

All Fall Down

Ally Carter

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Three years after her mother's death, 16-year-old Grace Blakely returns to Embassy Row. This is the row of buildings on the perimeter of Adria's capital city, where some of the most powerful people in the world reside with their families. Grace's grandfather, the American ambassador, wants Grace to start a new life on Embassy Row. She has something different in mind, though. Despite three years of endless hospitals and medications, she has not forgotten what she saw: the Scarred Man shot and murdered her mother. Despite what everyone says, she refuses to believe that the death was an accident. Despite what everyone thinks, Grace knows she's not crazy, and she's determined to make the Scarred Man pay.

Years of being treated like she's fragile, volatile, and delusional has made Grace reluctant to trust anyone. Her impulsive risk-taking doesn't help her reputation. She also hasn't seen her grandfather since her mother died, and her older brother has become estranged over the years, so it's no surprise that she thinks no one truly cares about her. However, as she's seeking to avenge her mother's death, she finds help in unexpected places. Grace meets kids her age who understand the treacherous life on Embassy Row. There are finally people who believe her, and Grace starts doubting if others always alienated her—or if she alienated herself.

The characters and dialogue can feel cliché at times, but the author does an amazing job creating an unreliable narrator. You'll ride a rollercoaster of emotions as you follow Grace's growth, since it's difficult to judge the veracity of her thoughts. Still, a first-hand look at Grace's attempts to cope with trauma, paranoia, and grief will make you eager to see her heal. I'd recommend *All Fall Down* to pre-teens and teenagers. If you like this book, then definitely read the whole trilogy. The author has also written similar series about international affairs and espionage, so check those out too!

Recommended Titles:

See How They Run by Ally Carter

I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You by Ally Carter

Heist Society by Ally Carter

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart

The Thorn Girl by Laura Elliot