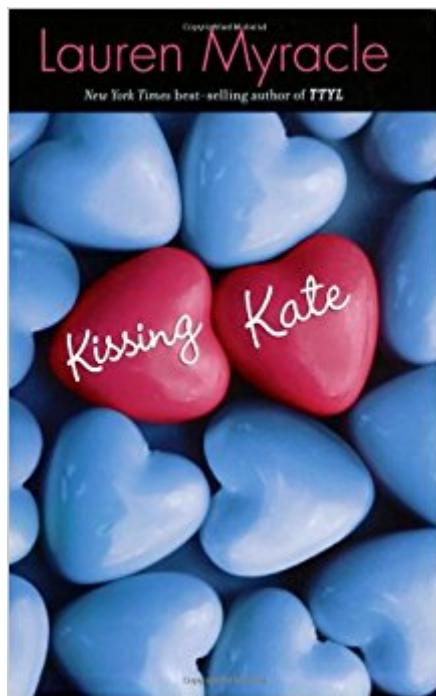


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# Kissing Kate



## Synopsis

Kate was lissa's best friend. They've shared everything for four years. Then one night at a drunken party, Kate leaned in to kiss lissa, and lissa kissed her back. And now Kate is pretending lissa doesn't exist. Confused and alone, lissa is left questioning everything she thought she knew about herself, and about life. But with the help of a free-spirit new friend, lissa is beginning to find the strength to realize that sometimes falling in love with the wrong person is the only way to find your footing.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 640 (What's this?)

Paperback: 208 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.6 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #621,917 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > LGBT Issues #531 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Gay & Lesbian #750 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up-The kisser is best-friend-since-seventh-grade Lissa. The kiss is no peck on the cheek, and therein lies the rub. Since the fateful event, Kate has been cold to her friend. In this first-person narrative, Lissa, hurt and confused, details her present state of inner turmoil, with frequent flashbacks to the girls' blissful (pre-kiss) days. To complicate matters, Lissa and her younger sister are being raised by an uncle (their parents died in a plane crash), and lack the emotional rudder a maternal figure might have provided. At first Lissa misses Kate dearly, but gradually, through personal insights derived from some new and unexpected friendships (and forays into new-age dream therapy), she finds the strength to confront both Kate and her own sexual identity. While the

message is sound, the delivery is seriously flawed. The friendship between Lissa and Kate, the linchpin of the story, is unconvincing. The girls are defined from the get-go by their differences in appearance and personality, but Myracle fails to make the case that opposites truly attract. It seems ungenerous that Lissa and Kate are painted as such stark contrasts, with Lissa being the brave one and Kate in denial of her sexuality; they are, after all, only 16, an age when sexual conflict is the norm. Mary Ann Carcich, Mattituck-Laurel Public Library, Mattituck, NY Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 7-10. "It was one thing for someone else to be gay. It was something else entirely if it was me." Lissa, 16, has been best friends with beautiful Kate for four years, but everything changes when Kate gets drunk at a party, and she and Lissa passionately kiss. Lissa is desperate to talk about it, but Kate wants to pretend that nothing happened. This first novel does a great job of showing the girls' surprise at the situation and the way their emotions swing from attraction to denial. Funny and anguished, Lissa's first-person narrative expresses her hurt, anger, and confusion as she tries to date a guy; searches for an adult to talk to (and for a bra that fits); and downloads depressing statistics from the Net about the high suicide rate among gay teens. There's some contrivance about "lucid dreaming," with heavy metaphors and connections, but most readers will skim that for the lively realistic story about friends and lovers. For another, very different take on the subject, see David Levithan's *Boy Meets Boy*, reviewed on p.1980. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The back cover blurb sounded great, but the book, not so much. There was no "action" in the book at all, and it wasn't until the very last sentence of the book where it seemed like there was a breakthrough. Took me forever to read it because there just was NOTHING going on in the book. Lissa spent the entire 198 pages questioning herself and waffling back and forth about who she was or who she wanted to be. Pretty boring. I wanted to like this book, but just couldn't enjoy it because of Lissa's inaction and inability to move forward. I would have given this no stars if that had been an option on this review. I hate rating a book as low, but I wouldn't want some other girl trying to read this thinking there was some substance there.

It was a quirky story. With a lot of poignancy. It leaves you wondering if the main character will move on without Kate or leave her behind with her own internal struggles. It would be nice if the author

would consider a sequel to see how all the characters are doing. I liked Ariel a lot! Well developed character! Well done!

Grade: B Things get awkward after BFFs Lissa and Kate kiss at a party. Now they're barely talking, not quite fighting, not quite friends. Lissa meets Ariel, a nonconformist, who helps Lissa learn to adapt to life without her former best friend. *KISSING KATE*, originally published in 2003, feels a bit dated, given all progress we've made over the past decade. While being gay isn't accepted in all areas of the country and in all families, access to resources and information is readily available. The storyline between Lissa and Kate was less important than the relationship between Lissa and Lissa and how she comes to understand and accept herself. Lissa isn't always kind, at times she's snotty and mean, not unlike most teenagers, but she grows and becomes more nuanced the deeper she understands herself. Lauren Myracle gave Lissa an authentic voice as narrator. I felt like a teen was telling me her story. Many of the minor characters were unique and interesting. *KISSING KATE* doesn't end with a perfect resolution for all of the characters, which feels more realistic than if it had. **THEMES:** friendship, LGBT, high school, siblings, family *KISSING KATE* is an easy read about a friendship that changes after two girls lock lips.

This book started off okay and I was compelled by Lissa and what she was going through. And then the book just ended. No real resolution or finality. I actually tried turning the page because I was sure that couldn't be the end. I was wrong. I hate when I finish a book and am left with nothing but questions. I liked the character of Lissa and her angst over Kate, that's why this book gets two stars instead of one.

Despite the entire story revolving around the main character (Lissa) kissing her best friend there is no resolution in that or any other plot threads. One character even manages to bring up a bunch of new points for Lissa to consider as to kissing her best friend but none of them are considered as the book suddenly runs out of pages and, therefore, story.

It was okay. Probably more realistic than most of these kinds of books.

Lauren is one of my favorite authors. I've read most of her books. This book I really liked, and maybe the best one yet. I could not put this book down. Many people say it's bad because there is "lesbians", but honestly that's not what the story is all about. Yeah it's not a book for 10 year olds, but

its very detailed, and I just like it very much!

As a retired educator and an avid reader I was most impressed with this book. Lauren Myracle has written an engrossing story about the sexual feelings of a teenage girl, Lissa, and how she and the important others in her life react to them. Complicating things is the fact that she has these feelings towards her best friend Kate who after arousing desires in Lissa with a kiss now ignores her. Lissa's parents were killed in a car wreck when she and her younger sister were very young and they live with their Uncle Jerry. Entering the picture is Ariel, an interesting and ultimately critically important character in helping Lissa come to terms with her dilemma. Myracle develops her story in a way that will appeal to teenagers with similar feelings but more than that she tells it in an engrossing manner that keeps the reader interested from beginning to end. This book is an important one for teenagers, parents, counselors, therapists, and anyone who wants to understand and help teenagers, even adults, with similar conflicting feelings.

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