

Think Like The Killer

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based on the book, *Think Like The Killer*

by Jaycie Mandrell

Logline

Harmon's belief that he's a psychopath fuels his interest in death, but his interest in solving a cold murder case leads to unraveling another killer.

Characters

Harmon Bliss (M) - Seventeen years old. 5'6 with black hair and black eyes. He is convinced he's a psychopath and tries to fight the temptation to hurt people. He begins solving the cold murder case of Julia Manhattan to help his intrusive thoughts. His attempt to find the old killer and save his classmate Spencer leads to his disappearance and death.

Jarret Langstan (M) - Late teen. 6'1 with blonde hair and blue eyes. He influences Harmon to believe he's a psychopath. Meanwhile, he displays signs of obvious violence and is eventually convicted of kidnapping and murdering both Spencer and Harmon.

Juliet Lynx (F) - Sixteen years old. 5'2 with long blonde hair worn in braids and blue eyes. She draws Harmon's attention to Julia's case. When Harmon starts investigating, she becomes nosy about it and joins in his passion. After Harmon's death,

she continues the investigation and succeeds in getting Jarrett convicted.

Three Act Summary

Act One

- Jarrett Langston and Harmon Bliss are eating lunch in school. Jarrett talks about going with Alice to the dance and tries to convince Harmon to come. Spencer approaches Harmon and asks that they walk to class, but Harmon refuses to talk with him and continues to his art class with Jarrett. Jarrett slaps Harmon's leg when they enter the class to get him out of his thoughts.
- Spencer enters Harmon's class, and Jarrett runs out pretending to be sick. Jarrett comes to the bathroom to find him, and Harmon admits he'd kill Spencer if he could and Jarrett says the same about Timothy in another class.
- Jarrett and Harmon are in Harmon's house after school. Jarrett sees the punching on the walls of Harmon's room, and they go to raid the kitchen before Jarrett leaves. Harmon's therapist, Dr. Tracy, calls to check on him.
- After the call, Harmon rides into the neighborhood and attempts to spot Spencer from his bedroom window. He goes to a corner of the neighborhood, watching cars, and sees Jarrett's car drive off even after leaving his house earlier. He stays a while listening to the birds' chirp before returning home.
- Harmon returns home to his parents' scolds and goes to bed. The next morning, he hears their front door open and goes to check. His mother is speaking with Mrs. Henderson, who asks him if he'd seen Spencer.
- Harmon is home with his parents when Jarrett calls. Jarrett begs Harmon to join him and Alice's date so he can be Juliet's plus one. Harmon's mother permits him to go. And Jarrett comes to pick him up later.

- At the cinema, Harmon and Juliet's talk piques Harmon's interest in the poster of Julia Manhattan, and they talk about the missing lady. Harmon confronts a drunken man trying to molest Juliet. Jarret and Alice show up later, and after they discuss the movie, Jarrett drops Harmon off, asking if he got Juliet's number.
- Mrs. Henderson comes to Harmon's house to bother his mom about the missing Spencer. Later, Harmon discusses Spencer's disappearance with Jarrett at the cafeteria. Then they go to receive the results of their art class and drive home to Harmon's house with Jarrett ranting about his grades. Mrs. Henderson comes to ask the boys to join the search party.
- During the search, Harmon is left behind by Alice and Jarrett, and something pricks his hand. As he walks home, he notices blood, and later at home, he lies to his parents about it. When he looks in the mirror, he realizes he could be a murder suspect if anybody sees him.
- Harmon skips school and goes to the public library to research the dead Julia. He reads several articles detailing the case. He then rides to his grandfather's drugstore to learn more about Julia's case.
- Harmon returns home to write in his school notebooks about the information he's gathered. Jarrett comes to his room to rant about his day, and when Jarrett leaves the room, he notices suspicious blood on his dirty sweater.
- After school, Harmon meets Dr. Tracy and tells her about his new hobby of figuring out Julia's death. He learns that Dr. Tracy is Julia's older sister. She suggests to him that he's not a psychopath or sociopath. On Harmon's way home, he goes to investigate the Henderson home, but Mr. Henderson's intrusion cuts him short. They invite him into the house and offer him Spencer's stuff.

Act Two

- Harmon and Jarrett are at lunch discussing the test they've just done. Jarrett learns that Harmon is trying to solve Julia's murder. Then Harmon goes to the library. Surprisingly he meets Juliet at the library and tells her about his quest to find Julia's killer.
- Juliet tells Harmon that her father does autopsies, so Harmon gets her number to call her for further information. He walks back to art class, and his teacher summons him to the principal's office, where they question him about Spencer's case. The police eventually arrest him.
- Harmon's mother comes to the station, where Officer Patrick questions him. The police discover Julia's photos in Spencer's box of photos. Harmon lies about his alibi, and Jarrett and Juliet lie to corroborate it. Jarrett, Alice, and Juliet come to pick him up at the station.
- Harmon wakes up at Jarrett's home and goes to his bathroom. Jarrett comes to pull Harmon out of the bathroom while he tries to process the information in his head. He shares his theories with Jarrett as Jarrett drives him home.
- At Harmon's house, Harmon's parents send Jarrett home and try to talk to him about his activities. Later, he opens the window for Jarrett to climb in. Then they sneak into the backyard looking for clues, and he learns a lot from Jarrett's talks.
- Harmon is grounded, and he refuses to sneak out with Jarrett. Juliet shows up outside his bedroom window, and he lets her in. She tries to know why he got arrested and tells him more about Julia's death. She eventually gets him to talk about his theory that the same person kills Spencer and Julia. When Harmon hears his door knob opening, he helps Juliet get out.
- Harmon's dad comes to remind him of dinner. At dinner, he tries to ask for permission to go to the winter dance, but he doesn't get it, so he asks his parents for information about his lead, Thomas Moore.

- Later that night, Alice, Jarrett, and Juliet come to force Harmon to attend the winter dance with them. At the dance, Juliet tries to make him understand that he's not a psychopath as he's believed all the years. Harmon admits to Juliet that he'll talk to Jarrett's dad about his connection to Thomas Moore.
- When Juliet and Harmon catch up with Jarrett, he tells them Alice kissed another guy. Jarrett states that he'd have killed the guy and picks a fight with Harmon as he tries to prevent him from drunk driving, but he starts the car anyway and gets into an accident. Juliet's mom takes Harmon home and promises not to tell his parents.
- Mr. Langstan calls Harmon's house in the morning to inform them about the accident, but Harmon's mom doesn't realize that he already knows and asks him to accompany her and his dad to see Jarrett's family. Instead, Harmon takes his key to Jarrett's house and goes to the attic to search for clues.
- Harmon finds Julia's missing bike in their attic. He rings the police, and when they arrive, they dismiss the evidence. When Harmon gets home, he calls Juliet to tell her about his findings, and she decides to come to his house. Juliet comes to Harmon's house, and when Harmon expresses that he might die, she promises to help him regardless, so he shows her his journal and heads to see his therapist.
- Harmon asks Dr. Tracy about Julia, and Dr. Tracy talks about her friendship with the Langstans. Harmon learns that Jarrett's dad is not his real dad. Dr. Tracy tries to diagnose him with a new condition, but he freaks out.
- At Harmon's home, Harmon's mother ungrounds him and permits him to visit Jarrett. He goes up to his room to write down his new findings, ignoring his parents. Later, Harmon goes to make sandwiches, and his mom asks him what he wants for Christmas.

- Harmon wakes up to the scent of banana pancakes welcoming Christmas in his house. His parents give him his Christmas gift, and he sees their old photos with Thomas and Mr. Langstan. Harmon starts looking for his red notebook. He asks his parents, and they have no idea, so he calls Juliet, who denies having the book. He decides to bike to Jarrett's house.
- At Jarrett's house, Harmon lets himself in to find his book. He goes to Jarrett's room, but Jarrett denies having his book. Harmon goes to Mr. Langstan's office and sees his notebook on the desk, so he borrows Mr. Langstan's phone to call Juliet.
- Harmon leaves and tries to start his bike, but Mr. Langstan catches up with him, asking him to return the notebook. He asks Mr. Langstan about Julia's murder, they get into a brawl, and Mr. Langstan tries to kill him. Officer Patrick repeatedly questions Harmon about the incident, and Harmon tries to explain how Mr. Langstan is connected to Julia's case.
- The police allow Harmon to go with his mom. He slips into the bedroom at home, and Juliet visits him. After talking with Juliet, Harmon starts writing in his blue notebook. Later, his parents question him, and he tells them he is convinced that Langstan is a murderer, but they don't believe him.
- On Christmas eve, Harmon wakes from a nightmare. He sees a light outside his window and finds Alice at his window. Harmon learns that Jarrett lied about Alice cheating on him. When Alice leaves, he tries to figure a way to get the police to believe him.
- Harmon creeps downstairs to eat and sees a minivan pull into his yard, and it is Juliet bringing him Christmas presents. As she leaves, his mother watches from behind the doorway, but he refuses to tell her anything.
- Harmon is at the police station again discussing Mr. Langstan with Officer Patrick. Harmon appeals to the

policeman to let him talk to Mr. Langstan. When he meets Mr. Langstan, he questions him about Spencer's disappearance, but Mr. Langstan claims he has nothing to do with it.

- Harmon lies to his mom about going for a walk but goes to the woods to search for Spencer. When Harmon gets home, his mother scolds him. During dinner, he asks for permission to attend Alice's party. Harmon leaves for the party and meets Juliet on the porch. Someone offers Juliet a drink, and she gives it to Harmon, who tells him not to drink it. He meets Jarrett, who is angry with him for his father being in jail.
- After talking with Jarrett, Harmon drinks from the cup, but Juliet grabs it from him. Juliet tries to make him feel better, but he leaves and goes to his house to write in his blue notebook and decides to find Spencer himself. Juliet sees on the TV that Harmon's missing. Her parents try to comfort her, so they allow her to drive to Harmon's house.
- In Harmon's room, she finds a book he'd left her. As Juliet sneaks out of Harmon's house, she meets Alice coming to return a sweater she'd borrowed from Harmon. Alice gives her a crumpled photograph. Alice offers to join Juliet at the police station to find Harmon's red notebook.
- At the police station, they're made to wait for Officer Patrick, and they discover some words which they realize they need to unscramble. Officer Patrick meets the girls and refuses to hand over the book but allows them to look at it for a while, but Juliet sneaks the book into her bag.
- Juliet spends all her time studying Harmon's book. Alice helps her by noting down points. They realize Jarrett's been lying, and Juliet calls him to ask questions. Alice adds the treehouse to their list of suspicious locations.
- Juliet decides to take her kid brother to her dad's office, and Alice comes along. After dropping off her brother with her dad, she and Alice drive to Harmon's house. At Harmon's house, the girls ask Harmon's mom about his treehouse, and

she tells them about it. When they arrive at the treehouse, they find Spencer's body and Harmon's notebook and read his last entry.

Act Three

- Back in Juliet's house, she tries to piece everything together. Jarrett comes to her house and tells her she'll end up dead if she keeps trying to solve the case. He tags Harmon as a psychopath, but Juliet tells Jarrett he's the psychopath. When Jarrett leaves, Juliet drives to Alice's job to talk about her suspicions of Jarrett.
- During lunch, Juliet talks about Harmon, and Alice asks Jarrett if they'll go to prom. Jarrett launches a pea at Timothy. And Juliet responds that she's too occupied for prom. Later, Juliet goes to the bathroom to reflect until the dismissal bell rings.
- Juliet wipes her tears as the bathroom door opens. Her senior friend, Rosie White, asks her about Harmon. When Rosie leaves, Alice comes to tell Juliet that Jarrett's fighting Reed Trenton. Juliet and Alice go to intervene, and Jarrett claims the guy is a perv. After Juliet confronts Alice, she goes to the locker to talk to Reed and learns a different narrative.
- Jarrett and Alice gather with Juliet's family when they learn that Harmon's body has been found. Jarrett comments that Harmon had it coming, but Juliet exclaims that it's murder rather than suicide. Juliet goes into her room, and Alice and Jarrett come to comfort her. Jarrett tells her to give up looking for Harmon's killer.
- Jarrett finds Harmon's notebook in her house and asks her to let him read it so he can tell her about his life with Harmon. She agrees. After that, Alice comes to remind them of dinner. Juliet thinks she sees Harmon's face, but it changes to Jarrett's face, and she wakes up fully to see Alice hovering over her.

- Alice asks her if she has anything going on with Jarrett, and she denies it. Alice tells her Jarrett's acting up. Juliet calls her dad and asks him to let her join Harmon's autopsy. After Alice leaves, Juliet goes to the autopsy room to be with her father.
- Later, Alice, Jarrett, and Juliet are in Juliet's room as she tries to convince them that Harmon's death is not suicide. After her friends leave, she scans the notes, and when she gets a clue, she calls Alice to tell her. Juliet lies to her dad and sneaks out to the hospital to get Jarrett's records. She tricks the receptionist into getting access to the file.
- After that, Juliet drives to Jarrett's home to talk to his mother. Jarrett comes home, and she lies that she wants his notes. He takes her to his room, and she discovers a photo of Harmon's suicide state. Juliet stays in her house observing the picture she stole. She rushes downstairs to hurry her brother up, and after dropping him off, she confronts Jarrett.
- Later, Jarrett is escorted out of the courtroom in handcuffs after being convicted of Spencer and Harmon's murder.