



Kat Greene Comes Clean

Melissa Roske

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Eleven-year-old Kat Greene has a lot on her pre-rinsed plate, thanks to her divorced mom's obsession with cleaning. When Mom isn't scrubbing every inch of their Greenwich Village apartment, she's boiling the silverware or checking Kat's sheets for bedbugs. It's enough to drive any middle schooler crazy! Add friendship troubles to the mix, a crummy role in the class production of Harriet the Spy, and Mom's decision to try out for "Clean Sweep," a competitive-cleaning TV game show, and what have you got? More trouble than Kat can handle. At least, without a little help from her friends.

Kat Greene Comes Clean Details

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From Reader Review Kat Greene Comes Clean for online ebook

Anna Priemaza says

Kat's mom won't stop cleaning. She cleans so much that her skin is cracked and peeling, and she seems to have forgotten how to be a proper mom. She forgets to look at Kat's tests and lets her walk the scary way home from the supermarket all by herself. Kat knows she should tell someone, but if she does, she might have to go live with her dad--and he's nice, but his apartment is just not home.

My heart went out to Kat again and again in this book. Her mom needs help, and young Kat is put in the too-adult position of being the only one who can provide it--or at least the only one who can get someone to help. I wanted to hug her so many times as she figured out ways to be brave and to handle such hard things.

What really made this book stand out for me was the top-notch supporting cast. Kat attends Village Humanity School, which she calls "Village Calamity" because there are no report cards, the school guidance counselor is called in for regular "rap sessions," and the kids are encouraged to think outside the box. The result is a book full of kids like Sam (who wants to know if every house he enters is rented or owned) and Wilson (who thinks he's a doctor and constantly prescribes things to his classmates) and many more. I loved all of these kids and laughed out loud numerous times at their adorable and brilliant banter. Village Hilarity is more like it.

La La - Everyone's Crazy Aunt says

Middle Grade perfection! This book is about family, divorce, friendship, puppy love, trusting adults, and mental health.

I was approved for an eARC, via Netgalley, in return for an honest review.

Michelle Kidwell says

Kat Greene Comes Clean

by Melissa Roske

Charlesbridge

Middle Grade, Children's Fiction

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I am voluntarily reviewing a copy of Kat Greene Comes Clean through the publisher and Netgalley:

Kat Greene comes to New York City and attends the very progressive Village Humanity School. Her best friend has become boy crazy. Halle is always talking about boys.

Kat's Mom suffers from OCD and is always cleaning, often throwing some of her favorite things away. Kat tries to get help for her Mother, but soon realizes it's more than she can handle on her own.

I give Kat Greene Comes Clean five out of five stars.

Happy Reading.

Lorie Barber says

This touching story of a 5th grade girl who lives with her mom in NYC hooked me from the first chapter. Kat's mom is struggling with OCD, Kat is struggling with the shame and confusion, and with hiding the truth from her dad and stepmom. Kat's also upset that her BFF Halle is not supporting her in the way she needs.

This was such a real story. The messiness of emotional disorders and how they affect the family was so poignant. Kat - and her family - were well developed, and the storyline was crisp, thought out, and beautifully written.

I love that authors like Melissa Roske (and Finding Perfect's Elly Swartz) have the courage to tell the stories that normalize mental and emotional struggles and give kids a chance to not feel so alone. I am proud to add Kat's story to my class library, and so happy that I already have a student reading it - and it's definitely a mirror book for her. ❤️?

Wendi Lee says

I really enjoyed this book about Kat Greene. She's eleven years old, and knows something is wrong with her mother, who cannot stop cleaning. To make things worse, her best friend recently discovered boys, and can't stop talking about them.

Sometimes stories like these (of parents unable to fully parent) can become very tragic and dark. In this case, it did not. I don't want to spoil the book for anyone, so let's just say that Kat has a good support system of relatives and teachers. With their help, she's able to navigate through the other, more ordinary issues in her life - like preparing for the big class performance of Harriet the Spy!

I thought this was a heartfelt, realistic book, and Kat was a likable protagonist.

Stephanie Elliot says

I loved this story of a girl and her mom, and the emotional turmoil that comes along with OCD. Kat is just at loose ends when her mom won't stop cleaning, and she feels her world is coming apart. She's afraid if things get worse, she'll have to go live with her father, and even though she loves him, she doesn't want that. Kat Greene is a character you will root for, you'll feel sad for what she's going through, and you'll laugh at the antics along the way to a rewarding ending. A cast of memorable characters, including a boy-obsessed best friend who was written so excruciatingly true-to-life, that I wanted to hug her and tell her BOYS AREN'T THAT GREAT!... Roske's wit and humor rings so true for the pre-teen set! Kat Greene is an emotional endearing read that you'll want to share with all your friends -- the neat ones AND the messy ones!

Kimberly says

This charming novel is so well polished - no pun intended! Ok, maybe a little ;) - that it's almost a stretch to believe it's a debut novel.

The characters are likable (even in their misguided moments) and believable (perhaps in part because of their misguided moments) and we're gently carried through the fears, thoughts, and emotions surrounding a mental health disorder (in this case OCD) and the general highs and lows that occur in preteen relationships of all kinds.

As the mother of a preteen I especially appreciate the thread throughout this novel that reminds the reader that it's not always easy to talk about the tough stuff but it is so very important.

Diana Gallagher says

KAT GREE mixes humor and charm while tackling mental illness, and while Kat loses a bit of her innocence as she realizes the depth of her mother's struggles, she never loses her sweetness. Couple that with the message that friendship supersedes romance, and this is a great title for the young reader!

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline

Kat lives with her divorced mother in Greenwich. She goes to a small, progressive school, and her class is working on a production of Harriet the Spy, and working on a project to go along with that. Kat is paired with Sam, and the two have their ups and downs of getting along. Her friend Halle is a bit obsessed with Michael, a boy in their class whom she thinks like her. Normal, everyday stuff-- except for the fact that Kat's mom is obsessed with cleaning, to the point where her hands are badly chapped and she brings antibacterial wipes to the grocery to use on canned goods. Kat's school has a counselor, Olympia, and Halle encourages Kat to talk to her, but it's hard. Kat looks online and figures that her mother probably suffers from Obsessive

Compulsive Disorder, but when her mother gets excited about making it onto a television show called Clean Sweep, Kat hopes that things will improve. Her father lives across town with his new family, and is very supportive, so when things take a turn for the worst, Kat is able to seek help from her father, her counselor, and her friends.

Strengths: Like Lambert's Family Game Night and Other Catastrophes, this was a solid middle grade novel about a parent with a problem that ends up affecting the tween character. I appreciated that Kat had a lot of support, and that she was able to carry on with her own life while trying to make sense of what was going on with her mother. Her interactions with Halle were particularly interesting-- there is so much friend drama at this age, especially concerning boys. It's also good to see a book pay attention to school projects, since they can be very time consuming.

Weaknesses: New York City is like another planet. Nannies? Calling teachers by their first names? Rapping? I would have preferred a more neutral setting, but this certainly gives some insight into how other people live!

What I really think: Quite an intriguing book. It has enough humor and drama to make it appealing to many of my students. Definitely buying a copy.

Kate Olson says

Thanks to Charlesbridge for providing me with a review copy of this title!

This is a very well-done middle grade story about an incredibly tough topic - a parent with OCD who has is obsessed with cleaning. Roske has managed to make the topic middle-grade appropriate, which does mean that this issue is essentially tied up with a bow, making it a bit unrealistic for an older, more jaded audience such as myself. However, for grades 4 - 6, this is a nice treatment of a parent with a mental illness. In addition, I also appreciated the Harriet the Spy references throughout the story - I'm interested to see how many students connect with that, though!

Beverly Clyde says

Kat's Mom and Dad are divorced; Kat's best friend gets the part Kat wanted. Can Kat's life get any worse? Of course. Kat's Mom cleans and worries about germs until she embarrasses Kat. Kat's best friend misreads a situation completely. Add to these complications, Kat's Mom is a contestant on a game show and nothing goes as planned. This is a book about broken relations and trying to repair them. Kat is funny and caring but also confused about how to handle the changing relationships in her life. The book deals with difficult subjects like OCD and jealousy with an informed but light touch.

If you have a child who liked Harriett the Spy, this is a great follow up book.

Wendy MacKnight says

Things aren't going well for Kat Greene. Her mother doesn't seem to want to do anything but clean, and it's getting so bad that now she's cleaning the tops of cans at the local grocery store! Adding insult to injury, her class is performing a play based on Harriet the Spy - Kat's favourite book - and she's gotten the completely unforgettable role of boy with purple socks. As Kat's mom's cleaning compulsions get worse and worse,

she's forced to try and take care of the two of them. But she's just a kid, and she needs help, too. Roske's story is a heartfelt and funny, and Kat's experiences are sure to help other kids cope with issues that seem too big for them. A lovely book that is sure to be loved by its readers.

Melissa says

How could I *not* give my own book five stars? My mom would be very disappointed in me. Right mom? RIGHT? :)

Amanda Searcy says

This is such a lovely story. Kat's character and voice are beautifully drawn as she navigates school and friends and tries to understand her mother's cleaning obsession. This book will be entertaining to middle grade readers (a cleaning game show, Kat's punny dad, her boy-crazy best friend and unconventional school) but will also be of great comfort to any young person who is dealing with something that they are hesitant to discuss with an adult.

Christina says

The highest praise I can personally ever give a book is to compare it to Judy Blume. This is that book. Kat is right at home with Margaret, Deenie, Peter Hatcher, and Sheila. I loved the authentic tween voice, how Kat struggled realistically with her mother's condition, and the secondary story arc of repairing a friendship. Putting on my educator hat, I LOVE that there is a very positive portrayal of a school clinician and that Kat eventually seeks help for her problem, gets help, and realistic resolution is reached. Highly recommended for classrooms and libraries (and anyone really!)
