



# Narc

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*"You're going to hate me forever when you learn my secret."*

When his little sister is caught with a bag of weed, seventeen-year-old Aaron Foster takes the fall. To keep the cops from tearing his family apart, Aaron agrees to go undercover and help bust the dealer who's funneling drugs into his Miami high school. But making friends with the school's biggest players isn't easy for a waste-case loner from the wrong part of town.

Stuck between the cops on one hand and a crazy party scene on the other, Aaron befriends Morgan Baskin—a cute but troubled rich girl who might be his link to the supplier. But just when he realizes he's falling for Morgan, the unbearable weight of his lies threatens to crush them both.

## Narc Details

Date : Published August 8th 2012 by Flux (first published August 1st 2012)

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Author : Crissa-Jean Chappell

Format : Paperback 275 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Realistic Fiction, Contemporary, Fiction

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## **From Reader Review Narc for online ebook**

### **Jennifer Pittman says**

A riveting tale about a teens adventures being a narc for the Narcotics unit in Miami. Aaron must decide between being a narc, him being tried as an adult for possession/going to jail, or his little sister being charged with possession/going to jail. He decides to take what seems to be the lesser of the evils, and becomes a narc. Little does Aaron know, what being a narc involves. He is going from his normal days to having to be more outgoing and hanging out with a crowd that he normally doesn't. Along the way he meets Morgan, and starts falling for her. Now he has to figure out how to protect her, yet make the bust work.

**\*\*Full review @ <http://jeninicole83.blogspot.com/2012...> \*\***

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### **Olga says**

I really liked this book. There have been few times where I have to stop reading a book because I worry about what's happening. Hunger Games after Rue was one. This was another. Not because it was scary or dark, but because there was no one there to worry about Aaron and I worried for him. His mother existed in the sense that she's alive, but other than that, not a parental figure in the least. Had she had a bigger presence in his life, he wouldn't have gone down the road he ended up on.

I feel like the adults in Aaron's life failed him, and as a result, he lost the only people he cared for or would have cared for him (Skully, Morgan, Haylie). Still, life is like that and all actions have consequences and we have to move on.

Great job, Crissa. Look forward to reading your next book! :-D

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### **Stacey Conrad says**

Aaron--flipped to be an informant after being picked up for drugs.

Morgan--emo/goth girl, dancer who cuts herself; Aaron is interested.

I am buying this for my Ellen Hopkins kids. It's not poetry, but the same type of drama they love. The dialogue and characters feel real. I have met these kids before.

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### **Alyssa Seno-Varga says**

What would you do if you were forced to make a life threatening decision that could hurt your family and friends? How do you think those people would treat you after your decision was made? What if you were forced to choose a side? NARC, by Crissa-Jean Chappell is a very alluring and adventurous book that I would recommend to any teen. People who like high school based novels would love NARC. The author

really draws in your attention by her creative writing style and amazing detail of today's world of teenagers. Aaron is a seventeen year old boy in high school whose life is just a mess. He's barely noticed in school. Aaron's younger sister Haylie is caught with a bag of illegal drugs when they are pulled over in the car. Aaron is forced to make the hardest decision of his life; he can let his little sister go to jail, or he can start off his senior year right, by being a "new person". After Aaron starts off in a new school for the narcotics center and he needs to find out who the supplier of the schools illegal drugs is. Aaron is forced into another situation; save his new friends, or let the police bust them. Will Aaron choose his sister, or his friends? "The siren blended into the radio. I didn't hear it at first. In the rearview mirror, I caught the blue and red. My blood turned to ice."

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## **Paige says**

I really liked this. Sweet and heartbreaking and very, very realistic.

Review forthcoming.

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## **Alessandra says**

E-galley received from Netgalley for review.

*"You're going to hate me forever when you learn my secret"*

This sentence practically drew me in. It's very powerful. I would've read the book just for this sentence alone.

In order to protect his younger sister, 17-year-old stoner Aaron Foster is practically forced to become a "narc" and help the cops discover who is dealing drugs to the students of Miami's Palm Hammock High School. This is not easy for him. Previously, he was "human wallpaper" and just drifted by; now he mingles with everyone, trying to get to know people and scoring invites to the coolest parties.

In this way, he gets to know cute, but troubled art-girl Morgan and her best friend, Skully. He starts feeling protective of the girls, especially of Morgan with whom he's now having a relationship, and tries to work out a way to keep up his end of the deal with the police, while at the same time not ratting the girls out. In fact, Morgan has sold small quant of weed in the past, and Skully let her do it at her parties. It's hard for Aaron to keep lying to all his friends, but he needs to stay true to his character or things could get ugly for him and his family.

I thought this book was interesting, but it didn't grab me completely. At times I found myself just wishing things would just hurry up. There was some cool symbolism in the book which I didn't get at first (and probably still wouldn't, if I hadn't read a review on Goodreads pointing it out): Aaron observing mama bird and her little ones from his window, which stands for his desire to take care of his family; and Aaron playing magic tricks, hinting at the skill he needs to have in order not to blow his cover.

I liked this, but I didn't love it. The ending was bittersweet and appropriate, and in some way it was the only

ending possible. I'm just slightly perplexed because the book seemed overall a bit weak to me. I'm not sure why.

**Cover attraction:** I think the double image of the guy refers to Aaron's secret identity as a "narc". It also hints at him being lonely, "human wallpaper" as he puts it. I like this cover, even though, like the book, it's nothing exceptional (still refreshing from the long line of pretty-girl-in-a-long-dress covers, though.)

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### **C. Lee McKenzie says**

When Aaron Foster is stopped for speeding and the cop finds a baggie with weed, Aaron's life takes a major turn . . . and not for the better. To keep from going to jail and making his mom's life more miserable than it already is, he agrees to become a narc. From then on the story is about Aaron's failure as both narc (at least for the most part) and as a boyfriend.

The writing is very strong. I was impressed by the cliché-free chapters that still managed to capture the teen voices. And I enjoyed some of the fresh images the author created.

I love contemporary, realistic fiction, so I came to this book with a slight bias, but Chappell still had to make me believe in her characters and she did. I felt for Aaron. I recognized his girlfriend, Morgan, and the girl named Skully--sad girls with everything and nothing.

The only thing I didn't like 100% was the pacing toward the end of the book. I felt it slowed and didn't build well, and was sorry that happened.

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### **Melissa (i swim for oceans) says**

Narc is the brainchild of author, Crissa-Jean Chappell, known for crafting heart-wrenching, emotional and poignant novels regarding the human condition. This novel is no exception. Written from a male POV, which is tricky as it is, Narc embraces the emotional underbelly of society and brings the humanity of all its characters to life. The sparse, haunting prose isn't flowery or too descriptive. Rather, the emotions, the themes and the pain takes center stage making the story incredibly raw and real, despite the dark tones. With extreme empathy and endless feeling, Narc soars.

Read the full review here:

<http://www.iswimforoceans.com/2012/06...>

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### **Medeia Sharif says**

Aaron is torn. He can either be a narc or be thrown into jail after he and his little sister are caught with drugs; he has to protect his sister and he doesn't want to hurt his new friends, who are taking and dealing drugs. Working as an undercover teen narc, people are onto him. He's in the midst of speculation and danger. I enjoyed the unique premise—I've never read a YA novel about narcs before—and I loved the Miami setting.

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## Glass says

I've just finished reading this book - like ten minutes ago - and I'm breaking my own rule as you can see (I try not to write a review the same day that I finish the book). I'm sitting here in front of my shitty computer (I really need a laptop!) and trying to say something meaningful about Narc. So, I go and make another mistake - I google the author. And I like her and now I can't write all those shitty things I've been thinking about last night after I've read first half of the book. Like, how I hate that every author lately, in the lack of the better solution, decide that one of the reasons for main character being messed up is that his father or brother died somewhere in the Middle East - thousand miles away from his peaceful home where the biggest problem is that you are "human wallpaper, a stoner wastecase" or being rich brat with too much freedom. Boo-friggin-hoo. Or maybe, I've read too much books with military background last month. Who knows?

I woke up late this morning, took a cup of coffee and curled on my favorite reading spot. And I read the book. My third cup of coffee got cold - I was so caught up in the story that I forgot about it. I felt guilty for all "shitty things" that I've been thinking - because in the end it's not another glorified story about American soldiers who are "saving the world". No, not at all. It's about kid who can't save himself, let alone somebody else. But he tries and along the way finds friends, girlfriend and, maybe in the end his own way how to deal with the rest of the world.

In the beginning I was little bit confused - Narc is written in this hectic style and you have to go back and look for clues. First I was annoyed but then I realized that it's author's way to express all the feelings and inner drama which Aaron was going through. This book deserves to be called "realistic" - I won't tell you why I think that - than this post would be me telling you everything that happens in this book and than there would be no need for you to read it. (Don't you just hate when people mix up review and summarising the storyline of the novel?)

If you want to see how would Narc look like in the pictures, go to the Crissa's Tumblr. There you will also find some extra parts of the story - nice touch. My personal favorite would be this picture:

Read the book and tell me why!

Until next time,  
Glass

\*\*\*NOTE! Copy of the book is kindly provided by the publisher, Flux, via NetGalley. I'm not paid for writing review - I do this for free as lover of written word. All opinions in this review are personal.

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## Peter says

Again, I found Ms. Chappell's writing to be extremely exciting to read and finished her second book in less

than a couple of days. Both of the books (the other being Total Constant Order) are written for young people, probably teenagers, but are exciting none the less. Both books lend themselves to a series and I hope that she has a sequel.

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### **Charlotte says**

I am giving a big round of applause to Criss-Jean Chappell for having the guts to be real here. I greatly appreciated how she handled so many aspects of this story, especially the end.

This is a hard review to write because my feelings vary so widely here. I adored the flawed, dumb teen boy main character who also is an honorable, loving brother and son. In contemp fiction we so often have a flawed male MC designed to swoon us with his bad boy ways, then he evolves into the perfect male that we all want to fall in love with. Well, you don't get that here and I loved it! You get a regular kid making stupid choices, who lacks guidance but not love. His mom cares but is absent because she's a single parent. This is real life. He's had to grow up quick, in the blink of an eye and is totally not equipped to handle it.

Chappell pulls no punches in keeping Aaron from failing and falling into the games of others as he tries to navigate this new world he's had to force his way into. He's a mess but he's real. What's not always real for me is how far fetched the story gets at times. Chappell brings us right back to reality though so I was left feeling torn....did I really like this story or did I just really like Aaron? And I have a feeling that not many people will even really like Aaron because he's just so normal. A normal messed up, mixed up, everyday average joe teenage boy. I see them everyday in my line of work and my heart goes out to them. It's really freaking hard being a teen. And it's really freaking hard being an invisible one too.

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### **Rhiannon says**

very well written, very romantic and thoughtful. I loved it, after i was done i could not stop thinking about it!

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### **Danica Page (One Page at a Time) says**

My Rating: 4 out of 5 stars.

Disclaimers: I received an e-galley of this book from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

My Overall Thoughts/Impressions: I went into this novel with no expectations. I liked the cover and the first line of the synopsis had me hooked. You're going to hate me forever when you learn my secret. That pulled me into this novel. I was slightly hesitant to read this novel because it's about drugs, but I figured I'd give it a shot.

I enjoyed this novel immensely. I liked the writing style and I actually did like the character Aaron. Even though he had clearly messed up and got in drugs, I liked him more than I had anticipated. He was about the only character I liked. Morgan and Skully intrigued me, but Aaron was one that I actually liked. Aaron

became a narc to help save his sister and so he decided to become one. It was an intriguing premise.

I've mentioned that I had no expectations for this novel, but I ended up being pleasantly surprised. The novel was well-written and the characters were well-developed.

So why four stars? I originally had this at a three because this isn't typically the type of book I like to read. However, the more I thought about it, I decided this is actually a 4 star novel. The writing was brilliant and while I might not have loved the subject of the novel, I was sucked into the novel. An intriguing read and definitely one that was well-written. You just need to decide if the plot line is for you.

In Summary: A novel that I thoroughly enjoyed. Wonderful writing with intriguing characters that led to an intriguing and entertaining story.

Warnings/Side-notes: It's about drugs so of course the novel mentions drugs several times. There were several instances of strong language. Some minor violence in the novel and sexual undertones. Not your cleanest read, but definitely not a filthy read. Not for young readers, but I think older teens could handle this just fine.

The Wrap-up: This was a unique book for me to pick up. I took a chance on it and I'm glad I did. It was an addicting read. Definitely glad I read this one. If you like novels that look at the edgier side of young adult fiction, I definitely recommend this one.

Love,

Danica Page

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## **Anastasia & Amelia says**

### Judging the Book by its Cover

We think it's only fair that we state the definition of a narc before we begin our usual "analyses." A narc is a general term used to describe someone who informs the proper authorities when they see others committing illegal deeds. The guy on the cover obviously doesn't look like an adult, so we're assuming he's a teenager. Ohhhhhhh, boy. Where we come from, "narcing" isn't exactly what you want to be known for. In fact "narcing," might just be the worst thing you can do, as a high school student. Something like ... this could happen:

Not the prettiest sight, is it? However, We're finding ourselves a bit intrigued. We're wondering what in the world could have possibly given him the idea that "narcing" is okay. Maybe he has a secret that he's holding on to (*very tightly*), and it would help to get the authorities off his case ... But you know what they say about secrets, don't you?! (\*whispers\*)

"Secrets, secrets, are no fun, unless you share with EVERYONE!"

### See no evil, Speak no evil, Read this evil?

Ahh, the overview. Aaron is a stoner, who's been caught. That explains just about ... EVERYTHING. Jail



time, or "narcing"? That's like asking us if I'd like to get something to eat or let myself starve to death? There was really only one option in the first place! While playing undercover narc, he falls in love. It's okay, Aaron! Some people were meant to be single!

I'm going to hate you forever, you say? Well one thing for sure, We definitely don't *hate* this book. Translation: This book is OURS. It might as well just be on my bookshelf, because nothing, and we mean NOTHING, is going to stop us from reading this book.

Temptation Scale - 5/5

Don't forget to rate this novel on oursite, and leave a comment letting us know you rated it. Whichever book has the most positive ratings at the end of the month, will be featured as a giveaway, during that month. (Whoever rated that specific book, will be entered into that raffle.) Drop a comment below, we'd love to hear what you think about it too! (:

More "before-reviews" @: <http://readingtemptations.blogspot.com/>

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