



Kitty Kitty

Michele Jaffe

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Jasmine had everything a girl could want.1

So it wasn't her idea of SuperFun to move halfway around the world to Venice, Italy, leaving her fab pals and hot new boyfriend back in Los Angeles.2 But Venice isn't so bad . . .

Until Jasmine's Evil Hench cousin, Alyson, and her Best Fiend Veronique arrive,3 Jasmine's secret plan to jet to California is foiled,4 her boyfriend starts hanging with someone named Candy,5 and her only friend in Venice turns out to be in deadly peril.6

Faster than you can say "gelato," Jasmine is caught up in a catastrophic caper featuring a runaway heiress, a smoldering gondolier, 142 kinds of pizza, and a bothersome kitty. But before she can face off against a dangerous adversary, she has to face herself.

While wearing white leather pants.7

1 Rock star boyfriend, homicidal hair, fabulous pals, iNsAnO father . . .

2 No, this was the work of Dadzilla, smiter of life's happiness.

3 They ask to be called by their faerie names, Sapphyre and Tiger's*Eye. No, I am not joking. What? I'm supposed to keep the scary stuff inside the book?

4 Hello Dadzilla!

5 Who may or may not have perfect hair and boobs and be able to communicate with dolphins.

6 Not that anyone believes it. Until— What? That is for inside the book too? Okay, fine.

7 Only part of the time. The rest of the time I have to wear . . . oh, right. ScArY stuff inside.

Kitty Kitty Details

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From Reader Review Kitty Kitty for online ebook

Anka “Viva La Papaya” says

I wanted a fluff book and that's basically what this is.

Except it's a fluff book with a murder mystery.

I'm not sure how to review this because I know that there are people that this just won't work for. The writing is... not childish, I guess, but not formal-how-you-usually-write-a-book style either.

Actually, I had doubts in the beginning because of the writing. Once the story picked up and I actually started to understand it (I didn't read *Bad Kitty* first. I got this one at a sale and I was desperate as fuck since all my cousin had to read was *Fallen* by Lauren Kate. I'd rather *fucking run into a brick wall at 90mph*) so that's probably on me.

Whoops

Well the murder mystery wasn't crazy complicated or anything but it was enough to keep me enjoying it. Then again, I can't really judge thrillers since I hardly ever read them.

I'd say just read this if the blurb sounds good to you. It was a fun book so I'd recommend it if you're looking for something fluffy and fun with a little action mixed in.

Heather says

On the fun read scale this book is TNT.

Jacob Proffitt says

Like *Bad Kitty*, *Kitty Kitty* is non-stop fun and action. All of the elements that made *Bad Kitty* so fun are present in this sequel—and I devoured it in one big gulp as well.

My favorite part, this time, was the emergence of BadJas. Jas finally realizes that being Model Daughter isn't getting her anywhere in her Venetian exile, so she decides to go bad. But since this is Jas we're talking about, it's really hard to tell the difference—except in the footnotes. BadJas was awesome and even the Hench Twins were more fun in this book than the last.

Unfortunately, also like the last book, Jasmine's dad was a big disappointment. He's as actively evil here as he was there. Seriously, there's enough conflict in the plot that we don't need the Thwarter getting irrationally mad at her *every time*. And again, I don't care what he's trying to protect her from, she's 17 and proven herself capable in a wide range of situations. It's time to man-up and accept her for who she *obviously* wants to be.

Even more unfortunately, this appears to be the last in the series and that makes me sad. Jaffe appears to have moved on to more serious murder mystery type books. I'd love more stories with Jas and her friends

and have little interest in the teen drama she's been writing since...

Sara Grochowski says

Michele Jaffe's books totally rock my socks off! I don't know how she comes up with such great plot lines and hilarious dialogue, I just hope she never stops!

Kitty Kitty is the the continuation of Jas' story that began in Jaffe's first YA novel, Bad Kitty. While readers will most likely be able to follow Jas' story if they begin with Kitty Kitty, I recommend reading Bad Kitty first. Not only will you have a better idea of who the characters are and how they came to be in Venice, you'll also laugh your head off.

One of my favorite things about reading Jaffe's YA novels is the fact that when I'm reading, I constantly feel the need to find someone to read passages aloud to! These books are so funny that I must share them!

There isn't a lot of YA mystery out there - which is another reason to pick up Jaffe's books. She is a seasoned mystery author, as she writes adult romantic mysteries as well. I've read her adult novels and was pleasantly surprised to see that she wrote YA as well. The YA novels are completely different than the adult novels, but just as good: Jaffe's diverse writing talent astounds me!

Those of you who have read Bad Kitty will be happy to see all your favorite characters return for Kitty Kitty. Those of you who haven't read Bad Kitty... hurry up and read it: there are some characters you need to meet!

Ratings (Out of 10):

Plot: 10

Characters: 10

Writing: 10

Romance: 10

Originality: 10

Total: 50/50 (A!)

I can't imagine someone not laughing while reading Bad Kitty and Kitty Kitty - so if you need a laugh and are in the mood for a good book, be sure to check out Michele Jaffe's YA novels!

Niki Crabtree says

Just flat out not as good as the first one.

Jess says

I wasn't too keen on Michele Jaffe's first book in the Bad Kitty series, aptly titled Bad Kitty, because I found parts of the plot a little too ridiculous and the humor a little too in your face. The instant messaging conversations also were enormously distracting, adding "comedic" value while bringing nothing to the plot. Altogether, it was a mediocre book, though I must admit it was a fun and entertaining read. I wasn't even

considering picking up the second book, *Kitty Kitty*, until I discovered that it's set in Venice! Having spent several months in Venice in college, I could not NOT read it. This book was quite similar to the first, featuring all three of the irritating aspects I mentioned above. I was also disappointed to see the return of Jas's three best friends (who hopped on a plane to be with Jas in Vegas in the first book; can you guess what happens in this one?) and cousins, whose capers are highly unrealistic. It was nice to read a little about Jas's traveling through the city, but it appears as though the book was set in Venice just because the city has a mysterious air about it, making it an appropriate backdrop for a murder mystery; the first book takes place in Vegas with similar effect. These two cities with sinister characteristics make both novels; without Venice and Vegas, the storyline would not have been enough to hold either book together. Overall, there is so much about this book, and the first, that I find terribly annoying and painfully unfunny. Yet Jas is an alluring character, much like the cities in which her stories are set. I have no desire to read anything else Michele Jaffe has written, but I am inexplicably excited to read the next (non-existent) book in the *Bad Kitty* series!

Diana says

A fun murder mystery set in Venice.

Beth says

"*Kitty Kitty*", by Michele Jaffe, is a really mixed bag. On one hand, it's really funny in places, generally fun, light-hearted and fast-paced. It's also incredibly *well*-paced, in that there are genuine twists and turns at the each of every chapter and there is lots of genuine imagination and creativity. However, the imagination and creativity manifests in a way that is sorta *over*-quirky, in that practically all the characters talk the same kind of witty, OTT way. For instance, there is constant footnotes, references to characters in quirky ways like "Dadzilla", "Sherri", "Tyger's Eye*" (the star is silent) and "Sapphyre" (not *Sapphire*, which Jaffe obviously thought funny enough to repeat every five pages. Jasmine is a good heroine, though she's somewhat undermined by the fact that every one of her friends are quirks with legs, which also makes her feel like a quirk with long legs while reading, and not even a particularly unique one. However, she is funny, self-deprecating and refreshingly short on the whininess.

I felt conflicted about what is obviously the overarching plot in these "*Kitty*" books, which is the Mysterious Death of Jas's mother when she was very young. This is very intriguing, but only shows up *veeeeery* sporadically in the novel and, even when it appeared, it wasn't remotely developed. Jas gets a few mysterious e-mails and her dad promises to tell her 'something' about her mother's death when they return to L.A. - which Jaffe all leaves for the third book, despite the fact that this third book has not materialised yet and it says on her website that "IT IS NOT SCHEDULED YET." So, great. Even though both "*Kitty*" books came out in quick succession of one another, this appears like an ongoing series which has just been...dropped? Gahhh. I feel really irritated by this because the mystery of Jas's mother's death is the only part of the novel that got me really, really invested, because I loved how Jas dealt with her more emotional moments for such a quirky character.

I even quite liked the 'romance' between Jack and Jas, though it pretty much takes a backseat for her weird dalliance with the sleazy/sexy Italian, Max, mainly due to Jas's interesting voice and treatment of it. But, overall, this book suffered from serious **CHARACTER SOUP**. We appear to have our heroine's sidekicks introduced in the first thirtyish pages - her cousin and her cousin's best friend, both of whom she dislikes so much, she calls them the Evil Hench-Twins - but then her three best friends pop up from L.A. and it just becomes a little overcrowded. Okay, *really* overcrowded. We now have five sidekicks even though it's

blatantly obvious that Jas only needs two. And, honestly, if I hadn't read "Bad Kitty" (about a thousand years ago so I can't really compare the two), I would think that Jaffe created this mad plot and then these totally implausible characters to go along with it. Tom is apparently a mastaaaah (Jas's voice) of all things lock-picky and stuff, which is very convenient for Jas's detective work, but so is Roxy, Tom's twin sister, so Tom gets totally pushed to the back and is pretty much the third wheel throughout. Polly's quirk is the only one that gets real plot grounding - her fashion talent - but it's so overheated (like a lot of "Kitty Kitty", in all honesty), it gave me a bit of a headache.

"Kitty Kitty" is very implausible. This is not, in itself, a problem. I didn't read this book for a gritty, realistic picture of Venice. I read this for entertainment and giggles (both of which it provided consistently and well). And, so, even though I could accept the ridiculous way that Jas talks her way into Prada, and into a dead millionaire's home without comment, when it finally came time for the mystery to be revealed, I was left totally confused and feeling very stupid. I'm not quite sure how much of this I missed but, in the end, it turns out that Suspect #1 and Suspect #2 are NOT the killers, but Not Suspect #3 is. How did Jas know that Not Suspect was M.? I'm not sure. Also, if #1 and #2 were not the killers, why did they react so goddamn violently? #1 is not the killer and apparently was totally set up by #3 but still decides to kick Jas in the face when she discovers his next 'victim' (who has in fact staged this and set themselves up as the victim)? And apparently he's a total nice guy at the end and not remotely a creep or a violent asshole? Also, #2 is not the killer, but COMES AT JAS WIELDING A KNIFE with no motivation, until Thshe is 'saved' by #3. #3 is not planning to kill #2 until #3 makes it look like #2 and Jas were having an affair and then #3 can kill #2 six months later and stage it like a suicide. And at no point in the next six months will #2 happen to mention the fact that he and Jas were *not* having an affair? And what did The House That Kills article have to do with anything? There's a difference between a wild, implausible plot and a just plain stupid one. This difference was plain to see here. The ending becomes very rushed to the point where it is almost incoherent. I was really glad that it didn't turn out to be a certain somebody, which it almost was, and when the twist showed up, I was glad, yeah, but the solution was just so clichéd and rushed that I don't know how Jas figured out half of the things she supposedly did.

This book is also not for nitpickers. It is for anyone who can suspend their belief - preferably from the ceiling - but also their worry about cultural stereotypes. Every stereotype about Venice is present here. Jas's sort-of love interest, who is called Max (stereotypical Italian name!) uses no Italian except whatever it is for 'beautiful girl/woman' (he literally says it on every page). Jas's grasp of the Italian language fluctuates wildly. She goes from not sure how to answer a simple question to understanding a very complex sentence spoken by two native Italins while hiding in a cupboard. I get it, suspend disbelief, blah blah blah, but this was just so plain *stupid*. More stupid behaviour involves genre conventions: one minute, Jas is as savvy as they come about being in a mystery novel. The next minute, she lets her friends decide that it's a great idea for them all to SPLIT UP and search for the murderer. Except of course, for some reason, this overstuffed crowd of five does not split into three and two. Jas doesn't even get the majority group. In fact, for some moronic reason that isn't even mentioned in the text, Jas *winds up alone*. Yep. So forget the fact that she's the killer's target and the killer CAME TO SPEAK TO HER less than five minutes previously. Apparently it's a great idea for them all to split up and leave on her own to pursue him! The friends' super skills get to the point where they are no longer quirks and more like insane plot devices. For example, Alyson, Jas's arch-enemy, turns out to be great with computers despite appearing to be a traditional valley girl. This could be quite a neat twist if not for the fact that it comes up at the very moment that Jas needs a hacker. I'm not quite sure when *else* it was supposed to come up, but it really does reach ridiculous levels. Her friends have crazy skills (not a bad thing in themselves, given that this book is very much Not To Be Taken Seriously), but they have an abundance of crazy skills that always turn out to be a) totally logically impossible and b) exactly what is required to get them out of the latest impossible situation.

Still, if you want fun and funniness, you could do worse than "Kitty Kitty", if you're willing to ignore a pretty crap denouement.

Stephanie says

You know what this series remind me of? The Nancy Drew series. Seriously. I keep feeling that Jasmine like this like modernized version of Nancy Drew. They both share the love of mysteries and they both love solving them. The only difference is that Jasmine is a more funnier version. She also has best friends who aid her in every possible ways (including fashion sense :).

The characters, as usual, were very entertaining. Polly, Jasmine's best friend, is ALWAYS there for her. Though not physically but at least spiritually. Haha. Her fashion sense is awesome and that's how she contributes to Jas - she helps her fashion. She's also really funny and their footnotes between each other show clearly that they adore each other.

Roxy, another Jas's best friend, is extremely smart. Though she may not seem like it because she's always looking for food, she also makes the technological stuff such as smoke bombs, etc. She's extremely sweet in her own way.

Tom, Roxy's older brother, Polly's boyfriend, and also one of Jasmine's best friend, is just there as a moral support. He supports whatever Jas, Polly and Roxy are doing and that makes him really likable. I adore him because he seems to know what a true friend means.

The plot, as usual, is hilarious. This time they race through Venice looking for a killer. They find friends, enemies and mystery. The BB guns were an added bonus.

Overall, Kitty Kitty is a refreshing and mysterious books, full of plot, wit and character.

Sarah Lynn says

This is a totally silly, over the top young adult fiction book. Which I adored because the author writes the heroine, Jas, pretty much just like my friend Angel talks. "I hightailed it back to my room, and, once the door was closed, did a very special dance for joy. Not only would I get to go to San Francisco with my pals, but Jack had said that if I made it back for the college trip he'd fly in from Los Angeles for a day or two to see me. San Francisco was like around the corner from him! He could come just for lunch! Where lunch means kissing! And dessert! Where dessert means ice cream! And also kissing!"

She takes Mr. T as her role model in order to be "Bad" (WWMrTD? Ha! Mr. T scoffs at trouble), writes casual poetry ("I am glad Trouble/is not ice cream because then/I could not have any"), runs around in white leather pants, hits her head and precipitates the emergence of "BadJas" who argues with her and mocks her in the footnotes (because there are footnotes! In which side dialogue happens, and BadJas causes trouble!:"BadJas: I pity the fool who takes my white leather pants away. Polly: What? Who said that? Jas: That's BadJas. She says things I'm thinking but don't want to be. And she might be right, P. I've been asked out twice since putting on my leather pants. Polly: Give me the guy's name so I can contact his parole officer. Jas: Ha ha. I'm not ever getting these pants back, am I? Polly: Of course you are, precious. You'll be able to console yourself at my funeral with the fact that you may have lost a friend but you've regained your leather pants. You see, I am doing you an Act of Kindness."), and uses her "surprising and muscular" vocab (from dubbed-into-Italian "CHiPs" episodes) to talk to Italian cops. Also her friends make the most amazing and

hilarious outfits, including mind-control glasses, weaponized water wings that they make her wear while they're all running around Venice, and the conversion of the white leather pants into a white leather jacket. Because her friend Polly travels internationally with a Bedazzler, and biometric scanners, and a sense of righteousness where fashion and water safety are concerned.

They do battle against the forces of evil, and also the forces of terrible fashion from the Evil Hench Twin's aka Jas's shallow cousin Alyson/Sapphyre and Veronique/Tiger's*Eye (the * is silent). The writing is vivid, the footnotes are copious, and the squirrel costume is epic. Oh and the insanely privileged rich girl main character is biracial, accident-prone, and embroiled in wacky hijinx, rather than white and blond and innocent and concerned only with keeping her man, or white and brunette and manipulative and concerned only with getting a man. Kitty Kitty was delightful.

Lynn says

OH NO! Poor Jaz has been yanked away from her hot boyfriend and California BFF's to spend her senior year in Venice. What to do?? Jas decides to be on her best behaviour so she can go home but in Bad Kitty fashion, Jaz falls into nefarious plots, wicked deeds and evil plots only to tumble out the other side victorious - and perfectly accessorized. Inspired silliness and great fun for summer reading.

Jill says

Once again, the title and cover leave much to be desired, but I need to read it. Like now. *grabby hands*

It was a really good mystery that didn't reveal the ending despite giving the reader all the clues, which I liked a lot. My issue: The Lack of Jack. You CANNOT introduce an amazingly hot and awesome boy in the first book then only have him show up for two pages in the second book.

Also, considering this was published seven years ago I conclude that there is not a third book, but there were some loose ends and a serious need for some Jack, which leads me to assume that the third book was planned but never happened. I. Need. Jack. Now.

Greer says

Seventeen year old Jasmine is on an extended stay in Venice, Italy at the start for her senior year in high school. Unforntantly this is not the place she wants to be. She would rather be in the states where she has left her best buds and her boyfriend. Oh Heavens!!

While in Venice she befriends an odd bird of a girl who just happens to get her self killed. The police have decided it is suicide but Jas knows better. Using her sleuthing skills and the unannounced arrival of her fab friends and not so fab cousins she uncovers the truth with a bit of hijinks and dodging near misses by the killer.

Emma (Miss Print) says

Jasmine Callihan is back and better than ever in “Kitty Kitty” by Michele Jaffe! And, boy am I excited about that. “Kitty Kitty” will be released in July 2008 by HarperTeen (part of HarperCollins coincidentally enough), so you’re seeing the review here first.

“Kitty Kitty” picks up a month or two after the ending of “Bad Kitty” (Jaffe’s madcap YA debut featuring Jasmine). This time around, Jasmine is in Venice, the most romantic city in the world, and in a beautiful hotel. The only problem is that Jasmine is there with her ogre-iffic father and her step-mother Sherri! In other words, Jasmine is really far away from her friends, her rock star boyfriend, AND the prestigious high school that would look great on her college applications.

Why you may ask? So Jasmine can be home-schooled (not from her actual home) while she takes intensive Italian lessons and her father writes his definitive book on the history of . . . soap. Jasmine is understandably put out by all of these abrupt life changes. But what really upsets her is the apparent suicide of her friend from Italian class—the mysterious and eccentric Arabella. Except Jasmine isn’t so sure that Arabella’s death really was a suicide.

Mayhem ensues as Jasmine begins to investigate Arabella’s life in order to understand what could have provoked her death. Atrocities include bangs on the head as well as an unfortunate encounter with a pair of white leather pants. Oh, and Jasmine turning to Mr. T as a new role model (although that last one might not be so bad depending on who you ask!).

Stylistically, Jaffe continues to use a variety of writing techniques to create a truly modern reading experience. Techniques that reappear in this volume include footnotes, e-mail and instant messaging excerpts as well as pictures created with words. These devices help keep the novel interesting—there’s a lot of information presented in a lot of different ways. At the same time, it makes readers extra aware that they are reading. But that’s okay here because it encourages a close reading of the text in some cases—an important skill found in what can be called a light read.

Some parts of the novel seem contrived, such as Jasmine’s friends coming to her rescue, but with blow dart pens and tricked out cowboy boots this novel, like “Bad Kitty” before it, is more cartoon than true-to-life-drama anyway. (A style that Jaffe once again pulls off very well.) And who wouldn’t want to read more about Jasmine’s motley group of friends? Best friend/fashion genius Polly; lock picking, wise-cracking twins Tom and Roxy; and even Jas’ evil cousin Alyson and her evil sidekick Veronique reappear with just as many made up words and fashion faux pas as before. My only qualm about the novel is that the cat angle that was so crucial to “Bad Kitty” is also not as strong here since no cats feature as more than passing characters in the narrative.

Another odd addition is the presence of a mysterious sender of e-mails and an as yet undeveloped sub-plot involving Jasmine’s dead mother (this person and the fact that Jasmine’s mother died when she was six turn up more in this novel than the first, which didn’t mention mysterious e-mails at all). Aside from being a fine example of a writer spinning backstories into a series as she writes the series, this new plot thread suggests that Jasmine will return again soon.

Stephanie says

I really loved Bad Kitty so I was eagerly awaiting Kitty Kitty. It didn't disappoint. Jasmine is such a hilarious heroine that she just keeps me cracking up on every page. I highly recommend this series.
