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In *Red at Night*, Stella and Jonah are total opposites. She's the girl with purple hair from the wrong part of town. He's a high school senior who hangs with the cool crowd. Until a car accident leaves him haunted by guilt, and Jonah starts spending time at Stella's favorite refuge...the local cemetery.

Stella knows she should keep her distance—after all, she spent her girlhood being bullied by Jonah's friends. Once he's sorted out his tangled emotions, Jonah won't have time for her anymore. Too bad she's already fallen for him.

Red at Night Details

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From Reader Review Red at Night for online ebook

Tanja (Tanychy) St. Delphi/James says

Review also posted at Ja ?itam, a ti?

Katie McGarry is someone whose books are on my auto-buy list. In times when contemporary is not really my thing there are always her stories that make me love the genre all over again. Her stories awake all those feelings in me and this one is not an exception.

I always say that writing a short-story is much harder in my opinion. Simply you have less space to express everything and still you must put all you need in it. Red at Night is a story that has all that. It's emotional and beautifully written. You can feel for Stella and cheer for her and at the same time Jonah is someone who will find his way to your heart. You'll be happy to let him, though.

Something really special to me was that despite the fact that this story was rather short still it wasn't insta-love one. I was really pleased to see that and it made me like the story even more. Also in this short story you get to see not only a love story but a story about tough growing up and fighting when you are still too young for that.

All in all, this story was short and sweet. Something you'll enjoy reading this summer. Especially when you find it free on Amazon.

Jess-i-ca ~Sometimes a Gif Witch~ says

2 - Meh - Stars!

You know how you read something and then you think what was the point in that....That's how I felt when I finished this book. It was short so I knew beforehand it couldn't go into too much detail but still. I hate to give it a bad rating since it was a freebie but I saw too many things that aggravated me.

Stella is a gray eyed loner girl with violet hair who comes from a hard life.

Jonah is one of the "cool" kids and has recently experienced a tragedy that he can't seem to get over.

Stella goes to the cemetery often and sees Jonah there. Jonah at first doesn't recognize her even though they go to school together (I would think purple hair would stand out plus his friend made fun of her but whatevs)

Jonah enjoys spending time at the cemetery with Stella but he still allows his friend Cooper to make fun of her. In fact all her life pretty much Cooper has made fun of her and Jonah stood back saying nothing and even laughed at the jokes he made.

He starts hanging out with her more which only causes Cooper to be a bigger ass. He of course doesn't take up for her until after she reacts. He then apologizes

But Stella doesn't think she fits in Jonah's world. She is worried about getting a job and not planning to go to college. She wants Jonah to move on.

But Jonah has a new outlook on life, he wants to do better and he wants Stella with him every step of the way.

"Thank you Jonah. For showing me that people can change. Even if its one out of a million."

Anyways, I didn't thought it was lacking and I feel the ending was incomplete.

If you want a list of my reasons for not liking please see SPOILER below :)
(view spoiler)

Jennifer Kyle says

So, I love this author's Pushing the Limits series...

Stella is a quirky girl with violet hair who has had a rough upbringing and has to make some big decisions about her future.

Jonah has been changed by a tragic experience over the summer and finds happiness hanging out with Stella in the cemetery where they meet.

Stella has suffered her whole academic career being bullied by a creep who happens to be Jonah's best friend.

Sadly, Jonah would laugh along with Cooper.

Will Jonah step away from his bully of a best friend and make his own path?

Will Stella go to college?

Will these two be more than friends?

Call me creepy, but I liked the cemetery scenes the best. The story had a strong start, a luke warm middle, and a bland ending.

"I know who I want to be and I want you by my side as I become that person."

It's a free read so try it out, you may enjoy it more than I did!

<http://www.amazon.com/Night-Harlequin...>

Jacob Proffitt says

A novella, and a short one, at that. Which is a real shame as I get the feeling this could have been more. Strangely, I actually accept the course of their relationship. Sort of, anyway. That's not the problem. The problem is that McGarry takes a lot of shortcuts to get this story complete in so short a space. This is most notable in the stereotypes of all the characters, and particularly the main two. Stella is the street girl done wrong. Jonah the rich boy questioning his privilege. Cooper is the bad guy who persists with being a jerk. And I kept waiting for Karl Marx to drop in for a small class war tutorial just to make sure we got the point.

So yeah, not stellar. Not *horrible* which makes me wonder if McGarry could have done better with more space... A little nuance would have gone a long way.

Catarina says

2 Mourning Stars.

Okay, so Stella has a bad “family” life and spends her day in the graveyard because it is the only constant thing in her life.

Jonah went to a tragic experience and now also spends his days in the graveyard mourning someone he didn't even know and trying to find out what to do with his life.

So, they go to the same high-school and Jonah is one of the cool boys that everyone loves. His best-friend spends all their lives making fun of Stella and yet Jonah didn't recognize her. (We all know how violet hair is hard to notice!!).

But when they start spending their days together in the cemetery, everything between them starts to change.

Well, this was kind of ridiculous. First it was a little hard to believe he didn't recognize her. After that it was a little jackass of him not to interfere when his friend was pretty mean to her. He would just apologize. Guess no one told him that excuses should be avoided.

And then, then it was all just “meh”. Hard to believe and yet, completely predictable.

Most of the time I was thinking something like this:

But even with the poor storyline, the writing style was amazing and it was extremely well written.
And, oh well, it was a freebie.

Tamara says

“Do you think people can change?” I ask Rick.

“Yes,” he answers plainly. “There are those who can.”

That grabs my attention. “So you believe it's possible?”

“Miss Stella.” He gives me his teacher-to-pupil stare. “It boils down to choice.”

Ok fine yeah whatever. BUT at least make me experience the change damn it! Show me instead of telling.

UGH.

I am really waffled between 2 and 3 stars *sigh* I think it's a 2.5 stars. I just can't bring myself to bump it up.

Overall; a cute and light slice of life story. The characters weren't overly dramatic and were definitely age appropriate but at the same time they lacked... they lacked something. They weren't compelling enough.

I recommend reading this book if you are a fan of Katie McGarry. If you are not this book probably will end up being a bit 'MEH' for you since McGarry is a very VERY formulaic writer. But nevertheless, her fans, including me, eat up her stories cause even though her books aren't unique at all, she develops her characters really well. They are always so interesting and lovable. However, in this book I don't think Katie had enough time to develop both of the characters. At least realistically.

The number of clichés and bullshits:

-MC has gray eyes.

Why I am not even shocked?

WARNING: MINI GRAY EYES RANT AHEAD:

WHERE ARE ALL THESE GRAY EYED PEOPLE IN REAL LIFE? SERIOUSLY? WHERE?!! FOR ONCE I WANT CHARACTERS TO HAVE BROWN EYES! WHAT THE FUCK IS WRONG WITH BROWN EYES? I AM SUPER PISSED.

OK. Rant over. You guys are safe. I think.

-Insta love & connection

-Moves way too fast

-Stella is clearly STILL bothered with Jonah letting his friends make fun of her and never saying anything to stop them, yet decides to forgive him suddenly cause you know people can change and it doesnt matter how low they treated you in the past, right?

-Lots and lots of pointless scenes and characters. There were way too many unnecessary things incorporated into the story.

-The reason why Jonah feels guilty. WHAT THE ACTUAL FRAK?!

-Why the frak the stuff about Stella's father and his ex girlfriend was there if there wouldnt be any conclusion about that side story at all?

-Everything is predictable. EVERYTHING.

-The book just ends there? The ending is way too OPEN?

Hey, at least it was free. Or was it? I think. Hmm cant remember. This book was that forgettable, guys!! But Iam sure about one thing; this book was inspired by real-life heroine who created an awesome charity called the Goodie Two Shoes Foundation. Now, that's cool stuff. Why the hell wasnt the book about that?

Deniz says

If you've never read anything by Katie McGarry - this is certainly the book to start with. It's short but captivating, moving and well just the best cute and fluffy fix EVER!

Obviously I love McGarry's writing style and *Red at Night* did not disappoint at all. In fact it just proven and reestablished everything I love about McGarry's prose.

The story line is essentially rich hot dude falling for the outcast poor gal- kind of a Cinderella story. BUT the realistic version. So well done that even a jaded heart like mine was jumping with joy at the a little dramatic happy moment!

The character building is superb. Slowly we get to know the two MCs their situations and we see them change and embrace the change and their future. It's seriously shockingly well done, not even taking the length of this into consideration.

My biggest complaint? I wish this would have been longer! I wanted more of Josh more or Stella.. I wanna know where their journey takes them- but then again isn't that exactly how novellas are supposed to be?

Giving you a quick fix and a lot to think on? Yep, so after many many disappointing novellas finally an author who nailed it! See another reason why you need to read it.

Oh do you need another one? It's for FREE on amazon

An absolute must read for lovers of the genre!

So, what you waiting for? go and read it!

I will try and not sulk to much for having to wait until May 27 for my next McGarry fix (*Take Me On*), after all I got my awesome freebee fix and there is a sneak peek at the end as well. BUT can I just say - and I will only do so once, I promise- I can't wait for West's novel!

Ok, I am done. you do read. I'll sulk somewhere and stalk Netgalley (a girl can hope after all!)

If it ain't good I don't read it ! says

So i stumbled across this book one day and I'm just like, "Hey this sounds nice"

Then for some reason my eyes started to wonder towards the authors name *Katie McGarry*

The name looked familiar for some reason, and I'm sitting there trying to place where exactly I'd seen it when it dawned on me

Katie Freakin McGarry as in *Pushing the limits* Katie. I almost had a stroke right then and there people.

Shannelle says

And it's freeeeeeee!

But who knows when it won't be, so preorder it already! You can buy Red at Night on Amazon.

Wendy says

[Read the book and then the gif will seem even MORE fitting, trust me (view spoiler) (hide spoiler)]

Ilze says

It amazes me how much Katie McGarry can make me feel in just as little as 87 pages, which usually is where the story really begins for me.

I downloaded this book few hours ago, and I just had to read it today. It's emotional, but sweet short story with some valuable lessons along the way, which ultimately include forgiveness, redemption and some great life changes.

♥♥♥♥♥

“Do you think people can change?” I ask Rick.

“Yes,” he answers plainly. “There are those who can.”

That grabs my attention. “So you believe it’s possible?”

“Miss Stella .” He gives me his teacher-to -pupil stare. “It boils down to choice.”

♥♥♥♥♥

Stella is a girl who grow up in trailer parks and Jonah is a rich guy who hangs out with the popular kids, they met each other in cemetery. Do I need to say more??? (view spoiler)

♥♥♥♥♥

Stella & Jonah

Amazon freebie 4/1/2014

Angela says

Aimee ♥ | Aimee, Always says

This is the part where you all glare at this review through your screens because this is the first work I've completely read by Katie McGarry. (I'm going to get an umbrella in case you guys want to virtually throw tomatoes at my face.)

Okay, so, this is probably one of those books where your perspective and interpretation of the book will greatly affect whether you'll like it or not. Sadly, I've interpreted things in a bad way.

Anyway, I thought ***Red at Night* is one of those books where a lesson or two can be learned and realized.** The sad thing is, I was basically half-asleep while reading and just **wanted to shove forks up the characters' throats for almost the entire book.**

"Don't you dare ever hope for more. There's no such thing as living happily ever after or pulling yourself up by your bootstraps. The world is how it is and there always has to be bottom-feeders."

This book **put so much negativity and hopeless thoughts inside my brain.** All Stella could think about was what a shitty life she had/has. Come on, girl. Everyone has problems, but we also look at the bright side of things, right? **I found it really difficult to connect with her** because of the bad vibes that just seemed to radiate off her. Also, **I thought her character was really weak and she just basically gave up on everything so quickly.** Maybe some of you could say Stella's this way because she's a realistic character... I would disagree. There is such a thing as TOO MUCH negativity.

Ah, and I hated how disrespectful she was to the people who were trying to help her. Look at this:

"Know what, if it'll keep you off my back, you do what you need to do and I'll do what I need to do. Until then, stay away from me."

This just makes me really sad. But yes, I know a lot of teens are disrespectful to their elders. This scene really threw me off guard, though.

Jonah was an odd character. **I couldn't really understand his intentions or his thoughts all that well.** He was a "complex" character whose thoughts and emotions were seriously jumbled up and all over the place. I don't think any of Jonah's actions or words are ever justified. You can't expect me to be okay with this!

So, this book taught me a new formula: **1 toxic/negative girl + 1 confusing guy = a whole lot of angst and a generic love story**. Everything about the book just seemed bland. We've seen it all before. Also, **nothing/no one's ever given a proper backstory**. I understand that this is just a novella with 80-something pages, but I want to know WHY things and people are the way they are.

The writing style was just okay. **I didn't get a lot of substance out of it** (okay, let's say ZERO feels), but I guess I can see why Katie has a lot of fans. Oh, and **I really appreciate how Katie inserts some realistic little life tidbits** every now and then (like having that ONE teacher who gives a test on the first day), where I just scream, "I know! That happens to me, too."

I still do want to try out Katie's other works, since I believe that this may be her weakest considering she crammed an entire story into 80+ pages only. Her full-length works are bound to be better, right?

Basically:

You're a fan of Katie McGarry? Read this one. Not a fan or haven't read from her? Definitely don't start with this one. Try out something else by the author. That's definitely what I should've done. Now I have a slightly bad impression of the author. Damn my poor judgement of picking what books to read first!

C.K. says

Currently, this novella is available for FREE!

Rating 4.6

I love the cover for this novella. The title for the novella is very fitting to the story. There is symbolism and reference to the color red throughout the novella. Overall it was another great story by Katie McGarry. It takes place in the Pushing the Limits universe but the characters are new. Mrs. Collins is in the story!

Stella's situation was heartbreaking. Stella is very sweet. Jonah could be frustrating at times because he used to just sit back and let his friend make fun of Stella. Bystanders are just as guilty. Jonah did become a better person and it took one traumatic event and a girl in a cemetery to help elicit that change. Jonah went through some life altering event and everyone one wants Jonah to go back to his old self. He went through a traumatic experience and he is not just going to be all better over night. Jonah realizes as the story progresses that he did not fully like the old "Jonah". In fact, he was ashamed of some of the things did and did and did not do.

I wish that there would have been an epilogue or just a little bit more out of the ending. I wanted to know what Jonah's parents would think of Stella. Would they accept their relationship or be opposed to it? Did his sister continue to see Cooper or did she finally head her brother's advice because I was worried that situation would turn into another Beth/Luke. I wanted to know if Stella continued to live with Joss because that was an unsafe living condition. Those were some lingering questions that I still had at the end.

There is a preview of West's story at the end and it is a really interesting preview that has me really curious about where West is at in Take Me on and where he is headed. I think some of West's story takes place

before the end of Crash into You (Crash into You has a time jump at the end).

*More detailed review to come

TEASER 3: Jonah and Stella's first Kiss

This is from Jonah's point of view:

My hand eases from her hip to her face, my thumb brushing against her cheek. Stella leans into me—all soft curves, all feminine, a heat that sparks and smolders at the same time. Her head tilts up as I lower mine and I know the moment our lips touch, any hope I had of returning to my old life will no longer exist.

TEASER 2:

Red at Night will be released on April 1, 2014 and it is currently for FREE on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Harlequin's website.

This preview is from Stella's point of view:

I expect Jonah to release my hand when we get to the office, but instead he joins me. The secretary's eyes flicker between us, and Jonah says, "I need a few minutes alone before class."

"Okay," she answers. "Your parents told us what happened. Why don't you go into the sick room and lie down. I know Mrs. Collins would be willing to talk with you if you wanted."

He says nothing to her, but he squeezes my hand. Knowing that this will probably be the last time I'll be so close to him, I squeeze back. Instead of the smile I was hoping to see in return, Jonah lets go of my fingers and cups my face with both hands.

The heat from his skin radiates into mine and I swear his warmth rushes into my bloodstream. My heart stops as he angles my head to look at him. His thumbs sweep over my cheeks and the air around us crackles.

Crap, I just got dizzy.

"Are you Miss Vaughn?" says a female voice behind me.

Jonah lowers his hands and I slam my fingers onto the counter so that I don't drop to the floor. Um, am I? "Yes." That sounded correct.

TEASER 1:

"My grandma used to pick dandelions and rub them under my chin and if my skin turned yellow it meant I was nice." On the other side of the cemetery, an industrial mower springs to life and happily

hums. I pick the largest dandelion of the bunch and hold it out to him. “Come here.”

“Why?”

I shrug. “Because if you don’t you’re going to go home and be ticked because you should have.”

It’s a clear day. Bright blue sky with an occasional fluffy cloud. He takes a particular interest in one that resembles a duck. Obviously he’s going to need more coaxing. “We’re surrounded by a couple hundred dead people. Think there’s someone here who left regret-free? Take a risk and come here. Or are you scared the dandelion will tell on you?”

“Tell what?” He angles himself in my direction now, and I like what I see of his sweet build. He readjusts his baseball cap to expose freshly cut light brown hair, and there’s a sharp ache in my chest when I meet his blue eyes.

I know him. Rather, I know his friends...But his eyes possess the same sadness as old man Rick’s and I have a choice: I can be like this kid and his friends or I can be better...I can be more. That decision is often why I’m here, and if Lydia’s taught me anything it’s that life can be short.

Inhaling deeply, I twirl the flower in my hand, knowing tomorrow I’ll regret this. “Come here and find out.”

This is a short story from Katie McGarry that comes out on April 1st. Currently you can preorder the story for free on Amazon. Red At Night does take place in The Pushing the Limits universe but the main characters are ones that have not been introduced in any of the other books. Katie mentioned that there will be a familiar face in the book so I guess it will be Mrs. Collins :). It takes place at Isaiah's school so I'd love it if he popped up in the book as well. I cover is really lovely. I like how her purple hair on the cover.

Here is what Katie said about the novella:

Red at Night does take place in the Pushing the Limits universe and you'll see a familiar face. Stella and Jonah's story is very special to me and I wrote it to highlight Harlequin's More than Words program.

Here is the exciting news: Red at Night is available on April 1, 2014 as an e-book only and, right now, it is FREE! ~ Katie McGarry

Here is the link to preorder it on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/Night-Harlequin...>

Lori Foster says

I love everything Katie McGarry writes, and this was no exception. Stella broke my heart. What a strong girl to stand alone and remain so determined to get ahead. Jonah represented so many young people who just don't understand - mostly because parents aren't explaining to them. He had to learn some truths the hard way, but he handled it well. Even while *not* understanding, he was kind and caring, especially to his goofy sister.

I'd say this is a short, excellent, feel good, learning something, romantic story with a great message!

Recommend it to everyone!
