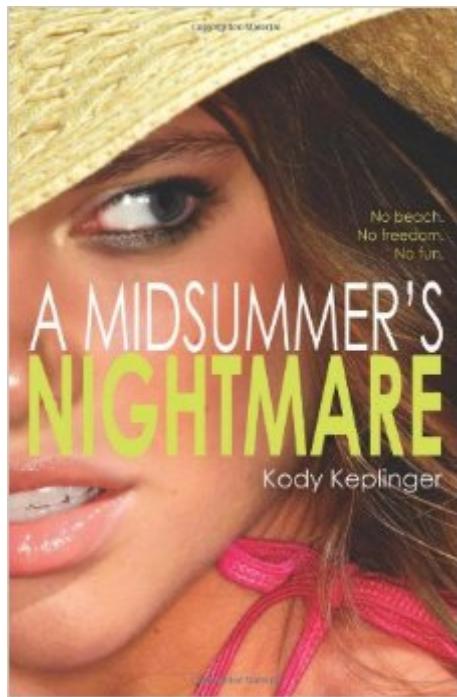


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A Midsummer's Nightmare



Synopsis

Whitley Johnson's dream summer with her divorcÃ© dad has turned into a nightmare. She's just met his new fiancÃ©e and her kids. The fiancÃ©e's son? Whitley's one-night stand from graduation night. Just freakin' great. Worse, she totally doesn't fit in with her dad's perfect new country-club family. So Whitley acts out. She parties. Hard. So hard she doesn't even notice the good things right under her nose: a sweet little future stepsister who is just about the only person she's ever liked, a best friend (even though Whitley swears she doesn't "do" friends), and a smoking-hot guy who isn't her stepbrother...at least, not yet. It will take all three of them to help Whitley get through her anger and begin to put the pieces of her family together. Filled with authenticity and raw emotion, Whitley is Kody Keplinger's most compelling character to date: a cynical Holden Caulfield-esque girl you will wholly care about.

Book Information

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.5 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (106 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #353,494 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Stepfamilies #1022 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Girls & Women #1667 inÂ Books > Teens > Romance > Contemporary

Customer Reviews

I love Kody Keplinger. #FACT. I love her not only because she's one of the SWEETEST authors EVER (She allowed me to bombard her with fangirl love a couple of weeks ago at an author event) , but because she's not afraid to take risks and write the sort of books that other YA authors would shy away from. You know...the kind that bring up real teenage issues. Like...well...sex. With A Midsummer's Nightmare, Keplinger wastes absolutely NO time in getting things started. We begin with a questionable hook-up and shiz hits the fan shortly after. Guys, I LOVE it when shiz hits the fan!! Our main protagonist, Whitney, is introduced to her father's shiny new family and she's left to pick up the pieces of a very imperfect life. While it was incredibly heartbreakingly to see Whitley

struggle with the idea of her father moving on and leaving his old life (including her) behind, I loved watching those relationships develop. Whitley's future stepsister, for example, was a gem, but the real charmer was Nathan (Oh, Nathan!) who won me over with his geeky and incredibly charming personality. He's not the typical bad-boy I fall for (*cough* Adrian Ivashkov *cough*) but he's innocent, patient, kind AND let's face it, the kind of boyfriend I hope for in real life. Swoon worthy? OH Yeah! But cute boys and character development aside, this wasn't your typical, one-dimensional novel. There were layers and layers of issues that Whitley dealt with honestly and realistically. Keplinger should be praised for the way she handles topics like divorce, sex and self-esteem. She has a way of making it empowering...if that makes any sense.

When I read The DUFF a couple of years ago, I really, really liked it, though I didn't expect to because of the title. However, my memory being the mostly useless contraption that it is quickly faded. Jenni of Alluring Reads reviewed The DUFF a few months back and completely panned it. She pretty much loathed the book, and that stunned me. While Jenni and I certainly don't always agree, we often do, and I wasn't sure how I was going to feel about A Midsummer's Nightmare. Well, I still don't know for sure about The DUFF, but I loved this one. For one thing, Keplinger writes like a teenager so well. Both here and with The DUFF, I don't think anyone open-minded can deny that she has the lingo and cadence and emotional landscape down. In a lot of books, I mentally age the characters up in my head, because their circumstances (absent parents, not actually attending any high school classes) and way of conversing just do not necessarily seem teenage. In Keplinger's, even though her characters do things I may rather wish a 14 or 17 or any age person wouldn't do, I never feel for a moment like they're not teenagers. To be entirely frank, though, this book did begin with a pretty major disappointment for me. I was convinced that this book was inspired by Shakespeare. For some misguided reason, I even though I had read a synopsis and that it was set around a high school production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Ummm, seriously, what the hell? Where does my brain get this stuff? That's not what it was about at all. I confess. I was VERY wrong. However, that title! It promises Shakespeare, and I wanted it okay. However, A Midsummer's Nightmare did turn out to be inspired by a classic work of fiction, just not the bard's.

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