ruling class' drugging my food or 'stitching' my brain gives me the willies. Samantha Durante has really created an intriguing and horrific society. I liked the concept of the TV dramas and how they paralleled Issac's story with Alessa's.

I could gush about this book all day, but i'll keep it to a minimum. The ending to Stitch is full of tension and leaves you with that, " WOW," feeling. If you are a fan of dystopian, science fiction and romance you will LOVE this book. I highly recommend it! I am going to be counting down until the sequel comes out. I can not wait to see where Alessa and Issac's journey takes them next.

David Estes says

I was REALLY surprised by this book, in a really good way. I was so confused early on, because I had a certain idea of what genre the book was meant to be in, and what it would be about, and it was completely different to what I expected. Always a good thing. And then the plot was flipped upside down, once, twice, three times, until it morphed into the genre I expected. The twists were pretty brilliant, well thought out, and well executed. I was constantly poking holes in the plot, and they were filled! The writing was quite strong for a debut novel and the concept pretty cool, if not entirely unique (view spoiler)

Finally, I love love love the cover and the title, both are perfect for the book and extremely effective!!

All in all, an awesome start to a debut series by the intelligent and talented Samantha Durante!

Fun fact: Before Samantha became a writer, she was an engineer at Microsoft! I love when people make huge career changes to follow their dreams! I was an accountant before I started writing full time :)

Minor beefs- I didn't feel the emotion as much as I'd hoped to, particularly when some really bad stuff happened. There seemed to be a bit too much unnecessary filler in the beginning, which made it somewhat hard to get into the story, but once the twists started coming, I couldn't put it down!

Mandy says

Alessa is attending her freshman year in college not her first pick of schools but one that would accept her after her senior year wasn't so amazing. It was during her senior year just after her eighteenth birthday that her parents died in a car wreck and she was given the choice to live the rest of the year on her own. She was really depressed her grades went down and even trying to dig her way out of the end of the year didn't help. She was offered a chance at ESU which she took, they even let her pick a sorority her first year so she didn't have to live in student housing.

Alessa isn't the social butterfly like her sorority girls, but she does have a best friend Janie the other freshman in the house. Everything is starting to look better for Alessa until she starts to see brief images of a man in her room, and around the house. At first she's a little scared at seeing a ghost but the more she sees him the more she is intrigued by who this stranger is. She sets out to find out who he is by checking out old records of the house at the school library. Alessa figures out who he is a 17 year old boy from the 1900's who had died in a fire, and sets out to try to save him.

This book is wow. You instantly connect with Alessa she comes off as your typical college girl, she's dealing with the loss of her parents and typical college stress. She's a strong woman who knows what she wants and does what it takes. The characters are well written I had a good idea of each one, and felt like I was there with them. The story sucks you in to the point where you can't put it down you just have to know what's lurking behind the walls of the university. When I found out what was really going on it shocked me it never crossed my mind so I loved the twist the book too. I really enjoyed *Stitch* I can't wait to get my hands on the next one. I want to know more about the real world that Alessa lives in.

Abby says

Stitch has to be the most interesting, well written, and deeply thoughtful book that has ever had the pleasure of existing. It reached into the deeper recesses of my mind and brought out feelings that I'd never felt before while reading a book. The way things were described was so realistic and rich that I can picture Alessa's world as easily as my own. This novel blurred the edges of my reality with its own fantastic world of lies, intrigue, and deceit. *Stitch* is true an amazing novel, a kick-off to an amazing new teen series.

The theme for this novel is a very genius one indeed. A perfect blend of paranormal and dystopian. Durante takes the reader to these places and makes us believe that both worlds exist next to each other, the realm of ghosts and futuristic oppressive governments. Durante's twist on the now common-place dystopian idea has blown most all of them out of the water, making me think that there is hope for the genre yet.

For me, this novel's setting was perfect and I was quickly immersed into the college life style very quickly. I just love that the college campus played a huge part in Alessa's world in the beginning. Alessa just seems like a normal girl living out a normal life, but the question is: is she really? There doesn't seem to be one thing I hated about this book.

Alessa is easily one of the most fearful heroines I know, but for some reason I cannot help but to love this character because of how she finds courage among it all. She is indeed strong, loving, yet after her parents died she seems to be stuck in a depression of sorts. But a mindboggling confession has her world soon spinning out of control.

Stitch's writing is so proper and beautiful that all I could do is gape at the amazing gift Durante has at writing prose. Words drifted beautifully into the next like a painting that had been recently finished. The characters were flawless and were so lifelike I can picture them standing before me or when I'm in line at the grocery store. The story awoke a part of me I didn't know existed and taught me to never only look on the surface for there is always soot in the cracks of the perfect lies we've been told.

Gifted beyond any comprehension, Samantha Durante's debut novel, *Stitch*, will have wondering if this life isn't as perfect and coincidental as it seems.
