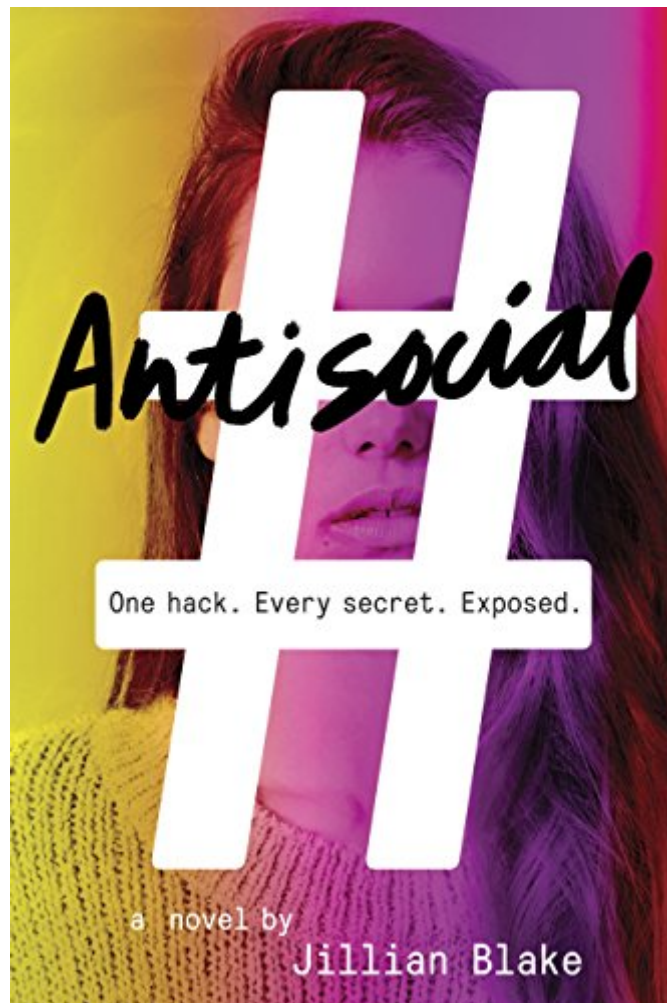


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Antisocial



Synopsis

What if your greatest secrets became public? For the students at Alexandria Prep, a series of hacks leads to a scandalous firestorm—and the students are left wondering whose private photos and messages will be exposed next. It's *Pretty Little Liars* meets *WikiLeaks*. Senior spring at Alexandria Prep was supposed to be for sleeping through class and partying with friends. But for Anna Soler, it's going to be a lonely road. She's just been dumped by her gorgeous basketball star boyfriend—with no explanation. Anna's closest friends, the real ones she abandoned while dating him, are ignoring her. The endearing boy she's always had a complicated friendship with is almost too sympathetic. But suddenly Anna isn't the only one whose life has been upended. Someone is determined to knock the kings and queens of the school off their thrones: one by one, their phones get hacked and their personal messages and photos are leaked. At first it's funny—people love watching the dirty private lives of those they envy become all too public. Then the hacks escalate. Dark secrets are exposed, and lives are shattered. Chaos erupts at school. As Anna tries to save those she cares about most and to protect her own secrets, she begins to understand the reality of our always-connected lives: Sometimes we share too much.

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Customer Reviews

Stayed up last night to finish it. It's a prime example of over sharing information but it's done without using extreme profanity and sex. The ending was one I did not expect. Hopefully, it opens the door to more books.

ANTISOCIAL is a fascinating and compelling and unputdownable read that sheds light on what can happen to friendships and to lives when "private" data becomes public. It shows just how hungry for gossip everyone is, how quick to spread the word, how riveted to the scandal, how hasty to point fingers, and how vicious we can become. But it also reminds us that not everyone is all good or all bad, that we are more than the negative things we say or that are said about us, and that for most of us the positive outweighs the negative. It is a riveting, addictive, at times chilling, a little bit heartbreaking, and absolutely thrilling debut. The unraveling of Alexandria Prep is shown from Anna Soler's point of view. Her world had already come undone when her boyfriend dumped her and she lost her connection to the elite in his world. Having ditched her friends for him and his during the three months they'd gone out, she didn't think things could get much worse for her. But when a vulnerability in a school scheduling app causes search data to be leaked, the information goes viral and soon hackers are accessing and revealing more personal and harmful information. Chaos ensues. Friendships are destroyed. Futures are ruined. And through it all, Anna can't help but watch, read, listen, and wait. Because while she might not be one of Prep's most envied or be the most social online, it's only a matter of time before her secrets are exposed - the things she's done that she can't take back and the things she's said that can't remotely be called nice. Jillian Blake did a fantastic job at showing the many facets of this complicated issue. She gave readers a lot to think about and a different way of looking at a situation that might appear to be only negative. She alerts people to the danger of saying and sharing too much, she points out that it's a problem that doesn't just affect those who overshare, and she reminds us that no one is perfect, that everyone is flawed. ANTISOCIAL is more than just a wickedly scandalous story, though the dirt that is revealed about the many students at Alexandria Prep will make readers feel as voyeuristic as the characters as they devour each shocking piece of news. It has substance. It has a bit of a mystery.

It has a fast-pace, entertaining if not entirely likable characters, and a positive message. It is an exciting story that is not to be missed.

I received *Antisocial* by Jillian Blake through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review, and I give it 3/5 stars. Alexandria Prep is about to be exposed. Senior spring was supposed to mean sleeping through class and partying with friends. But for Anna Soler, it's going to be a lonely road. She's just been dumped by her perfect basketball star boyfriend "with no explanation." Anna's closest friends, the real ones she abandoned while dating him, are ignoring her. The endearing boy she's always had a complicated friendship with is almost too sympathetic. But suddenly Anna isn't the only one whose life has been upended. Someone is determined to knock the kings and queens of the school off their thrones: one by one, their phones get hacked and their personal messages and photos are leaked. At first it's funny "people love watching the dirty private lives of those they envy become all too public. Then the hacks escalate. Dark secrets are exposed, and lives are shattered. Chaos erupts at school. As Anna tries to save those she cares about most and to protect her own secrets, she begins to understand the reality of our always-connected lives: Sometimes we share too much. (Goodreads)

On the one hand, *Antisocial* by Jillian Blake was a fun ride where everyone had something to lose, but on the other hand, it had far too many problems, in my opinion, for it to receive a rating over 3 stars. Let's start with the good parts: With exception to the main character, Anna, who lacked drive and personality, the rest of the characters were interesting and complex. Over halfway through the book, I forgot Anna even liked art. Her ex-friends, friends, ex-boyfriend, etc., all had passions, though "sports, art, theater, journalism, and hacking. I believed the friendships and relationships. The story is fast-paced and short. I appreciate a story that gets right down to business and keeps up the momentum. This isn't a topic I've read much about, so I also appreciated the plot even though it seems to happen to Anna, instead of her creating the plot. Now to the "bad" parts: As I said before, the main character lacks drive and personality, and the plot seems to happen to her instead of her forcing the plot. After the data leaks, there are no repercussions for the truths that are exposed (SPOILER: leaked nude photos of minors and people who did not consent to having the photos taken, outing LGBTQ+ students, etc., including a student who was worried about being outed before he could tell his conservative parents "I mean, what happened there? There was no follow-up on that and it's important.) Anna creates an art project that isn't believable and feels very heavy-handed/too mature. The texting/commenting was painfully unaware of the times, which dated the story even farther back than when it was published. No one talks unironically like "I h8 u"

anymore. The friendship/relationship with the love interest was awkward, forced, and felt uncomfortable to "witness" at times. SPOILER: The handling of what happens to a certain character was not good—there was no school-wide discussion of mental illness despite all the announcements and assemblies about the leaks.

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