



Underneath

Kealan Patrick Burke

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For Dean, it begins with a dare, one that comes with the threat of violence if he chickens out. All he has to do is date Stephanie Watts, a disfigured girl who is the pariah at their high school.

Dean agrees, and soon discovers that there is much more to Stephanie Watts than anyone dared imagine, and deadlier secrets awaiting him...underneath.

Underneath Details

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Author : Kealan Patrick Burke

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From Reader Review Underneath for online ebook

Julia says

Disturbing. My kind of story! Glad I found it!

Pat says

Underneath started off really well but the second half of the story fell flat. The turn of events in the last half just didn't convince me and by the time the twist was delivered I lost interest in all the characters. I look forward to reading another novel by this author as I really liked Kin, but this short story didn't hit the spot.

Kristy says

#SPOILERS INCLUDED!!#

Um...yeah...well, shock value should be 5 stars because I did NOT see that ending coming. Really surprised me. On the other hand, it's not really the kind of ending you can LIKE. I mean, the girl he got into such trouble physically and emotionally over was playing him the entire time?? Dude! I think he should take his baseball bat out again.

Qfreak says

Had good potential but a weak ending IMO.

Cheryl M-M says

Guilt of bystander effect..

This an open eyed look at high school life and the repercussions of the social interactions within its walls. A so called popular dares the main character to ask the ugliest girl in school on a date, if he doesn't he will be beaten, again. The events that take place on that date are a mirror into the soul of our future generations. The majority of them too scared to lift a hand to help others and ruled by the minority of bullies, because the upper echelon, who are safe in their ivory towers, choose to let the minority of miscreants rule the streets. The main character is overtaken by guilt about his own inability to act or react and that sets the stage for the ending, which is again a reflection of the cruelty of the times we live in. I like the way this off the wall writer thinks.

Spencer says

Another fantastic story from Kealan Patrick Burke, his work always elicits many emotions and often a strange mix of them. What you may feel for a character on one page may not be true the next and as usual Kealan manages to make the characters surprisingly deep despite the length of the story. This isn't straight up horror, it deals with bullying and guilt, and these are explored in disturbing ways until a shocking ending with an unexpected twist.

Paige Bookdragon says

First Kealan Patrick Burke and I'm already in love with his writing. Underneath is the type of book that will kinda disturb you in the end.

I didn't know what to expect to this book because I didn't even know I have a copy of this one, but Burke did not disappoint. I love the way that it's kinda dark and had a sad (just a bit) shade. The ending was kinda unexpected but honestly, just between us, I kinda like it.

Cathy says

What will you do to get the school bully to stop picking on you? Will you ask the facially-scarred girl out on a date?

When Dean and Stephanie's date is interrupted by the bully and his henchman, Dean is beaten and Stephanie is sexually assaulted. Dean is deeply ashamed about his failure to protect Stephanie and later attacks Freddy with a baseball bat. That isn't enough to alleviate his shame, however.

How he deals with that shame is somewhat painful to read about (but not overly done).

After I read this I tried to figure out how many books I may have read in my life. I estimate (and maybe on the low side) 17,000. Never have I been as surprised as I was at the denouement of this lengthy short story. I never saw it coming.

Paul Nelson says

Review to come

Amy says

Interesting, very well-written story with great twist at the end. Also depicts teen angst, thought process, &

bullying well. It had an unfortunate amount of unnecessary vulgarity that detracted from the overall story, in my opinion. Without that, I would give it 4 stars, for sure.

Megan says

This story was not what I expected. What a twist! It felt very 'stephen king' to me in the end!

Katie says

I really did not like this book, I am so glad it was a free kindle download and a short read at that!!!

Coffee says

interesting but not amazing

Elli Andrews says

A short story about the importance of not reading a book by it's cover with an interesting look at the darkness of the human character.

First off I'll do my usual warning - this is a short story and it took me just one sitting to read. The story itself is an interesting one but I feel that it could have easily have been stretched out a little more especially towards the end where everything just ends up feeling rushed. The book is also quite a disturbing and dark read - which isn't a bad thing of course but just requires a certain reading mood to get into.

The characters were interesting and the plot was nice with a good twist and dark themes - I would recommend this book but only while it is still free because of it's length, typos and sense of being a bit too rushed.

Agathe says

What the... ? What ?!

This story is so very short and extremely confusing. Deals with tough stuffs. Has an extremely abrupt ending and what the hell did I just read ?
