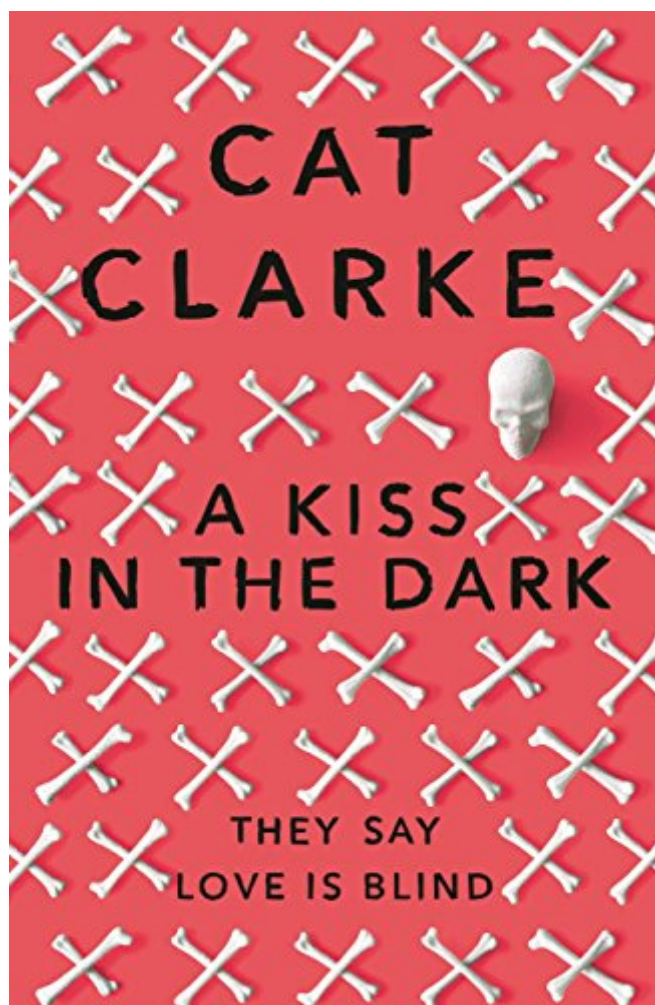


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A Kiss In The Dark: From A Zoella Book Club 2017 Author



Synopsis

Real, compulsive and intense: Cat Clarke is the queen of emotional suspense. For fans of Paula Hawkins, Gillian Flynn, Megan Abbott and Jandy Nelson. Can love survive the ultimate betrayal? A compelling story of love and identity from a bestselling author. When Alex meets Kate the attraction is instant. Alex is funny, good-looking, and a little shy - everything that Kate wants in a boyfriend. Alex can't help falling for Kate, who is pretty, charming and maybe just a little naive... But one of them is hiding an unbelievable secret, and as their love blossoms, it threatens to ruin not just their relationship, but their lives...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm not really one for reading contemporary novels but I have been reading a few recently based on reviews I've read and this is one of them. I've read a few good reviews for this book so when the opportunity came up to request it on Netgalley I thought I'd give it a request and was accepted. This is my first Cat Clarke book and I've heard that she pulls quite the emotional punch and boy, she really, really does! It's hard to review this book without spoilers as it's a simple premise of 'boy meets

girl' but one of them is hiding a REALLY big secret with the potential to ruin their new found love. You really can't say more than that without ruining it for someone who hasn't read it. Even the blurb is pretty vague to keep it's secrets intact from the reader. This does mean that this review is also going to be a bit vague and short so I don't spoil it but I must insist that you read this book though and I insist strongly! It's stunningly written book, very cleverly written in two halves called BEFORE and AFTER, the before written from Alex's perspective and the after written from Kate's and are set before the secret comes out (in quite some style I might add) and afterwards. It's a very interesting idea to write a book in such a way but it works so very well in this case and was a genius move. The writing is clear and precise and completely to the point, there is no 'filler' writing with no purpose as everything within it has it's place and is important to the overall story. Clever work indeed and emotional to read, even I welled up on the last page of the book and I NEVER cry at books, I feel the emotion but never cry so filling up was a bit of a surprise to me but a sign of a really, really good book! It's an emotional roller-coaster to read but it's truly a very well written and clever book indeed and I have a sneaking suspicion that this won't be my last Cat Clarke as I'm curious to see if her other books are like too.....I need to find out so has anyone any recommendations on which to try next?

I'm a huge fan of Cat Clarke's writing, she always creates such realistic teenage characters and her stories never fail to pack a punch. I think A Kiss in the Dark might just be her best book yet which is really saying something! I'm afraid that this review is going to be deliberately vague because this is the kind of story that would be incredibly easy to spoil and I would hate to ruin anyone's experience of reading it. There are so many things I want to talk about when it comes to this novel and it's killing me that I can't discuss them. Alex and Kate are attracted to each other from the moment they first meet, they have the same interests, enjoy spending time together and slowly but surely they fall in love. In a lot of ways they are perfect for each other but Alex has a secret, one that has the power to destroy their relationship if Kate ever finds out the truth. The reader actually finds out what that secret is fairly on in the story and because the first half of the book is told from Alex's point of view we get to see just how much keeping that secret plays on their mind. Alex didn't set out to deceive Kate but what starts as a small misunderstanding between them soon snowballs into something so huge that Alex has no idea how to fix things. I spent half of the book just waiting for the truth to come out, you know Kate is going to be devastated and you're hurting on her behalf but you can't help but feel sorry for Alex even when you're wishing that they could have been honest with each other from the very beginning. After the big reveal the point of view switches so you can see exactly how hurt

Kate was by Alex's betrayal. It was at this point she does something incredibly stupid as a way of getting revenge on Alex and although I was incredibly angry at her actions I couldn't help but wonder how I would have reacted in her situation. Kate quickly starts to realise how one small lie can snowball way beyond anything you'd have imagined and I think that probably helps her to see things from Alex's point of view. The real question is whether she will do the right thing by the end of the story or will she see her revenge through to the bitter end. A Kiss in the Dark is a gut wrenching read, I was so emotionally invested in both of these characters and it's very hard to imagine that the outcome of this relationship is going to be anything but heartbreaking which makes even the good times they spend together rather bitter sweet. This is the kind of book that makes you ask uncomfortable questions and I loved it for that. I would like to take a copy of this book and place it in the hands of every teenager I come across, there is a lot we can all learn from Alex and Kate's story and I applaud Cat Clarke for writing such an incredibly emotional book.

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