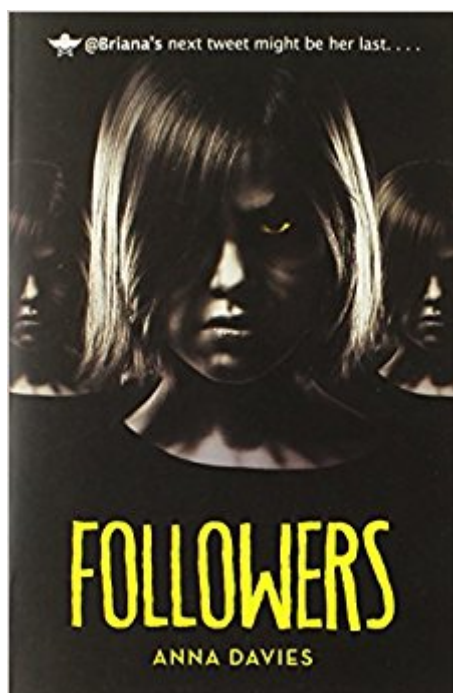


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# Followers



## Synopsis

To tweet or not to tweet . . . what a deadly question. When Briana loses out on a starring role in the school's production of Hamlet, she reluctantly agrees to be the drama department's "social media director" and starts tweeting half-hearted updates. She barely has any followers, so when someone hacks her twitter account, Briana can't muster the energy to stop it. After all, tweets like "Something's rotten in the state of Denmark . . . and a body's rotting in the theater" are obviously a joke. But then a body IS discovered in the theater: Briana's rival. Suddenly, what seemed like a prank turns deadly serious. To everyone's horror, the grisly tweets continue . . . and the body count starts to rise. There's no other explanation; someone is live-tweeting murders on campus. With the school in chaos and the police unable to find the culprit, it's up to Briana to unmask the psycho-tweeter before the carnage reaches Shakespearian proportions . . . or she becomes the next victim.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 6-10 "Briana, a legacy student at the prestigious MacHale School, is finally finding her niche. Returning to school for the winter mini-mester, she has a group of friends and a real shot at winning a lead role in Hamlet. Her Twitter account, @alleyesonbree, is also gaining followers, including the mysterious Hamlet's Ghost. When the brand new Head of the Drama department casts someone else as Ophelia, Briana reluctantly accepts the backstage job as the show's social media director. As she tweets show rehearsal updates, Hamlet's Ghost begins to tweet more sinister things, like "something's rotten in the state of Denmark and a body's rotting in theater." Suddenly, there is a

real dead body on stage. And then another. As the Twitter war rages on, it's up to Briana to find the campus killer. Davies offers great build-up and tension right through until the final pages. Unfortunately, the ending feels rushed and a romance is randomly tossed in. Still, this thriller offers a high interest story at low-reading level for fans of mystery and suspense novels.â Elaine Baran Black, Georgia Public Library Service, Atlanta

Series horror novels may be having a resurgence, but the real gems of horror fiction are stand-alone spookers like this one, from the author of *Identity Theft* (2013). Briana wants to be an actress, if only to outshine her mother's larger-than-life personality and over-the-top love for the theater. She goes to a performing-arts boarding school, and when she auditions for the winter play, Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, she's sure that playing Ophelia will change her blasphemous life. Though she doesn't make it in, she volunteers to coordinate the play's Twitter account. Of course, that's when things get weirdâa Twitter user posting as Hamlet's Ghost promises to be a real showstopper and seems to be following Briana's every move. When bodies start to pile up on the stage, Bree and her friends are properly scared. Who is Hamlet's Ghost? And who's next? This heart-pounding thriller is filled with likable characters and up-to-date pop-culture details, which makes it a winning suggestion for teen horror fans, especially reluctant readers. Grades 9-12.

--Stacey Comfort

I would not suggest anyone else waste their time on this book. Poorly written, and "designed to be profitable" based on the overly saturated teen mystery niche. The main character, Briana, wants to play the role of Ophelia in Shakespeare's classic, *Hamlet*. This isn't even revealed until you are about half way through the book. Briana doesn't get this role, and instead becomes the "social media director" (yes, I'm scratching my head too), and makes twitter updates about the play in an attempt to further engage the audience and fanbase. Overall, this book is very poorly written and feels like something that tried so hard to "design to sell" and become a big hit, but never did. Pass on this book.

my tween daughter enjoyed this book

Disturbing in a fun way. Glad I read this one on a sunny day at the beach!

FOLLOWERS actually has a full point lower rating than DEFRIENDED on Goodreads, however, I

think this is the better of two books. At least FOLLOWERS has actual tension and the author doesn't act like the readers like dolts when it comes to technology. Although she is rather insistent that her characters can't live without their phones, which I found a little annoying. And I'm not sure what the creepy ten-year-olds with yellow eyes have anything to do with anything. I guess yellow eyes are mentioned once, but that's it. This book, I think, was a little more reminiscent of the older Point Horror books. It's kind of campy, kind of kooky, people die in weird ways. It's more of what I would expect of an old school reboot. It's harkening back to those older YA horror novels. But it's still trying pretty hard to fit into the current technological climate. It does a far better job of it than DEFRIENDED did, but it still kind of misses the mark with how Twitter is used. The entire premise focuses on this one account called Hamlet's Ghost that's seemingly following Bree around and her only followers seem to be her schoolmates. On Twitter. Like Twitter is a silo for only school people to know about. No. The a ha moment at the end of the book seemed a little out of nowhere despite its subtle build-up. It's just that one moment when Bree put all the pieces together, after everything, seemed kind of hackneyed. I wasn't thrilled with it. There's also not a whole lot of character development going on and a lot of suspension of disbelief that I have to go through in order to get on board with the plot. Like Forsythe students being allowed to come in and audition for a play at a private school. Yeah, no. Totally contrived. There is no outreach in something like that. Parents are paying for their children to go to this performing arts school yet they're okay with their opportunities being shanghaied by locals who get it for free? Yeah, that school would have a lot of angry parents to contend with on that one. Not to mention one student dying under mysterious circumstances would shut down the school, let alone two, let alone continuing with a stupid play. So yeah, while it's a better book than DEFRIENDED, FOLLOWERS still has its own hurdles to get over. It just gets more points with me because it actually had some semblance of tension in the story. I can appreciate that.<sup>3</sup>

"Terror was seeing someone lying face up their gaze unfocused and blank. Terror was knowing danger surrounded you, but there was nothing you could do to stop it." Briana is a young girl who doesn't really fit in at her school, she just fly's under the radar for the most part, until she decides to go out for Ophelia in Hamlet which she hopes will make her become popular and make her mother happy. Briana goes to a private school that is directed towards arts, and its the same one her mother went to when she was her age. Making Briana feel like she has to keep her mother at arms length in order to be able to make a name for herself at this school. When she goes back early from winter

break in order to try out for Hamlet everything starts going wrong and right all at the same time. The boy she's had a crush on since the beginning of the year starts to notice her, and her roommate and her actually start having a friendship. Briana gets to be somewhat popular for a few weeks and then everything starts going downhill when the new teacher in the drama department makes changes and brings the local town kids in to try out for hamlet as well. Making everyone at the school upset and the rivalry between schools come out for a little bit. After auditions and disappointment Briana starts being the social media person for the play. Except most of her tweets go unnoticed due to Hamlets Ghost tweeting better/creepy stuff. Briana sets out on a mission trying to find out who it is and then later on trying to find out who the killer is all while everyone thinks that she is the killer. I don't know much about the theater or anything like that, so maybe that's why I didn't like it as much as I was hoping to. I just didn't find it very scary or anything like that. SPOILER Did anyone else think that that romance at the end came out of nowhere? I mean one minute she thinks hes the killer the next he's kissing her and she tells us they've been dating. Why was that needed?

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