



Swirls

F.A. Hershey

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Sixteen-year-old Julia finds herself leaving her London life behind to move with her parents to the Amazon jungle.

A native descendant, she becomes familiarized with her own roots for the first time in her life. However, she never imagines she is about to discover much more than her own past but also just how crowded our little planet is...

This is a present time sci-fi/ fantasy story about trust, friendship, love and self-discovery.

This book falls into the category of YA fiction, though not unsuitable for younger readers.

Swirls Details

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Author : F.A. Hershey

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From Reader Review Swirls for online ebook

Alana ~ The Book Pimp says

Hmmm...

Story was good and interesting, different- incredibly unique, in fact... but overall it didn't knock me in the head and say, "Love Me!" For the novelty and level of description, I'll give it 4♥'s but it just earned it by the skin of its teeth.

No worries of themes too big for younger britches. You can safely give this to a younger YA audience, as long as death and mild violence will not bother them. There is not much violence, but it exists. There were some parts of the story that didn't end up at all how I imagined, and other story paths that I saw coming a mile away.

The blurb really does not give too much away, and I don't want to spoil anything. The paranormal aspects seemed few and far between at first, while descriptions were vivid and I felt emotionally connected to the character, I was eager for it to get moving faster.

I am really struck by how 'different' this story was. If only the second half or so of this book was the pace for the whole thing I would be in love with this series. At this point I am interested in what happens, but I don't have a burning desire that I MUST get my hands on the next book. It was enjoyable, youthful, intriguing...the characters make you feel compassion... but it just seemed to somehow be missing something.

"If my life was a book, tomorrow would be a blank page, as if the author had forgotten to write the next chapter, had gotten bored by the story or hadn't thought it was worth writing on."

Tammy says

The summary for this book caught my eye because of the setting-the Amazon jungle. I thought a book about a girl who is forced to move from London to a remote location then discovers some new paranormal creature would be really interesting. At some points the book was interesting, but overall it really wasn't my cup of tea.

I like that Swirls does have something paranormal going on but it isn't anything expected-no werewolves, shifters, vampires, angels or any of the usual suspects. I also think that for the most part the descriptions of the Amazon are pretty good. I like Julia's relationship with her grandma. And I thought Halola was a great friend to Julia.

I was not a fan of many of the relationships in the book. I don't really know why Julia was attracted to Gabriel. He was never an interesting character, to me at least. I don't know how there came to be a (view spoiler). I think some of the situations were strange too-I think most teenage girls at some point get pissed at their mom but Julia and her mom's relationship was unbelievably bad. At one point her mom is missing and Julia says she doesn't feel worried or sad?? That's your mom...do you really feel nothing?

I think Swirls could maybe appeal to a younger audience.

**I received this book through the Making Connections ARR Program :)

Cassie says

The first thing that comes to mind after reading this book is...Interesting! This can be both good and bad though. If you are looking for a new twist on paranormal YA's then you may be delighted by this book. If you like a book to pick up pace quickly then you may get irritated and give up on this book. You don't start to find out what's going on till half way through, but when you do, it's very intriguing! Julia is a sweet and likable character who has to deal with moving away from her home in London and away from her grandmother, whom she adores. The night before she leaves she has a rather crazy dream that terrifies her (and confuses the reader). Eventually you find out she was given a gift....and is now a guardian, only not everyone is happy about this.

The description of the Amazon was beautiful and I love that she was a decedent of the natives who take her in and explain her new role as a guardian to her. I can definitely say you don't read about many 16 year old natives, running around the Amazon and protecting the world very often. Though a truly original tale, I was left with many questions...the good news? There is going to be a second book in the series! I hope to get the answerers to my questions in the next book, but all in all I feel this was a good read. Not only does it have a beautiful eye catching cover but it also has a little romance.....but he's not exactly human. Are you interested? You will have to read it to find out.

<http://shadowkissedcassie.blogspot.com/>

Sharon says

<http://obsessionwithbooks.blogspot.com>

‘Swirls’ was kindly provided to me by the author, F.A Hershey and is the first book in ‘The Outsiders’ series.

Julia feels her life is in turmoil when her Biologist father receives a job opportunity in Brazil; reluctantly they make the move from London leaving behind her home, her grandmother who she shares a close bond and her friends.

On arrival in the Amazon, Julia meets Halola, they form an immediate bond and soon realize they descend from the same Kanuayed tribe. Julia is accepted into the tribe with open arms and finds out she has special abilities which she will need to hone in order to fulfill her role and purpose.

I was curious about the tribal history and traditions and the link they had to Julia’s grandmother; there was a lot of learning and training for Julia to undertake in order to perfect her abilities which she was starting to understand correlated to the unusual dreams or visions she had been experiencing as well as to the woman who appeared in these dreams.

Julia is on a journey throughout this book of self discovery and new beginnings, she shows a lot of emotion

and has personal struggles she needs to get through, she grew from strength to strength as the story progressed and as she learnt more about her heritage you could see her growing as a character.

I did enjoy the relationship between Julia, her best friend Lola, Yoji and of course the love interest Gabriel, there was mystery and something unusual about him that made me want to explore who and what he was. I hope to see their relationship progress.

Julia's relationship with her mother was strained, before they even moved from London it showed they didn't share a close bond but it was tested when Julia wanted to meet the tribe, there were secrets that certainly weren't meant to be revealed and abilities that should have remained hidden; I was disturbed by the outcome of their not so pleasant meet-up at the tribe.

The pacing for me started off slowly but picked up around halfway, it is a well-written story with an original take on the YA genre, I haven't read a lot of sci-fi so I don't have a lot to compare it to but the world Ms Hershey has built is certainly fascinating and unique and I am eager to find out how the story will progress in upcoming installments, especially since it ended on a cliffhanger with both Gabriel and her parents.

All in all, an enjoyable debut in this new series by Ms Hershey.

heather says

Julia's father is overly excited to move to the amazon jungle. Her mother, not so much. Julia is not as excited either, but goes along with it for her father's sake. And also that she has no other choice.

She runs into a strange man in the airport, that she feels connected to in some strange way, but has never seen him before. When she arrives at the hotel where they will be staying, she quickly becomes friends with the owners daughter. This soon becomes her journey to discovering her legacy as a guardian. She has a lot to learn and needs to do it quickly for things all around her are changing and her life may be in jeopardy.

This book really sucked me in at the beginning. I had gotten lost somewhere around the middle, but made up for it at the end. I enjoyed all the characters, but of course, enjoyed Gabriel the most! He was secretive and mysterious. He does his best to help Julia learn all that she can about being a guardian.

This is my Gabriel:

I am looking forward to the next book in the series and am curious at to what comes next!

Carly says

Swirls for me was such an interesting novel, I was intrigued with where the storyline was going to take me from the start of the book, I was not disappointed F.A. Hershey has written an amazing start to what I hope will be a interesting series. Special thanks to F.A. Hershey for the review copy.

Julia is the main character in the book, she is 17 and is a really intelligent down to earth teenager. Her father tells her that they are moving to Brazil, beside the Amazon Rainforest. She doesn't want to go and neither does her mother but in the end they have to as her dad has secured a good job over there.

Julia has roots in the Kanuayed Tribe, her grandmother grew up and lived there for a long time. She has heard some stories of the Tribe from her grandmother and is excited to learn more. She leaves with her family to their new life in Brazil. On the plane journey Julia has another nightmare, she also sees a cute guy who catches her eye, sitting right behind her on the plane.

When she arrives at the place they are staying, she meets a girl who works there called Halola and the pair form an instant friendship. Halola takes Julia under her wing, she invites her to come meet some of her family who live in the jungle. Julia is only too happy to tag along, she is very interested about where she is descended from and her Gran would want her too.

Julia and Halola track into the jungle with a guide Halola's distant cousin, Nathanael. When they get to where the tribe lives, Yoji the tribe leader welcomes Julia with open arms and introduces her to the rest of the tribe.

Yoji makes some shocking revelations to Julia, she is stunned but probably not as shocked as she should be. Gabriel, the cute guy who she saw on the plane, is also there with the tribe, which Julia thinks is very strange. Turns out Julia has been gifted with a very important role, which Halola also will also play a big part in. I am trying to be very careful as I don't want to spoil this amazing story for anyone. The ending is a complete shocker, I can't believe everything has had to go through, the deceit of someone she trusted is very hard to take. It left me dying to read the next in the series THREADS.

I loved all the wonderful descriptors F.A. Hershey has used to describe the jungle, I am a big fan of reading about the Amazon Rainforest and F.A. Hershey has delivered for me. I also loved reading about the tribe culture, the regular everyday life in a tribe. The storyline was very interesting and I was fully engaged from the start. The title Swirls is very vague if you haven't read the book, it gives nothing away and you don't know what to expect.

Julia went through so much in this book, she learnt so much about herself, was very accepting and dealt with everything very well. She is likeable and relate-able and I loved reading her journey.

Halola is a fun, bubbly, loyal, interesting character and is also a great friend to have.

My favourite character has to be Damien, he is sexy, smart, interesting and best of all mysterious. I knew there was something about him from the start. I really hope we get to read a lot more about him in further books.

Jennifer says

I actually wanted to give this book 3 stars, for a few reasons but I just couldn't. I honestly did really like the story and I think there is a lot of potential here. Reasons I wanted to give it 3 stars: for one, there are typo's. Actually it's more like words that don't belong (for example, I instead of and or an) like maybe there were some word changes in the editing but all of the original words didn't get deleted. Another reason was some time line errors. In the first chapter, Julia comes home from school to be told her family is moving from

London to the Amazon in a week, Julie falls asleep, and when she wakes up they are moving that day. There are just a few of these issues throughout the book BUT believe me, these errors are NOT enough for me to not recommend this book.

I really enjoyed the story line, the characters, the descriptions, and most of the dialog. The feelings of sadness and helplessness at this big move in a teenage girls life are real and believable. On top of moving away from everything she has always known, she has a mother who doesn't like her and shows no compassion or love at all and will be given a "Gift" that she doesn't understand and will slowly figure out how to use it and what it means. A lot is at stake in this teens new life, people are not who she thinks they are, and Julia must figure out who to trust and who is an enemy.

I am excited to read the next installment in this new series (this is book one) and see where this new author takes this story!

Preet says

I initially chose to review this book because it seemed different from other YA books. This book definitely took me a while to get into. Now I'm not saying it was bad, it just took some time for the story to get going. A slow beginning doesn't usually bother me, but I really didn't care for Julia as a character. She was a tad bit too whiny for me. I understood she was sad about moving, but every time she was sad it just seemed like the same sentence. After a while I really just stopped caring that she was sad. On the other hand, I absolutely loved the secondary character named Lola. She was so cute and bubbly. The male characters in this book are written in a way that they come off as very mysterious. You're always waiting to know more about them and who they are. That is one big thing this book really has going for it, it builds suspense up and gives you more and more questions to be answered.

This would also be a great book for people who enjoy a lot of description. I'm a reader who likes it in doses when it's needed, but this story is very detailed in it's surroundings. The descriptions of the Amazon put you right in the characters shoes. There are a few structural flaws in the book, but it isn't anything that deterred me from reading the story.

The concept of the story is original and gives you insight to a world that hasn't been explored in books. I hope the following books close up some of the gaps in this first book and get into characters at a deeper level. I believe the book can definitely be a bit more edited and developed, but it's a great start to a brand new cultural viewpoint that I look forward to seeing more of.

Jamie says

Swirls is so much more than the summary provides. I was pleasantly surprised when I started reading the book. By the end I was hooked and am looking forward to reading book number two.

Julia is living in London with her family when she starts having strange dreams that always involve a woman with red hair. When she finds out that her dad is moving the family to the Amazon Julia and her mom are not happy at all.

When they arrive Julia meets a girl, Halola, working at the lodge where they are staying. It seems like they have an instant connection, friendship wise. Once they get settled Julia starts to learn more about her native

roots in the Kanuayed Tribe. She also learns that she is gifted as a guardian. She needs to figure out how to use her powers to save herself and the ones she loves. Julia is surprised to find out that there is more than just the human race living in the area. It's not long before a new guy, Gabrial arrives who Julia falls for.

There is so much more to this story but I don't want to spoil it for anyone. It is a good, interesting story that I enjoyed reading. It's more of story and scene building than really getting more into the story. There is a little bit of action and romance. It's a good first book and I'm looking forward to getting more into the story in book two.

This e-book was provided to me from the author for review. This did not affect my review in any way.

Lovey Dovey Books says

Originally posted on Lovey Dovey Books

Swirls is a beautiful story. It was a little slow getting started for me, but I appreciated the build - up. The build - up allowed me to get to know and understand Julia on a deeper level. I was able to see a change in her attitude and perspective of life by the end of the story. Julia is a character that readers love and want to see do well, and since *Swirls* is only the beginning of her story, I have reason to believe that she will surprise everyone.

Other characters in the story were amazing, as well, and brought life to Julia. Whether they caused her to have negative reactions or positive, Julia wasn't boring. Learning of her native descent was exactly what she needed after having to relocate from London, but it also caused her some stress. Learning about all the otherness in her world certainly had to be a shock for Julia, but she soldiered through it. Having a loving community and trusted friends at her back seemed to make Julia a stronger person with something to look forward to in life.

Swirls is a fantasy, science fiction mix seasoned with romance and action. The next book in the trilogy, *Threads*, is bound to delve deeper in the mysteries that now surround Julia.

Veronica Morfi says

When I started reading *Swirls* I thought it'd be a story about a girl going back to her roots in Amazon and finding more about herself and maybe finding some magic powers or something to go along with it.

In some ways it was:

Julie lived all her life in London away from her true home Amazon. When her dad moves the whole family there for a job, Julie starts having painful dreams about a woman with red hair. She feels so miserable she has to leave behind everything she knew and venture for the unknown roots of her grandmother. Once there she makes friends with Halola, a girl working at the lodge they're staying at and begins to discover more about the tribe she is partly from.

And in some ways is was nothing like that:

Julie learns about the past of her tribe and realizes that she is more part of their future than she ever expected to be. She is Gifted. She is a Guardian. And it's time for her to start acting like one or someone could get hurt. Ans that someone would probably be her. With Halola right on her side, the help of the tribe's young leader and a mysterious tourist always around she is about to discover the history of her people and her own.

I really loved the parts of this book describing the Amazon, it really made me feel like I was there. And even if there was not much action at the first half of the book, and nothing much supernatural I enjoyed it because of the sceneries and everything that was going on in Julie's head. I could really connect with her sadness of leaving everything behind and starting anew, even if I've never done it in such a great scale.

The second half was where the characters got to interact with each other more. Julie finally visited the tribe and learned some things about herself and who she is supposed to be. But when the story was progressing I found myself not feeling like I did about Julie, she was so confused and unsure I didn't like her that much, on the other hand I started liking Halola even better. She is a great character. I wish there was more action in this book, there was a chapter at the end which I thought was going to be a cool action scene but it really wasn't, I want to see them using their powers in real danger. I hope I will in the second one.

Krysta Felix says

Under normal circumstances I wouldn't have read past the first five pages, but I got this book from Goodreads' Giveaways and so I felt an obligation to finish it.

There were several glaring problems with this book:

1. The worst was the spelling/grammatical mistakes. They went way past merely annoying or distracting: they were the most memorable part of the book, in a 'bang my head against the wall' way. I don't think there was a single paragraph without a mistake of some sort, or at the very least an awkwardly written sentence. If the author is not a native English speaker or simply isn't very good at grammar etc, she should get a good editor to help with that.
2. The main character's 'powers' weren't particularly believable. One moment she has no clue what she's doing, the next she is suddenly some sort of protege, and then she goes back to being helpless. What exactly is going on here?
3. The main character (Julia) doesn't love her mother. Maybe some people might think this is no big deal, but to me it seemed a glaring flaw. Her mother didn't seem like that bad a person to begin with, and people tend to care about their parents even if they can't stand being around them for more than a few minutes at a time.
4. I hate the cliche of two extremely attractive guys both going after one girl. Enough said.
5. My biggest pet peeve after the structural flaws was this: Everyone keeps telling Julia to trust no one. But doesn't she have to trust them when they tell her this? It especially bugged me that she trusted one character in particular whom she had never met before the beginning of the book and who gave her no good reason to trust her in the first place. But Julia sees fit to ask this character about the trustworthiness of other characters!
6. *SPOILER ALERT* Nathaniel. That character had so many plot holes surrounding him I'm surprised he

didn't fall through the ground. A)If they knew he was a poisoner, why didn't they press charges/ban him from their village/tell everyone they knew that he was dangerous? B)Julia is completely oblivious to his actions even when he's being crystal clear. Whatever gave her the impression she should trust him? C)If he's Lola's cousin, shouldn't she be a little more upset when she thinks he's dead? Even if he's a distant cousin, she's still probably known him most of her life.

I hate to give a bad review about a book, but I can't honestly give this one a good review. The concept was somewhat interesting, so perhaps with major revision this could become a fairly decent YA novel. But as it is I would not recommend it to anyone.

Natshane says

Julia did not want to leave London and move to Brazil, but when her father's job required them to relocate to a remote area in Brazil, Julia had no other choice than to follow. Little did she know that what awaits her in Brazil could change her fate, and her destiny.

I was intrigued by the aspect of getting-to-know-your-roots. In most YA novels these days, family history has not been given much thought. However, as a young adult myself, I think it's imperative for young adults to know at least a thing or two about their roots, and that was one of the reason why I respected the idea that the book plot started off with the main character, Julia acknowledging her family history, especially when her family was descendants of a native tribe called *Kanuayeds*.

I liked *Swirls* because it was different, it was unusual for me to read about spiritual tribes that possessed unique gifts and folklore history. Furthermore, *Swirls* added a new meaning to the term 'Guardian' and introduced a new concept the 'Soul sisters'. I like that the author was innovative with her story and she had created such a mysterious world that allured readers. Besides that, the writing was great and smooth and the plot build-up was climatic.

On top of that, who wouldn't fall for a mysterious handsome boy with rare blue eyes and dark hair? I was as attracted to Gabriel as Julia was and I couldn't seem to get enough of him from the book. And then there was the tribe leader, Yoji who seemed bubbly and polite, but I can't help feeling he plays a bigger role in the story.

Overall the book was great, however I wasn't able to be completely engrossed in the story because it was lacking in character development and the plot was inadequately elaborated in certain parts. I wasn't feeling the closeness between Julia and her dad, or between Julia's dad and mum, but I loved the friendship between Lola and Julia, they were the ones that I could really relate to.

I was also unsatisfied with the way Julia accepted the truth about herself, I was expecting more fight and denial from her instead of calm acceptance, nevertheless, the ending left me feeling anxious to read the sequel, it was such an unexpected turn of events.

Prepare to be Swirled!

Reviewed by
Natasha Anne
Dreamland Teenage Fantasy : *Swirls* Review

carole says

I've never read a book like this one before. Julia is being moved from London to the Amazon to connect with a heritage she's never known very much about. The book takes an incredible turn once the characters are in the Amazon. We learn secrets, dark and buried family secrets that just might explain a lot.

Swirls is a story rich in scenery and a lush history that evolves throughout the book into much more than I ever expected. This book is so rich in elements from all of the stories that I love. It has romance, action, sci-fi, and more.

The beginning was a little slow and some parts were a bit confusing. Julia has strange dreams and until farther into the story they didn't make sense to me. But, once I read farther into the book it moved along nicely and became easier to follow, even as Julia's life seemed to spiral a bit out of control.

Making friends quickly, Julia, dives headfirst into this new life. She is a strong girl and a fascinating character. Unlike her mother who deals with the move in her own way. Normally it's the kid who is distant and moody, right? Well, she may have her reasons. Thankfully, Julia has a grandmother who has been there for her as more of a mother. While she does stay in London, they remain very close.

Julia has a gift, a gift that makes her unique even among the tribe she was born into but has never known. It's in learning about herself and those around her that she begins to understand about the past and a little about what to expect in the future. I want to say more but it's another book that I loved learning things for myself and I think other readers should too.

For those of you wondering, yes there is a love story amidst everything else going on. It's a great one too!

Swirls begins as a pretty normal run of the mill self discovery type book, and F.A. Hershey makes it into a very original tale. It's unique and fun, and definitely worth a peek!

Rachael says

Disclaimer: The fact that I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review has not affected my rating.

First of all, I would like to thank the author for providing me with a free review copy. However, since this is an honest review, I apologize for my negative words, and am in no way trying to disrespect you.

I was really psyched by the description of this book – it's pretty rare to have a contemporary YA book set in the Amazon. I suppose I was expecting something along the lines of naked natives in tents. To a degree, this is true, but unfortunately, the writing and plot style of this book wasn't for me.

Let me start off with what I liked – mainly the setting of the book. As I said before, a contemporary YA book set in Amazon is pretty rare, and seeing a tribe there was unique and held some of my interest. I liked reading about the trees, tribes' rituals, and beauty of nature!

However, the main thing that put me off was the fact that despite being away from the Amazon most of her life and knowing almost nothing about the Guardians or her heritage, Julia was able to master her abilities and be considered very powerful, very easily. I was hoping to see her struggle or grow a bit, but this did not happen.

Moreover, there was the dreaded triangle trap. I suppose I'm sick of it by now, but if used effectively, I might not have minded. However, Julia, Gabriel, and Yoji pretty much all fell to insta-love. I didn't see much of their relationships developing; just a lot of heated cheeks, wistful or annoyed looks, and mind reading. But what *really* put me off was the fact that (view spoiler) Other than that, there wasn't much chemistry between Julia and Yoji anyways (she even mentioned him being like an older brother...) – how could she consider him to be a suitable lover?

The writing style also didn't suit me. When I was reading, I found that many of the "clues" the author left were so, so obvious – it was practically pointed out. There was almost no mystery for me – I predicted the ending a few chapters ahead of the "climax". Quite a few spelling and grammar mistakes were also made – I might be being a tad picky because I just came back from an SAT English class, but the way I imagined Julia's voice put me off, especially since some of her thoughts seemed to eloquent for a teenager.

Overall, this book wasn't for me. If you're sick of insta-love and love triangles, skip *Swirls*. However, if you don't mind them and are looking for a PNR book with a unique setting, go ahead and read it.
