



# Shutter

*Laurie Faria Stolarz*

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## **Shutter** Laurie Faria Stolarz

Sixteen-year-old Day Connor views life through the lens of her camera, where perspective is everything. But photographs never tell the *whole* story. After Day crosses paths with Julian, the world she observes and the truths she believes—neatly captured in black and white—begin to blur.

Julian does not look like a murderer, but his story is full of holes, and his alibis don't quite add up, either. This time, Day is determined to see the entire picture...whatever it reveals.

*Did he kill his parents? Or didn't he?*

While Julian remains on the run, Day digs deeper into his case. But the more facts she uncovers, the longer her list of questions becomes. It's also getting harder to deny the chemistry she feels with Julian.

*Is it real? Or is she being manipulated?*

Day is close to finding the crack in the case that will prove Julian's innocence. She just needs time to focus before the shutter snaps shut.

## **Shutter Details**

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Author : Laurie Faria Stolarz

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# From Reader Review Shutter for online ebook

## Natasha says

(May Contain Spoilers)

So I just finished Shutter by Laurie Faria Stolarz.  
It was a great mysterious quick read- perfect for October.

I have never read Laurie's work before, and this was a great introduction into her work.

Julian escaped from a Juvenile Detention center, suspected for murdering his parents. Day crosses paths with Julian and is determined to dig deeper and learn the facts about his case.

Did he murder his parents?

Find out if Julian is innocent in the suspected murder and don't forget to pick up the book when it is released October 18, 2016!!

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## Trisha says

*"I don't trust words - not my parents', nor my own."*

Day is at a rough crossroads in her life. Both parents fight the injustices of the world - both roughly in the legal field and are fighting to help those that have been wronged. So Day has grown up with a clear sense of trying to understand situations that put people into bad spots - and to question everything and seek the truth.

But her parents, in the midst of fighting the good fight, lost each other. And her parents have separated and Day isn't so sure where that leaves her. In the midst of all this, she loves telling stories through photos. And she spots a boy she can't help but seek out to take that perfect shot.

It's a complete shock when the police arrive and ask her about the boy - because he's been accused of a horrible crime and escaped from a detention facility while awaiting trial.

This is a compelling story - that you want to keep reading to know the truth. As the story unfolds, you see all the avenues that Day seeks as she tries to understand and figure out - Did Julian do it? Or is he innocent? Day has to realize that in a world of law and guilt and human emotions and reactions, it's hard to understand where all the guilt and blame must go. Is any one person solely to blame or completely innocent? It's a great read, one that has left me thinking long after I closed the book.

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## Vera says

I received an ARC of this book from the publisher and I am very glad I did! As someone who reads a LOT of YA, I generally find YA mystery/thrillers to be relatively mediocre or derivative, and I was very pleasantly

surprised to find that Shutter was neither. The characters were believable and sympathetic, the plot was fast-paced but not too unbelievable, and the alternating viewpoints added depth to both the characters of Day and Julian, and to the plot.

The thing that really pushed it over the edge to five stars, though, at least for me, was the believable way in which Stolarz worked in the issues that all of the characters were dealing with. I often find that issues such as abuse, divorce, adultery, etc in these kinds of books feel a bit forced or superficially overlaid onto the characters. In Shutter, every issue the characters dealt with (of which there are many) worked seamlessly with the characters' backstories and with the plot as a whole. I'm very impressed with Stolarz's ability to create believable characters who are dealing with real issues, while also writing a plot that moves along at a good pace and keeps the reader guessing until the end. I highly recommend this book!!

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### **Paige (Illegal in 3 Countries) says**

**1.5 stars.**

Oh my God, this was just bad.

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### **Lola says**

Most of the time, when I finish a book, I immediately feel inspired to write a review, whether the book in question is good or bad or really bad.

But right now, the only thing that resonates inside my mind is a loud, screeching even “meeeeeh.” To be honest, I don’t know why this book was published. Not that it was badly written.

I actually thought the writing wasn’t so bad, and the characters were pleasant enough, but the story. Oh the story. Please. We really didn’t need another banally plotted YA mystery book flooded with romance.

It’s a good thing it was fast-paced, because that kept me from yet again letting an unfinished book rot somewhere in a corner of my room. It’s starting to smell already. Just kidding. But yeah, thank you SHUTTER for being readable.

The ending won’t surprise anyone. At first I thought I could maybe recommend this to first readers of YA mystery, because it’s easy to read, although predictable, so those people can get an idea of what it feels like to read these types of books, but it’s just not worth it.

Just not worth it.

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### **Candace Robinson says**

I received an ARC of this book. I don't normally read mystery types of books, but this one was actually

pretty good. There were some parts that were unbelievable, but it is definitely worth a read. Full review on my blog <https://literarydust.wordpress.com/20...>

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### **V says**

This book is nothing like I expected it to be, which is so amazing. It's full of twists and makes you want to keep reading ! I read it in a couple of hours because i wanted to see what happened next. The relationship between Jules and DAY is really unique and a cool idea for a book

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### **Stephanie says**

I received a copy of this title from NetGalley. It does not impact my review.

I went into this hoping for mystery and suspense. While there was a little mystery, it was a lot more coming of age storyline than I expected (or wanted, to be honest). That doesn't make it a bad book. It just wasn't what I wanted.

Day is the only child of two very successful humanitarians and she's spent her life trying to follow in their footsteps and make them proud. When she comes across Julian, a murder suspect who recently escaped from Juvie, she starts to research his case and makes it her mission to help him out and uncover the truth. It took a lot of time for her to actually start investigating other than just reading old newspaper articles and asking Julian a few questions. Even though it was a fast read due to the easy writing and short chapters, the story really dragged for me until we got closer to the end.

I liked Day well enough, though I don't think she always made the smartest decisions. Her friends all drove me completely crazy. Julian was a little more compelling character and I enjoyed getting his perspective through his journal entries. The synopsis makes it sound like he could be manipulating Day into helping him, but I never really felt like he was. He did get caught in a few lies, but he seemed more like a scared kid than a little psychopath (and I kind of wanted him to be little psychopath, just for a good twist).

Overall, Shutter was an ok read for me. Short chapters made for a quick, easy read. I liked the overall premise of the story, but I wish it focused more on the mystery/suspense side and a little less on the growing-up-is-hard drama. Though the very end felt a little abrupt (an epilogue would have been nice), I did like the direction the conclusion went and was a little surprised by it, so I appreciated that.

Overall Rating (out of 5): 3 Stars

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### **MeggieBree says**

3.5 Stars.

Shutter was a slightly unbelievable read, which is the only reason it didn't get a higher rating from me. I will definitely be purchasing it for the library.

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## Ariel says

Where to begin? Well, first I am not sure why it took me so long to read this book. It might have been because I wasn't in love with the plot or even the characters. The split dialogue is killing me. This is the third or fourth book in a row with it, so I am ready for a break.

I liked that Day had photography as a hobby. It's actually pretty uncommon and underrated. What I didn't like is how creepy this book was. Not creepy like spooky, but creepy as in weird. I could not get over the initial WHY. WHY did Day feel like the best thing to do was to follow a random person from the gas station? Why did she then feel it was okay to help a suspected criminal!? I get that everything worked out (more or less) but I just couldn't get past that. I did like Julian's character. I liked how honest he was, even with his faults and the relationship he had with his father. I can see why Day was so attracted to him but still. Day's parents, her mother in particular, need a lesson on parenting. I found them cold and rather unlikable, just like Day's friends. I thought they were super annoying.

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## Jennifer says

4.5 stars. review to come

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## Elise (TheBookishActress) says

**There was honestly just nothing appealing about this book.**

In case you haven't read the summary: the main plot is about a girl falling in love with a literal murder suspect she doesn't know. This could be interesting, except she trusts him implicitly from the beginning. It. Doesn't. Make. Any. Sense.

Girls falling in love with assholes? Just what we need more of in literature. Seriously, why was this book published?

I don't even know what more to say about this book. There's no attempt at character development or plot. The girl is weak, the boy is a jerk. The dramatic tension feels incredibly forced and there's no suspense or atmosphere.

The only good thing about this book is the writing style itself. The prose flows nicely. Everything else is just so cringeworthy that the writing style doesn't help at all.

\* I received a copy of this via my local bookstore. This does not impact my review in any way.

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## Christy says

Raise your hand if you're all about the mystery and suspense books for October. That's right, it's time to hide your face under the covers and sleep with the lights on and *Shutter* is here to help.

Oh, Day. Sweet, sweet Day. Our resident Veronica Mars comes face to face with suspected murderer turned escaped convict, Julian, and unlike the rest of us sane people, his intriguing stare invites her to look further into his case. Day spends most of the novel unraveling Julian's past, which is sweet albeit slightly dangerous. Much to the reader's dismay, she typically ignores conventional safety precautions and I found myself constantly worrying for her safety. Then there's our jailbird who's nested in Day's barn (and heart). Julian has clearly been through some stuff but does that excuse his dodgy reasons and inaccurate recollections? Time will tell.

Laurie Faria Stolarz explores some tough subjects, starting with the murder (or murder-suicide?) of Julian's parents, going through intense child abuse and neglect situations, and landing with Day's dismay over her parent's recent separation. There's no sheltering the reader from the realities of both of their lives, from their feelings to their reactions and everything in between.

I enjoyed the novel's variety of storytelling, from the investigative nature that Day uses to the simple way the story unfolds from beginning to resolution. There's a bit of an unreliable narrator that keeps you guessing how the Roman family came to be a family of one.

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## Julianne says

Full review posted on [Among the Authors](#)

I've always revered my father as a master of foreshadowing. It never failed – we'd go to see a movie in the theater, and no later than fifteen minutes into the film, Dad would lean over and whisper to me how it would all end. Not because he knew any spoilers, but because he could pick up on the tiniest of details and already be five steps ahead of the plot. Now, it's become somewhat of a game I play with myself whenever I go to see a movie or pick up a good mystery – I immediately start looking for those little 'tells'. I'd like to think that I've gotten as good as Dad at my predictions, but then I happened to receive an ARC of *Shutter* by Laurie Stolarz...

### Things I Liked:

A lot of folks find their way to Laurie Stolarz care of the *Blue is for Nightmares* series or the *Touch* series, but for me it was the *Welcome to the Dark House* series. It was fabulous, frightening, and haunted my nightmares for weeks after I closed the covers. What really got me hooked is that Stolarz truly gets inside the minds of her teenage characters and brings out voices that are wholly believable as well as engrossing. While *Shutter* isn't a book that will occupy my nightmares, it is one that has now spent several days occupying my thoughts. I've been turning over the mysteries of the story and the intricacies of the characters in my mind, and I am still rocked to the core that I didn't see such a fitting yet shocking ending coming.

Julian (I have to just love that name, don't I? I'm named after a Julian, after all.) is a teen on the run, escaped from juvie with the clothes on his back and a story full of holes. Day is a young girl taken in by his shy

demeanor and mysterious circumstances, and her determination to find the answers in Julian's case leads her to ask questions others might not. She's desperate to prove herself, not only for Julian's sake, but also for her own. Day is constantly trying to live up to her justice-seeking, do-gooding parents who seem to make everything work... except for a marriage and having time for their daughter.

Day also has a passion for photography, hence the name, and it doesn't feel at all like a superficial character trait. Some authors might add it to make their characters seem more artistic but never really follow it up with much depth... Not here. Day has some beautiful concepts for projects detailed within the story that actually had me aching to see the photographs, however fictional they may be. Day's photography helps to weave the story together and evoke some of the heavier themes, especially in relation to her feelings towards her mother and father.

I love the format of this book, told in alternate points of view between Day in the present and Julian writing in his journal. Julian's journal entries are especially powerful because you glimpse more of his past, his relationship with his family and the tragedy that changed them forever, and also snippets from what really happened the day Julian found his mother's body in the bathtub and was accused of murdering his father. These were my favorite parts of the book, the journal entries, because you really begin to feel for Julian and want to fight right alongside Day to vindicate him.

### **Things I Didn't Like:**

I've seen an early review or two that have mentioned some aspects being unbelievable. I'll tell you what, the only part I found unbelievable was this:

*"I must say, I've never had a customer take photos of items they purchased in the past. What is this really about?"*

*"A school project. Photography class."*

Come on! You know she wanted to say she was a writer doing research. This is actually how I feel anytime someone questions my Google history. I promise that "gruesome ways to kill a person" was totally just my research for something I was writing.

By the way, I am JUST KIDDING! It's so hard to pick out things I didn't like in a story that I really did love. I was so engrossed by the story that I didn't really find anything about it unbelievable. Society can be pretty screwy, and I know plenty of kids that come from rough backgrounds. I also know plenty of intelligent kids with chips on their shoulders. For me, this story totally works.

If you really want me to nitpick and find something that I didn't care for, I'd say Day's friends. Well, mostly just Tori. I think the real reason she annoyed me is that we all know a Tori, and she's just as annoying in real life as she is in fiction. Tori's the taunting friend, the one that gives you a hard time about the things you like to do or a boy showing interest in you. She's also the one that's too preoccupied with her flavor of the week to really have any interest in anything else. Tori's got her own issues going on, but that's discussed briefly before she's off to the next boy. Totally a believable aspect, but I did find myself trying to read faster through any part with her in it.

### **Overall Rating:**

5 stars for getting the better of me! I thought that I had this one figured out at least halfway through, only to be completely, totally, utterly wrong. You're going to race through the pages trying to piece together the truth, and meanwhile that little DUN-DUN sound clip from Law & Order is going to play on repeat in your head... I mean, at least it did for me. Laurie Stolarz has quickly become one of my favorites in the genre. She is masterful with chilling atmospheres, concealed mysteries, and characters that truly feel like people you would want to get to know (or in the case of some Welcome to the Dark House characters, I'd rather not



meet them...not in a scary, horror house, nor anywhere else). She's definitely an author you'll want to check out!

The current release date for Shutter is October 18, 2016, and I definitely recommend picking it up before Halloween for a good, chilling mystery.

*"Everyone has their own story – their own version of the truth, a rationale for how they act."*

*"Because everyone has a unique perspective," I say, thinking about my photo project.*

*"Exactly. In most cases, your mother's political escapades aside, I'd say that people act out when they've lost their way, or when they aren't getting the support that they need. They've fallen through the cracks and gotten desperate. I'm not saying that what they do is justified, but you have to wonder: if those same people were given different opportunities -"*

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## **Mandy says**

I really have enjoyed much of Stolarz's prior books. The four that I have read have all gotten quite high ratings from me, and I really encourage readers to take a look at them - and not this one. This was one of her finest books, and I found myself not enjoying it all. I found myself mystified by the whole ordeal and nothing ever made me feel on edge or invested in the mystery. Her writing was good as always, but the actual story was boring, lacking, and I didn't feel much for anything. Project 17 and Welcome to the Dark House are much finer examples of her wonderful writing, and I say definitely check those out instead of this one.

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