The Killer in Me

Maggie Mason Smith
Clemson University, mason5@clemson.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib_pubs

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation
Please use publisher's recommended citation. http://www.slj.com/tag/ya-reviews/

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact kokeefe@clemson.edu.
Grades 9 and Up – Seventeen-year-old Vermont native Nina has intimate knowledge of a serial killer living in New Mexico. She knows his methods of choosing and disposing of victims, the steps he takes to make sure he will never be caught, and the name he chose for himself: the Thief. Nina finally has an opportunity to do something with her knowledge, so she turns to her former best friend Warren, but unwilling to tell him how she knows of the Thief, Nina lies. Although skeptical of her story and concerned for her mental wellbeing, Warren’s long-time crush on Nina compels him to help and the teens set out to track the killer. But when they finally meet the Thief, he seems anything but the homicidal sociopath Nina has described. Could Nina have been wrong? What if there is no Thief? Is there a way to truly find out? Flowing and expressive prose paints a clear picture of Nina and Warren as they follow the Thief, waver between certainty and doubt both in regards to the killer and each other. The teens are smart, self-aware, believable characters and a budding romance between the two adds another layer to the work without detracting from the storyline. Nina’s secret and multiple plot twists will keep readers guessing until the end. VERDICT A must-read debut for fans of fast-paced, eerie psychological thrillers that won’t mind reading late into the night.