

**Title:** *I'm the Girl*

**Author:** Courtney Summers

**Genre:** Thriller, Mystery, Suspense, Young Adult Literature

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yilin C., 11th Grade

Date Reviewed: 03/02/24

This book tells the story of sixteen-year-old Georgia Avis. She gets kidnapped but is lucky enough to run away. However, after running away, she gets stranded in the middle of nowhere and discovers the dead body of a thirteen year old girl, Ashley James. After she discovers the body of Ashley, she and Ashley's sister, Nora, are on a mission to find the killer and bring justice to Ashley. In the process, Ashley and Nora's family fall apart and struggle to cope. The hunt for the killer, however, brings Georgia into a completely different world, one that she has only ever been able to dream of before; it is full of wealth, power, privilege, and so much more. She finds that this world could actually be fitting for her, someone who just wants to fit in, be loved, and appreciated for her beauty. Georgia wants to be high status, running with the elites. Yes, this is what she wants, but it is also her dead mother's wish for Georgia. A story of murder and mystery turns in a completely different direction, when Georgia must decide whether she wants to be herself or fit into a society that prioritizes nothing but wealth and power.

*Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?*

The plot generally kept me interested. It was overall quite thrilling and had me craving more. It was hard for me to put the book down, as I kept wanting to find out what happened after the end of each chapter. Georgia was an interesting character to read about. She is so painfully aware of how beautiful she is, yet is still very naive with what she believes and who she trusts. Yet, her character is so real and relatable.

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

The pace of the book was inconsistent. It was quite slow in the beginning, not really going far. However, after you hit the half-way point, it begins to escalate quite fast. I felt like everything happened in the middle of the book. I wish some plot points were spread out further apart, but it was written in a way that made me want to keep reading.

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

I would say that this book is appropriate for grades 10 or higher. This book does deal with quite a few sensitive topics that may diverge some readers from it. This book may be uncomfortable for younger audiences.

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

Anyone who is into thriller, mystery, or true crime would likely enjoy this book. It is a bold story that mystery enjoyers will find to be enjoyable and thought provoking. These types of readers will be on the edge of their seats while reading this book.

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

This book covers many sensitive topics, so I recommend looking into that before jumping into this book. The writing in this book is also very descriptive. It feels like you are in the story itself. The story itself is not as much of a murder mystery as it may seem to be. I jumped into this book believing it was that, but it does seem to focus more on Georgia trying to fit into a world of power instead.

*3 stars.* The story itself is very interesting and decently written. The characters are complex and fun to read about. However, the book felt very unorganized for me. It felt as if it was going in ten different directions at once. Yes, it draws you in, but sometimes I found it a little difficult to follow. I thought this book was going to be much more focused on finding the killer of Ashley, and possibly Georgia's kidnapper, but it was not. I believe it may be a bit more enjoyable if you do not go into it believing it is a murder-mystery focused book.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Avani H., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: 3/17/24

In the book *I'm the Girl* written by Courtney Summers, Georgia Avis, a sixteen year old girl has troubles centering around who she really wants to be, what she wants to do with her life, and all the questions a normal teengager would ask themselves as they are growing up. All of this changes when the daughter of a police officer, Ashley, is murdered on the road to the sophisticated school. Now Georgia has to choose whether to continue onto her dream or to help Nora, Ashley's older sister, figure out who committed the crime before it's too late. Both characters are shown to be hesitant to help one-another but in the end they resolve their issues. Georgia is shown to be somewhat shielded to say the least. Throughout the story she seems to be very clueless when it comes to the real world. She always seems to have a remark when she doesn't know something and this overall can help remind us that the person narrating the book is not an adult but a young girl navigating her way through life. Despite this, Georgia can also be seen as extremely stubborn. You would think the protagonist, especially in a book like this, would receive some major character growth but in this book Georgia doesn't seem to change much at all despite all of the warning signs of her situation she still pursues in her journey which can be both incredible but also scary in a way. The novel also takes misogyny and forms it into a lesson for others. Shown throughout the book, this trait can be shown by many characters especially during Ashley's death which adds onto the brilliance of the book. Overall, the novel is quite wonderful given the lessons, the new and different characters, and the undertone of an actual teenage girl's mind over a very adult ish one.

*Did the plot keep you interested?*

Yes, the plot contained very intriguing components like the murder among other things and along with the friendships and resolvment of the story the book overall was very interesting.

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

The pace of the book, though at times not so consistent, was just right for me. The change of pace, in my opinion, really livened the story for me and allowed me to somewhat slow down and process what the words of Georgia Avis really meant.

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

I believe this book is appropriate for thirteen year olds and older. Despite the coming of age undertone of the novel there is very vivid scenes of rape and obviously the murder scene, so with this a very mature leveled person is probably best off to read this.

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

I would recommend this book to a reader who loves a changing plot along with a very different set of characters. As said before, most of the characters, especially Georgia don't necessarily change throughout the story but instead remain the same, which can be seen as quite odd but I personally thought it made the story stand out more than others. Also as said, the plot changes frequently between Georgia's dreams and thoughts of her fancy private school and the murder involvement between her and Nora regarding her dead sister.

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

Other information that would be helpful for teens to know about this book is that the book does contain means of violence and rape, so it would probably best to remain cautious of that.

*4 stars: I enjoyed this book and found it worthwhile reading.*

Overall, I enjoyed this book. This novel portrayed many wonderful aspects like coming of age and murder mysteries. The stubborn sixteen year old protagonist, Georgia Avis, has shown to be not-changing but overall a good character. She exhibited much cluelessness and apparent stubbornness throughout the novel given how sheltered she was and how badly she wanted to go to her dream school but overall she was very interesting as a protagonist among the other characters. Nora and Georgia had exhibited a good friendship throughout despite the obvious rough start and the murder case had helped them grow closer. Also, the way the story portrayed how a young woman can be treated and how they may think in real life. The cluelessness and stubbornness is one part, but the confusion on what they think is the right thing to do versus what they actually want to do brings it to a whole other level. So, in closing, I rate this book four stars because of the distinctive characters, the interesting murder plotline, and the reality of a young woman the story portrays.