



I Kiss Girls

Gina Harris

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Joanie's got all of the problems of an almost seventeen year old girl. She's trying to get her driver's license, her mom and dad are pressuring her about going to prom, and she never can seem to make it to the bus on time. Even worse, Joanie likes girls, not boys, and all of the girls in her hometown are pretty darned straight. Her best friend, Zane, can attest to that, considering that he never has trouble getting a girl, even if he's not interested in the freshmen who swarm around him. When new girl Kate shows up, needing tutoring in math and chemistry, Joanie figures Zane will get the date, like he always does, and that makes life even more difficult. Joanie's in for a surprise, though, because Kate doesn't fall for her good looking best friend. In fact, Kate seems to like girls, too, and things get a little scary when Kate asks Joanie out on a date. Somehow Joanie knows if she says yes to Kate, things will change forever. Can she manage to pass her driving test, get to prom, and come out to her parents the way Kate wants her to? Or will Joanie's seventeenth birthday be the worst day in history?

I Kiss Girls Details

Date : Published May 14th 2008 by Prizm

ISBN : 9781603703543

Author : Gina Harris

Format : Paperback 200 pages

Genre : Lgbt, Glbt, Lesbian, Young Adult, Queer, Queer Lit, Lesbian Fiction

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From Reader Review I Kiss Girls for online ebook

J. Peters says

This was more or less a typical approach to this sort of book. There's not a lot of drama. The drama that does occur is generally because of something the main character has done or has imagined. I liked the characters for the most part. Joanie and Kate get most of the development. Zane got a decent amount, but I felt like his character progression got the short end of the stick. His major conflict and resolution tends to happen off screen, which is hard to avoid since it's told from the first person perspective of Joanie.

I liked Joanie for the most part, but at a certain point, it was hard to feel sympathetic for her when a lot of her issues were self-induced, and in a way that didn't feel like it necessitated the drama that ensued. To be honest, it feels like Joanie has issues with anxiety, and it would've been nice if that had been addressed in the book - those internalized thoughts she kept having and all those self-doubts would've warranted at least talking to someone about it.

It's a cute story, but it's relatively simple. There's not a lot of side characters either. I'd say the one that gets the most screen time is Joanie's driving instructor, Gary. His parts were surprisingly good and heartwarming, and I kinda wish there'd been more of that sort of thing in the book.

It's hard to go into more detail without spoilers, so the next few bits will be tagged appropriately.

Joanie: (view spoiler)

Joanie's Family: (view spoiler)

The Prom: (view spoiler)

Kate: (view spoiler)

The Ending: (view spoiler)

Not a bad read by any means, but it lacked substance and I doubt I'll read it again.

Sarah Crawford says

This is an absolutely wonderful story about Joannie, who is going on seventeen. Liz is her little sister. Zane is her best friend. Things are going normally for her until a new student shows up, Kate. At first Kate seems interested in Zane and that bothers Joannie who is actually a lesbian. Her parents don't know that, though, and Joannie hasn't dated any other girls. She's quite in the closet except that she did tell Zane who was totally cool with it.

Joannie is very strongly attracted to Kate, though, and eventually they do hook up, but a problem arises when Kate wants Joannie to come out to her own parents and Joannie is reluctant. Joannie's entire relationship with Kate is threatened.

The way the author works out the various problems in the book, and how everyone reacts to Joannie's stating she's a lesbian is really well done and very wonderful. I think the last two chapters of the book make up

about the most satisfactory ending to a story I've ever read.

Absolutely delightful.

Megan Anderson says

A cute, but predictable book. I could sympathize with the narrator's insecurities, but the rest of the cast wasn't particularly likable or dynamic. I didn't even particularly care for the plot. The final two chapters were beautifully written, however, so it gets a star for that. It wouldn't be my first choice to put on a YA shelf, but I would include it on a reading list.

3/5 on here, 6/10 for myself

Angie says

Este es el claro ejemplo de que no hay que juzgar a un libro por su portada. Siendo sincera, la portada no es de las mejores que he visto pero la historia es muy buena. Joanie y Kate hacen una pareja hermosa. Y amé a Zane, es el claro ejemplo de un verdadero amigo.

Stephanie Ladue says

I liked this book, I thought it was cute. BUT, it had so much potential! We just meet Joanie's love interest and she's all like 'I think I love you.' What is that shit!!? I hate instalove. It was still cute and geeky but I wish it wasn't so rushed.

Shelley M. says

This book was really sweet -- like icing-and-lollipops sweet. It's about 16-year-old Joanie, who is used to her cute (boy) BFF always getting the girls. Until Kate moves to town and picks Joanie. Kate and Joanie's relationship seems pretty high drama (OMG we're in love! Oh no she's breaking up with me! We're back in love and we'll be together forever!), but it all works out pretty quickly. The central conflict is over how Joanie will come out to her parents, and there's none of the internal "am I really gay??" struggle that a lot of queer YA books have.

I think the point was that it was a sweet story, and not all dark and fraught with angst and pain. And it definitely succeeded in that -- when Joanie finally did come out, her parents were pretty cool with it (mostly just relieved that she wasn't pregnant), and she got her own prom for her birthday, to make up for the one that she attended with a boy instead of with her girlfriend.

Eddie says

Delightful and adorable, a good-spirited short teen love story. Being predictable isn't necessarily a bad thing. A story like this doesn't need twists and surprises, it just need to be well written. And it is--simply good. Being simple isn't necessarily a bad thing either, especially if the teen reader hasn't already gone through a hundred romance novels or isn't looking for something subversive. The warmhearted earnestness of the story should win over most readers who give it a chance. Being short also plays to the novel's strengths, as dragging out the conflict any longer would have started to wear on my patience--that part of the book was at just the right length as it stands.

I would have appreciated a few more scenes before and after the main conflict possibly involving Joanie's sister and parents interacting with Kate or Joanie meeting Kate's dad or talking more to Kate's mom, but the absence of these doesn't sour me and just leaves me wanting more in a good way. Again, not every book needs to have a complicated plot, flashbacks, or an extra hundred pages, especially if the story being told doesn't need those things. Everything follows from the premise, which makes it really easy for people to know whether or not they're going to like it from the back cover alone.

I found about half a dozen typos, but the spelling errors weren't too distracting so I won't dock any points over it. I greatly enjoyed the book and hope Gina continues to write in the future.

CLo says

A cute coming out story.

This kept popping up on my recommended kindleUnlimited so i figured why not. And whadaya know, i actually liked it. Its about 16/17 year old Jo who finally finds a girl who likes her and her struggle to "come out" to her parents. Its not filled with unbelievable angst or drama or heartache but its still pretty good. I have to say Gary was my favorite character. I enjoyed it and will more than likely read more from this author.

Skip Maslan says

Very nice!

This was a good story. I like stories where the characters make you believe in them. Joanie, Kate and Zane made this a fun and rewarding read.

Nancy says

Joanie feels doomed to be the third wheel. Her best friend, Zane, always seems to get the girl, and as far as she can tell, she's the only lesbian at her school. Of course, she's only out to Zane, so even if there were other lesbians, they might not recognize her either. Everything changes when new girl Kate comes to school, and needs tutoring in math by Joanie and in chemistry by Zane. Both Joanie and Zane end up with crushes on Kate, driving a wedge in their relationship, and when Kate shows her interest to be in Joanie, Zane doesn't take it very well at first.

So Joanie has a girlfriend, but her problems are far from solved. She's in the closet at home and at school,

and Kate isn't and doesn't want to be; Joanie's parents are pushing her to go to the prom and finally arrange a date for her with a football player which causes Kate to almost break things off.

As can be expected, things turn out fine after a few bumps and bruises (some of them literal). A quick and entertaining read, especially for the reluctant reader.

Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

Originally posted at: <http://www.longandshortreviews.com/bo...>

Joanie has a secret that only her best friend Zane knows about. She is torn between blurting it out to the world and fearfully keeping it to herself. However, time is running out and she must decide on what to do and how to do it...

Joanie and Zane, who are both juniors in high school, have been best friends for a long time. They know each other very well and spend lots of time together. In fact, Joanie's parents are under the impression that they are more than best friends and are assuming that they would be going to the prom together despite Joanie's repeated protests that they are not more than friends.

Joanie is 16 and has a great family with parents and a sister who all love her. She does well in school and has a best friend to hang out with, so she seems to have the perfect life. However, she is afraid of what her family and her classmates' reactions would be if they found out she is gay. Would she lose them as family and friends?

Kate, a new girl in school, is about to shake things up for Joanie. Not only is she pretty and smart, but she also likes girls. When she asks Joanie out on a date, Joanie begins to worry that even though this is what she has been waiting for, could she handle the consequences if someone found out???

I Kiss Girls is a sweet story that is a bit predictable, but nevertheless satisfying and reassuring for teenagers who are in similar circumstances. While I was reading it, I felt as though it were similar to an episode of my favorite family TV series in which things got resolved neatly, which is not a bad thing since I always want to watch reruns of it.

I Kiss Girls does have a couple of very interesting twists to the story which I really enjoyed. For a great young adult story that has a LGBT theme, be sure check out I Kiss Girls to find out how Joanie figures out how to live her life and be true to herself.

Mogy says

I think this was definitely a book I needed to read. I've not had a storyline give me such a happy butterfly feeling in a long time and I'm so happy that it ended how it did. I sat down to read this book and I read it from cover to cover without closing it, I couldn't put it down nor did I want to! I would happily read 'I Kiss Girls' again and I'll love it just the same!

Tobi Grantham says

As an adult the whole teenage angst saga of coming out is somewhat over done, but I willingly admit, that though slightly rushed and a smidge too easily resolved, it was dealt with very well in this particular book. Read it in a couple of hours as I couldn't put it down. I would most definitely recommend to a younger reading crowd as a positive and entertaining enough book. With the high note of a happy ending.

Ruby Ridge says

Cute little romance - sometimes we just gotta read a happy little book, this is the book you need when you are delayed at the airport - it will make you smile again

moxieBK says

This is a cute, fast read about Joanie and Kate; and Joanie coming out to her parents. Nice little story that I enjoyed. Typical YA read, but with a lesbian twist. No drama. Great escape reading. Fun.

Three stars.
