



Night Kites

M.E. Kerr

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Erick knows the family code: "Family is first. Toe the line. Fit in." At Seaville High his life is tame, predictable - hanging out with his girlfriend, Dill, and his pal Jack. Then Erick falls in love with Nicki Marr. Nicki's sort of scary. She's 17 going on 25. Every word she says, every move she makes, seems seductive - and aimed right at Erick. But she's Jack's girl... isn't she? Meeting Nicki teaches Erick about not fitting in. Then Erick learns that Pete, his seemingly perfect big brother, doesn't fit in either. Nicki and Pete aren't afraid to be different, aren't afraid to love - but the price they pay is high. Erick longs for that freedom but is caught between his longing and the safe, secure world of his family.

Night Kites Details

Date : Published January 22nd 2002 by Harper Teen (first published 1986)

ISBN : 9780064470353

Author : M.E. Kerr

Format : Paperback 216 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fiction, Lgbt, Teen

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From Reader Review Night Kites for online ebook

Michael Earp says

I love how understated M.E. Kerr's writing is. She doesn't feel the need to bang you over the head with a message or even a moral. She's just like, hey, here are some people doing some things, they might be different from you, they might not... Keep it real, ya'll! But obviously with more skill than that...

Tree says

Somewhat dated now, but a good read for an 8th grader coming of age in the 80s. The coolness of a character obsessed with Poe is exposed for the sham it is with the reality of then modern times.

Leslie says

<http://forgottenya.tumblr.com/post/90...>

Jeremiah says

1. The book has got a lot better than the first couple of chapters. It doesn't seem like there's a plot. It's basically just friends hanging out everyday. The main character's brother gets AIDS, and that's the biggest thing that has happened so far. It's a really slow moving book.
2. I just finished the book and I didn't like it that much. The ending of it was that the main character's brother died.

Eirian says

Not bad :)

It was an interesting to read, but it feels like it lacks a little plot.

The book itself is better than most of my random selections from the library, though it honestly felt like nothing happened and I still don't really understand how the title applies.

3-23-11

Sean Kennedy says

(3.5 / 5)

A bit dated now, this is still a compelling story of its time - when AIDS was still the 'gay disease' and communities were up in arms about discovering inhabitants who were afflicted with it. There is some pretty triggering dialogue, but that is also to be expected for the period when it was set and words like 'fag' were thrown about with casual abandon (not to say it isn't today, but is more limited to certain social groups or demographics).

The ending is an open one, although you know what's to come. It allows a tiny sliver of hope because you don't see the finality of death - but I remember being a teen reading this, and being overjoyed to find characters, but then depressed by the fact that they all seemed to have death sentences.

Aurora Corsini says

Nella provincia americana degli anni '80, l'omosessualità è un peccato da nascondere e l'AIDS fa paura, davvero molta paura. Lo sperimenta in prima persona Erick, un diciassettenne come tanti, alle prese con le scelte per il futuro e desideri in contrasto con l'amicizia più profonda, quando scopre che suo fratello maggiore è malato.

Pete, scrittore che non riesce a terminare nessun libro, vive a New York ma è costretto a tornare a casa dopo che la malattia gli fa perdere lavoro e casa, confessando alla famiglia quel segreto che ha custodito per tanti anni, quella diversità che andava tenuta nascosta. Nonostante i suoi genitori siano decisi ad aiutarlo in ogni modo possibile, la realtà dei fatti sta in queste parole di suo padre: "Non dobbiamo, per nessun motivo, parlare di questa faccenda con nessuno. E quando dico nessuno, intendo nessuno! Sono stato chiaro?"

Rapito da una storia d'amore che gli ha sconvolto la vita, Erick cerca di tenere i propri problemi separati da quelli della famiglia, consapevole di quanto siano gravi le condizioni del fratello. Con la sua semplice accettazione dei fatti, in effetti, riesce a comprendere Pete molto meglio di quanto non facciano i loro genitori.

Scontrandosi con l'ignoranza e la paura delle persone, la famiglia si compatta suo malgrado, mentre tutti i membri imparano qualcosa su se stessi e su quelli che credevano essere loro amici. Il legame tra Erick e Pete, invece di logorarsi per le difficoltà, si rafforza e i due fratelli scoprono di essere molto più simili del previsto, entrambi incapaci di pronunciare le fatidiche parole, quel "ti amo" tanto temuto, sebbene nel caso di Pete le cause siano in gran parte più sociali che personali.

Alla fine, purtroppo, né la paura frutto dell'ignoranza e del pregiudizio né l'inevitabilità della malattia possono essere sconfitte, non resta che l'amore tra fratelli e la gioia per un racconto scritto fino alla sua conclusione, finalmente.

Questo romanzo forse sembra anacronistico, oggi che le informazioni su AIDS e prevenzione della malattia sono alla portata di tutti, ma non dobbiamo dimenticare che paura e ignoranza convivranno sempre con gli esseri umani e le discriminazioni, purtroppo, non sembrano destinate a scomparire. L'autrice racconta una bella storia di amore fraterno, descrivendo con dialoghi serrati e diretti la realtà di una provincia bigotta, nella quale anche l'amore più impetuoso s'infrange contro la paura, ma dove alcuni spiriti riescono comunque a elevarsi al di sopra di tutto e volare liberi. (recensione già pubblicata su Romanticamente Fantasy Sito)

P says

Another one that was waaaay ahead of its time. About AIDS and its implications for families dealing with

the disease. Very compelling.

globulon says

Not sure but I think this is the YA novel I read as a part of a 7th grade science project on AIDS. Don't remember much about but for some reason it calls out to be logged in the books-read list. I thought the plot was that the main character got AIDS from a blood transfusion but the plot synopses I found don't seem to support this. I also don't remember the plot about the girlfriend, so this might be another case like "The Pyramid" "Chrome Yellow" where I for no apparent reason get a book and title cross attached in my mind. (I also used to have a weird thing where Henry Miller and D.H. Lawrence got confused in my mind, but that at least had some basis in the writings of the former) Anyway, this is clearly turning into a very random review about almost anything except the content of the book. To cap it off I will say the few superfluous things I do remember about it. I remember the hardback copy I got from the school library had a drawing of a kite flying against a starry night type background and the words of the title popped out pretty spontaneously when I went to search it. I also remember it having one of the first uses of the expression "burning the candle at both ends" I came across and that I was a little confused by it at first read. This was the proffered explanation for the ill complexion of the AIDS afflicted character.

Katie says

My main problem with this book was the ending. Honestly, it's been a few years since I read it (I think three or four now, actually), so I don't remember much about it, but I definitely remember the ending. It was so empty and just *wrong*. It was like the author got tired of writing the book and just *stopped*. It seriously felt like there wasn't an end, barely even a little wrap up. Stories need a beginning, middle and end (although not necessarily in that order), and *Night Kites* totally lacked the end, which is kind of essential to storytelling in my (and probably most other logical people's) opinion(s).

Amy Rae says

Another careful, quiet, outside-in novel by M.E. Kerr, and to the surprise of no one, another M.E. Kerr I adored. I loved this, absolutely loved it.

Here, Kerr turns her sights on AIDS--and apparently, with this book, became the first YA author to write a character who gets the disease through his relationships with other men rather than accidentally through a blood transfusion. Peter Rudd, older brother to our protagonist, is appealing, with interests, drive, and purpose beyond "he has AIDS." He's a French-speaking Trekkie who writes science fiction, and I really loved him.

Like Fifteen, it's definitely a window back into a world that no longer exists; the fashions described here sound incredible and are very Guess?-Jeans-reliant. Despite the fact that the treatment of the subject is very much of its time, I think it's still a worthy book for any reader who enjoys flawed relationships, both platonic and romantic, as well as anyone interested in seeing how AIDS was viewed in the years after it emerged.

Jonathan Hutchins says

How can the wonderful M.E.Kerr be so unregarded now in the UK? This is absolutely superb, with a rare poignancy and skill. Some episodes, some moments and phrases from her books have sunk into me and will never leave: Erick getting helplessly more lost, deeper and deeper into the relationship with Nicki Marr in this book: "Charlie drinks..." in 'The Son of Someone Famous': gabby, anxious Carolyn Cardmaker in 'Is That You, Miss Blue?': so many scenes and gestures and phrases from the first two 'Fell' books. And all written in that seemingly relaxed, tersely articulate, simple way. 'Easy reading is damned hard writing', someone once said, and as Kerr's style and structure flow so lucidly and limpidly to the eye, one can only guess at the concentration and work needed to achieve it. No wonder her book about writing is called 'Blood On My Forehead'.

Danielle says

A guy is caught between his trusty longtime girlfriend who wants to wait to have sex, and this other, more mysterious girl who's ready and willing. Guess which one he chooses? Features a 1980s (meaning really awful and frustrating) depiction of AIDS and being gay.

43/60 tbr box.

Rose B says

The whole Nicki thing was a little shoehorned in, but I understand why they did it - showing how isolating the disease could be. I went into it not knowing anything about the book, so I was pretty blindsided by the AIDS thing. Really happy with how they handled it though, especially considering that it was from 1986 - showed the pain and struggle and homophobia that the family went through. A tight, fast-moving, powerful novel - I read it in under 2 hours.

Karen says

The sexy heroine has a car crash embroidered on the back of her jacket, and one of the cars is a taxi! There are sex scenes! What do these two things mean? The best book of sixth grade, that's what!
