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Christina Banach

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Fourteen-year old twins Minty and Jess are inseparable. Maybe they bicker now and then, even crave a bit of space once in a while. But they have a connection. Unbreakable. Steadfast. Nothing can tear them apart. Until a family trip to the coast puts their bond in jeopardy. As Minty tries to rescue her dog from drowning she ends up fighting for her life. Will Minty survive? If she doesn't, how will Jess cope without her? Only the stormy sea has the answer.

Minty Details

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Author : Christina Banach

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From Reader Review Minty for online ebook

Heather Lawson says

A beautiful tale of two sisters that grips you tight and doesn't let go.

Kirsty Hoggons says

Christina Banach

I received a signed copy of this book as part of a giveaway that I won and I was very excited to start reading it. It seemed to be a bit different to other books that I normally read as the main characters were younger than the ones I normally read about. I honestly had no idea what to expect when I first started reading. I enjoyed how this book was written from the point of view of Minty and I feel like the style of writing captures the essence of a 14 year old's vocabulary very well. Something that I liked about this book is that while it was written about younger children, a lot of adult issues were dealt with as well. There were so many twists and turns in this book and it was not predictable which I really enjoyed. I never knew what was going to happen. Minty was a little bit much for me at times, but I think that was just because of her age and the obvious issues she was going through. I liked Jess and her friends, although at times the scenes were a bit much. I absolutely loved Jack and I honestly don't think that I would want anything about him to change because he seems like a really lovely guy, and I love how his character develops towards the end of the book. I would recommend this book to teenagers and adults as I feel that both could learn a lot from it.

Blog post: <https://kirstyhoggons.wordpress.com/2...>

Rachael says

Minty is a clever book. It walks a delicate line between the exploration of grief and the unravelling of a warm, living character: a ghost. The central character has an engaging and authentic voice. The POV makes for a unique plot. It's a laugh and cry book. Minty grows, grieves and learns and the reader shares the journey.

Joanne Robertson says

As everyone knows i just love books about twins, it doesn't seem to matter which genre either as the twin relationship just fascinates me both in real life and in fictional settings as well. This is the first young adult book I've read with twins but it's probably a book that can be read by adults as well as stories about grief knows no age boundaries. Here in her debut novel Christina Banach gives us a story of love, loss and forgiveness affecting a family with twin 14 year old girls. And they have dogs!!!!

I think the scene at the beginning of the book was one that would bring terror to any parent or dog walker...a dog in trouble in the water. Now when you haven't been in this situation, it's very easy to judge! How many lives are lost each year when people attempt to rescue their dogs from a situation but get into difficulty? And the awful thing is that normally that person dies but their dog has somehow survived against the odds. So I

found this a very realistic and scary start to how Minty dies and becomes lost and separated from her twin Jess. There was an essence of *The Lovely Bones* from this point onwards as Minty is stuck in an afterlife where she watches her family struggling to cope without her.

The relationship between Minty and Jess and also the one she strikes up with Jack, her afterlife friend who helps her to understand what's happened to her, are really well developed which leads to a true depth of feeling to their interactions. It doesn't matter that you know where the story has got to be heading as it's Jess and Minty's journey to their acceptance of the inevitable that is at the core of this lovely book.

This is the sort of book my girls would have loved when they were teenagers and that I would have encouraged them to read. It's a poignant and emotional read that ultimately has an uplifting message of hope in its plot. I can tell that the author has put a lot of herself and her beliefs into her work and it works all the better for that.

I received a review copy of this book from the author and have chosen to write a review after reading it.

Xanthe Mainwaring says

I can't believe this got such high ratings from everyone!
It is Young Adult fiction to be fair so I would say leave it to them!

Jane Lythell says

Christina Banach has accomplished a rare feat in her debut YA novel *Minty* because she has written about bereavement in an authentic, sometimes sad, sometimes humorous and ultimately uplifting way. She captures the voice of her fourteen year old protagonist Minty so well. I loved the depiction of her friendship with Jack, her companion in Limbo, and Minty's deep feelings for her twin sister Jess. There are many lovely touches of how teenagers think and behave. I'd recommend this book to adults as well as to young adults.

Rebecca McNutt says

In the tradition of books like *The Lovely Bones*, *If I Stay* and *The Invisible*, *Minty* explores the connections of loved ones which remain long after death, but in this case specifically with twins. For sisters Minty and Jess, a sudden unexpected tragedy has left one of them alive but alone and the other trapped in the afterlife to watch her own family's grief unfold. Unlike the similar book *If I Stay*, which also shares the same theme of a girl in the afterlife, *Minty* isn't too sappy or drenched in romance. Instead it's more about something deeper, the different ways in which people find ways to hold onto their loved ones even after death drags them away.

This is as much Jess's story and her parents' story as it is Minty's. Is their family truly shattered, or is Minty still as much of a presence as she ever was? With vibrant prose, great character development and lots of memorable quotes, Banach brings *Minty* to life in all the best ways. Note to Minty, though - keep your dog restrained for crying out loud! I don't know, I think the death by dog rescue thing was supposed to evoke

innocence, but it just didn't leave much of an impact. It wasn't humorous or anything, but certainly overdramatic the way it was written.

Claire Douglas says

This is one of the most moving books I have read about death, loss and dealing with grief. The beginning of the book, when teenage girl Minty dies trying to rescue her dog, is so realistic, so gut-wrenching and tense that I was immediately pulled into the story. The novel is told from Minty's point of view, as she's stuck in the afterlife, having to watch her family's grief and the guilt that her twin sister, Jess feels at not being able to save her. It brings tears to my eyes just thinking about this story. I read it months ago and it has still stayed with me. The characters are so real, I felt like I knew Minty, Jess, Jack, their friends and family.

The writing is beautiful and the story is told with such depth of feeling, yet isn't depressing but life affirming and uplifting (even though I did cry. A lot!) I'd highly recommend this to everyone.

Michelle Wrona says

eReview copy provided by Jean Book Nerd Tours in exchange for an honest review.

This book was the good, the bad, and the ugly, all together. I loved it, hated it, and went through many phases of loving and thinking about it. *Minty* was more of a childish middle-grade book. It was predictable and not everything I would've wanted in a book like this. Prefer something better? Try *If I Stay*. That is much more heartfelt and beautiful. Plus, the romance is gorgeous there.

Minty starts off like your average contemporary. The two main characters, Jess and Minty are average fourteen year olds, until Minty goes into the water to save her dog. After that, everything goes crazy. Minty ends up dying, and so does her dog. Her family is "torn apart," but the main person who's grieving is her twin, Jess. This is the story of her recovering... and watching her sister.

Because there wasn't enough grieving! Jess was basically the only who was being teared apart. Her mom and dad? Nada. Her dad complained of not being able to shed a tear. That basically means that he didn't care. And I totally understood that Minty then teared apart herself.

The concept could've been thought out better... But there were many other things that intrigued me. The plot wasn't too bad. It was thick and there was a whole story in between in the lines. Christina Banach is a really awesome author, and her writing is great!

Minty and Jess were both strong characters. Minty knew what she wanted. She had feelings, unlike many other protagonists these days. She was independent, capable of doing anything to make others happy and to have Jess stress-free.

Family in books are so special. :D

In conclusion, I thought that this book was okay. It had its flaws, and its good spots. It was in between good and bad. Recommended but for those who are willing!

Jessica says

Fourteen-year old twins Minty and Jess are inseparable. Maybe they bicker now and then, even crave a bit of space once in a while. But they have a connection. Unbreakable. Steadfast. Nothing can tear them apart. Until a family trip to the coast puts their bond in jeopardy. As Minty tries to rescue her dog from drowning she ends up fighting for her life. Will Minty survive? If she doesn't, how will Jess cope without her? Only the stormy sea has the answer

Wow. After reading this blurb, I knew that I had to read this book. I wish that I had this kind of relationship with my brother. When Minty tries to save her dog, that is so emotional and saddening. I love the fact that she holds on and fights for her life. Jess is going through a rough time as well. If you have a sibling especially a twin, it would be terrible to think that you would lose them. This story is full of emotion and love. Read this book. It is amazing.

Aditi says

“Sisters function as safety nets in a chaotic world simply by being there for each other.”
---Carol Saline, a journalist, broadcaster, author and public speaker

Christina Banach, an English author, who simply enthralled our minds and soul with her gripping and enduring debut novel, *Minty*, which is a dark as well as an intriguing story about two twin sisters, their loss, the importance of family and life beyond death.

Synopsis:

Fourteen-year old twins Minty and Jess are inseparable. Maybe they bicker now and then, even crave a bit of space once in a while. But they have a connection. Unbreakable. Steadfast. Nothing can tear them apart. Until a family trip to the coast puts their bond in jeopardy. As Minty tries to rescue her dog from drowning, she ends up fighting for her life. Will Minty survive? If she doesn't, how will Jess cope without her? Only the stormy sea has the answer.

Yeah, I understand, it is hard to guess anything from the synopsis, but if I say anything more than the synopsis, then there will be no fun! Still, Minty and Jess are twin sisters, and one fine day on a family trip, Minty died while trying to save their family dog from drowning, thus breaking apart the unbreakable sisterly bond with Jess, which follows a series of paranormal events, which finally helps Jess's family to cope with their daughter's loss and the idea about life after death.

Christina Banach's debut novel sparks light in to those areas which are generally not included in any YA novel, but surprisingly the author handles those grim and dark topics with ease and strikingly. Moreover, here narrative style makes it easy for her readers to get into the core of this story, and with such an articulate and doleful prose, the story is more of a thought-provoking kind. The emotions mainly grief and pain over loss of someone close to you depicted by the author quite vividly, and at times, I felt that sharp pain of grief

through my very own heart. Not only that, the author has even tried to lighten down the heavy and deep, dark mood of the story by including some gleeful moments that are bound to cheer you up.

The characters especially the author's protagonist, Minty and her primary character, Jess, both reflects the demeanor is similar to any 14-year olds attitude. The author created them with depth, thus as the story progresses we get to more about Minty's habits as well as her sister's too and eventually I grew fond of both the sisters. Even Minty's dad was one who is grief and pain is similar to any father's pain over the loss of his own daughter in reality. Moreover, the mood that the author tried to set in is perfect and thus making me feel more welcome into the lives of Jess and Minty. The paranormal aspect that the author built-in into her story are valid and based on strong logic, I would say that the author used lot of theories from Roman mythology, thus giving the story a mystical twist! Hence there is a mystery which the author unfolded layer-by-layer after Minty's tragic death and when she tries to contact her sister from her life beyond.

The author is a brilliant debut author and her first story made an impact on my heart.. Honestly, I was feeling distraught while reading the book and Minty's death and Jess's loss made my heart cry out in pain for them. However, with such a beautiful climax, it proves only one thing that the whole story was a thoroughly compelling read for me. Moreover, I will be looking forward in reading more of this promising author's future books.

Verdict: *Don't miss out this promising YA novel which is an engaging story that will keep you glued till the very end.*

Courtesy: Thanks to the author, Christina Banach, for giving me an opportunity to read and review her book.

Maddie says

A YA story following the stories of Minty who drowns and her twin Jess who has to carry on, her grief almost unbearable. Beautifully observed and written it deals with a topic which I believe few books for teens do. The effect of sudden and tragic death, the ways in which Minty's family try to cope are heart breaking. We see the support of Jess's friends, her struggles at school, her coping mechanisms. Minty finds Jack in the half world she inhabits and her struggles to make contact with her sister are both touching and humorous, Far from being a depressing book, this is well plotted, thought provoking and unforgettable. I look forward as many people do, for Christina Banach's next book.

Kindle Ninja says

This is a tragic story that explores the concept of the afterlife, which I think is quite complex for a young adult book. However, it's presented in a way that will not burden the young reader. It has enough comic relief to get you through the heartbreaking moments.

It presents the different ways each character handles grief, which is a depiction of the reality of coming to terms with a loss. The writing really captures the pain of losing someone and the difficulty of letting go.

It's incredibly gripping and it takes you to a place you don't want to be in because it makes you think of your

own coping mechanisms or the lack of it.

Greg Shabalabadingdong says

Christina Banach had me trapped in Minty's heart breaking world packed with emotion. This beautiful tale of two sisters made me aware of death and how important living in the present is. Minty died trying to save her dog But in return she had to leave her sister, and herself trapped between two worlds.

Minty has to go through the pain of watching her family go through the grief of loosing her. Christina's stunning style of writing succeeded in bringing tears of joy and sadness to my eyes. For a first book being this good, it makes me wonder what is yet to come.

Joanne says

Minty is Christina Banach's debut novel and although aimed at the young adult market, I think it is a book that older readers will enjoy too. I know, I certainly did. Minty and Jess are 14 year-old identical twins. As you would imagine, much of the time they are inseparable but every now and again, they wish they could just have some space to be themselves - not one of a pair. I have twin nieces, not identical, and must admit that I am a bit guilty of thinking about them as 'the twins' rather than as individuals. On a trip to the beach with their parents, one of their dogs gets into difficulties in the stormy sea and Minty rushes to help with devastating consequences.

I started reading this book over the weekend when Halloween was nearly upon us and lots of people were having parties dressed up as zombies, ghosts, witches and so on. It was purely coincidental timing but turned out to be rather appropriate as life beyond ours is very much a theme of this book. As you may have gathered, tragically Minty drowns and the book follows her devastated family as they try to come to terms with her death. I can only imagine how awful it must be to lose a child this way, let alone losing a twin. Christina Banach wrote very movingly about Jess in particular and how she was affected by Minty's death. As well as missing what felt like her other half, Jess felt so guilty as the sisters had argued before the accident and Jess felt partly responsible. It was so sad to see Jess sink into what can only be described as a deep depression. I was touched too by the girls' parents responses, particularly their father. He seemed to feel he had to be the strong one of the family while really, he was hurting as much as his wife and Jess.

But this book is also about Minty and how she is trapped in some kind of place between life and death. Teenagers are often quite fascinated by the possibility of ghosts and the supernatural - the success of the Twilight series shows that. I feel that this is a book which would definitely appeal to young adults and that Christina Banach has captured the teenage voices of her characters perfectly. As heartbreaking as it was to read about Jess's grief, it was equally sad to read about Minty and her desperate attempts to let Jess know she was there. Yet the book, isn't all sadness. There is warmth and humour often provided by Jack, a wonderful ghostly character Minty meets on the other side. He could sometimes be infuriating but he also made me smile, particularly when he was just like any other teenage lad eyeing up the girls!

Minty is a very thought-provoking book looking at grief and how people deal with loss in different ways. It's about letting go, moving on and forgiving yourself. A compelling, very emotional read with an uplifting conclusion, it's a book which will remain in my thoughts for some time.
