

Blink

Sasha Dawn

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Adolescent Josh is not fond of his life in Sugar Creek, Illinois, a small town where not much happens. When he learns that his mother has been seeing his ex-stepfather again despite an order of no contact, things get worse.

But then an intriguing girl, Chatham, walks into his life, claiming that she's in town to find her runaway sister. There is more to her story than what she's telling. Josh works with Chatham and begins to learn about her past, what brought her to Sugar Creek, and how she just might hold the key to finally discovering what happened to Rachel, a four-year-old who was kidnapped twelve years ago.

Blink is a tightly crafted and thoroughly satisfying mystery with a sympathetic lead who is driven by an instinct to help and protect those who need it. Josh has a troubled home life; his mom is verbally abusive, and her ex-husband is physically so. Chatham, in contrast, is a beautiful, artistic girl, though she is guarded and mysterious.

Josh knows that Chatham is keeping secrets, but he wants to help her however he can. As the two characters spend time together, a believable, compelling romance develops, and it's as easy to get caught up in their love as in the dangers they face.

Blink weaves its story through multiple lives, a twelve-year time span, and a wide geographical area. It provides unexpected twists and turns at a pleasantly fast pace, and is compelling from the first page to the last.

CATHERINE THURESON (May/June 2018)

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