

**Title:** *How to Survive Your Murder*

**Author:** Danielle Valentine

**Genre:** Mystery, Fiction

**Reviewer's Name and Grade:** Nitya M., 9th Grade

**Date Reviewed:** March 13, 2024

The book *How to Survive Your Murder* is a mystery thriller having two main characters. Alice's sister, Clair, and Alice. Clair is a theater star, while Alice is a nerd who likes to stay home and watch horror movies. Even though they are different from each other, they are best friends.

On Halloween night, Alice has plans to watch horror films, but her friends asked to join a party in cornfield. Alice and Clair agree to join that party. Unfortunately, this becomes the wrong decision for Clair, as she is killed by Owen Maddox- a boy who works at their family-owned gym.

Alice becomes the sole witness to her sister Clair's murder on that fateful Halloween night. Subsequently, Alice's life spirals into misery. Her parents divorced, and her father turns to excessive drinking. Now, Alice and her mom reside in a small, less-than-pleasant apartment. A year after Clair's murder, Alice must face her sister's killer in court. However, just before giving her testimony, she is unexpectedly knocked out by someone who resembles Sidney Prescott from the *Scream* movies-right in the courthouse bathroom.

When Alice regains consciousness, she finds herself transported back in time to Halloween night-the very day of Clair's murder. This unexpected twist presents Alice with a chance to alter the past and save her sister. Drawing on her obsession with horror movies, Alice begins to predict the killer's motives. As she delves deeper, she realizes that the original suspect, Owen Maddox, is not the true culprit. With midnight as her deadline, Alice races against time to save her sister's life and prevent further victims. Along the way, she uncovers new clues and hidden motives that lead her to identify the real murderer.

***Did the plot keep me interested?***

The plot is interesting as it has elements of mystery and time travel.

***Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just, right?***

The pace of the book was just right.

***What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?***

I think this book is appropriate for grade levels 7 and above due to its the plot, which may be difficult for young children to fully understand.

***What type of reader would you recommend this book to?***

I recommend this book to readers who enjoy mystery thrillers.

***What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?***

This book explores family bonds, time travel, and mystery-solving. It also shows bonding between sisters.

***Rating:*** I would give this book a **4-star rating** because of mystery, time travel, and suspense elements which keep me guessing, and the references to horror movies add an extra layer of interest.