



Dating the It Guy

Krysten Lindsay Hager

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Emme is a sophomore in high school who starts dating, Brendon Agretti, the popular senior who happens to be a senator's son and well-known for his good looks. Emme feels out of her comfort zone in Brendon's world and it doesn't help that his picture perfect ex, Lauren seems determined to get back into his life along with every other girl who wants to be the future Mrs. Agretti. Emme is already conflicted due to the fact her last boyfriend cheated on her and her whole world is off kilter with her family issues. Life suddenly seems easier keeping Brendon away and relying on her crystals and horoscopes to guide her. Emme soon starts to realize she needs to focus less on the stars and more on her senses. Can Emme get over her insecurities and make her relationship work? Life sure is complicated when you're dating the it guy.

Dating the It Guy Details

Date :

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Author : Krysten Lindsay Hager

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From Reader Review Dating the It Guy for online ebook

Fizza says

It has been a long time since I read a YA book. I thought I was over teenage drama, but this book intrigued me. So, I've read it and I loved it. It is really good, I liked the characters and the story.

Emme is a normal teenage girl who ends up dating the 'It guy'. Apparently, it isn't easy, she can't understand all the attention he gets, especially from his ex-girlfriend. And he doesn't understand why Emme is always so dramatic about things. Combine this drama with everything that is going on Emme's home life and you get a perfect YA fiction. It's an interesting novel and quite enjoyed reading it.

Krysti says

DATING THE GUY is a poignant story that delves deeply into the spectrum of human emotion and really focuses in on how deeply we feel those emotions as teenagers experiencing them for the first time.

From the title and cover, I was expecting something light and fluffy but was pleasantly surprised by the emotional depth of the story and Hager's ability to draw such feeling from her readers. There's plenty of teen angst and drama, but Hager doesn't shy away from delving into some darker, heartbreaking story elements as well.

There really are plenty of swoony moments in this book as well, so readers looking for a little contemporary romance will certainly not be disappointed. While I loved Brendon, I also really loved Hager's exploration of some of the insecurities that we sometimes feel in relationships. For Emme dating the "it guy" is a dream come true, but truly believing that he is superior to her opens her up to a lot of negative thoughts and emotions, and I felt like this book had a great underlying message about the importance of self love.

I really enjoyed this book, and I will certainly be reading books from Hager in the future.

Cordelianne says

WARNING: there could be spoilers in this review!

1 star

This book was a big disappointment to me as the promise of the book looked good. The only reason I even finished this book was, because I got the book in exchange for an honest review and I think you cannot properly review a book without having read the entire book.

The writing style was quite childlike and even the obvious was spelled out. Sometimes there were writing errors as well. Furthermore there was a lot of telling instead of showing. Examples of these are: 'Answer your question? I asked.' 'I switched back and told Darren I had go'. and 'her living will allowed for the tube'. Another thing that frustrated me is that the teenagers are all emailing with each other. The book was published in 2017 and we as youth don't use email to communicate. We use Whatsapp, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook and other devices, but using email is not relating to the age group she is trying to reach.

The main character Emme has been cheated on in the past, so when she starts dating the 'it guy'. (The most popular guy of the school). Everytime when he is just talking with another girl she gets insecure, because she has a lot of trouble letting go of the past and separating the two guys. The communication between Brendon and Emme was horrible as well.

Something that really bothered me were the female friendships in this book. They were based on dragging the other girls down. One of her 'best friends' Margaux gives fashion advice that is completely opposite of what is true (she wants her other friends to look less nice so she gets all the attention) and then at a funeral instead of supporting her friend she tries to hook up with one of the cousins of the Emme. Emme saw a lot of the girls as a competition to her boyfriend, which resulted in a lot of negative vibes.

The author also throws in a messed up love triangle. Emme uses Darren, a guy, who likes her to make Brendon jealous without taking into account the fact that by doing so she is giving him hope. After Brendon and she quit fighting she just ignores him, until the next time they are fighting. This behaviour is not a good image of how to treat guys and none of her friends say anything about this.

The plot was very boring. A lot of the time it was really dramatizing everything. The whole book could be summed up with this: get together, fight because of insecurities of the main character, get together, fight again and this continued the whole book. It was really dragging on. On the contrary the ending felt rushed. You only see what happens to the two main characters and you get no closure of the other characters. (Darren, grandpa and the rest)

So overall I wanted to like this book, but there were too many things I had problems with to like the book!

Ali (Ali's Bookshelf) says

First off let me begin this review by saying how excited I was to read this book. I had heard some great things about it before I agreed to be part of the tour and I'm so glad that I did. Even though this book reminded me how it was to be a teenage girl and how it felt to be insecure, I really enjoyed reading it.

Dating The It Guy wasn't as predictable as I thought it would be going in either, which of course I loved. Sometimes you need to be thrown for a loop as a reader, at least I know I do, I need those twists to keep me interested and this book did just that. I really connected with the main character Emme on so many levels and of course that made me want to continue reading just to know what was going to happen to her and Brendon.

Julie says

I don't usually read YA, but I was glad I read this one!

I loved the character of Emme. She is paired with the most popular boy in school, Brendon, and, of course, she's quirky and average. But this isn't the predictable plot you might think it is and that's what kept me turning pages. The author does a great job of making Emme relatable and well-rounded as she gets to know

Brendon, someone she's watched from afar, as she finds out the real him. But she also finds out some truths about herself along the way without being preachy. There were some laugh out loud moments and some sigh-worthy ones. But even with that, this isn't just an average high school romance.

Emme and Brendon are both dealing with some serious issues at home. Brendon's father is a senator and has mapped out his life and how their family presents themselves to the world. But all is not sunshine and roses and Brendon is trying to figure out his own path, while still making his family proud. Emme, however, made me cry in places as she deals with her grandmother's stroke and her grandfather's dementia. The love she has for her grandparents is so deep and real, it's easy to experience all of Emme's feelings with her. I loved how the author really brought these characters to life and teens will appreciate the realistic peek into all the things life throws their way.

I thought the author did an incredible job of giving the reader an emotional experience of figuring out what's real and what's not, where we all fit in this world, and how we cope when things don't go our way, especially as a teen! Ms. Hager is definitely an author I'll look for in the future.

Originally reviewed on <http://ldswritermom.blogspot.com>

Naturalbri (Bri Wignall) says

I love Hager's ability to bring real life issues into a story, bring it to life and then teach you not only a life lesson, but how to trust and love. She always has a way with words and this book is just further proof to that. I am so glad I read this latest book of hers and cannot wait until the next.

The characters are easy to connect with, especially our main character. Like most of us growing up, she has insecurities, dwells on the what-ifs and wonders what the future holds. At such a young and vulnerable age, this young lady has been through enough to ensure she has the strength to survive, but she has yet to begin to realise this, so she struggles, pushes through the problems thrown at her and tries to run from things she can't fix. We can all relate to this, and to the things she learns as the story progresses.

The pace is perfect, as it allows plenty of time to really get to know all of the characters, what is happening and truly understand what the main character is experiencing. I love that We have time to grow along with her and feel all the emotions of the read.

This is truly a wonderful read, for all ages, but particularly for teens. I highly recommend it!

** I received an arc and chose to provide my honest review.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

High school drama? Yup. This book IS high school drama. It really took me back to the day. Emme is young and it shows in her peer relationships. In her family, however, she shows some remarkable maturity. The concern and care she demonstrates for her struggling grandfather and her sick grandmother are what completely endeared me to Emme. I am ashamed to say that I wasn't nearly so intuitive or kind when I was her age and dealt with a grandfather living in my home. It's something I regret and often wish I could go

back and redo that time with him. Emme is everything I wish I had been.

This book is heavy on dialogue. I was a bit surprised at how much there really was in comparison to the other books I was reading at the time. It will probably work well with the target age group though. Young adult, on the young side of that.

Content: some kissing, mention of "cheating" in a relationship, death

- I received a copy of this book through ebooks for review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Amy says

When you're sixteen, you face the Great Paradox: you feel invincibility like you've never felt before while feeling greater vulnerability than you ever have before.

Emme discovers this the summer before her sophomore year of high school. Put in summer school by parents with vigorously ambitious goals for her, she is paired with Brendon Agretti on an assignment. THE Brendon Agretti, known equally for being the son of a senator and for his breathtaking good looks. It's almost too good to be true.

As schoolwork becomes romance, Emme finds herself filled with insecurity. For one thing, she does not see how she can compete with the perfect Lauren, Brendon's gorgeous, smart ex-girlfriend. For another, she doesn't even know what to wear to a picnic, much less how to comport herself at the country club. What if she embarrasses Brendon? What if she isn't good enough for him?

Rather than focusing on the core truth that you pay attention to how someone treats you, Emme succumbs to her insecurities. She listens to the wrong people and ignores her instincts. She is, of course, a typical teenage girl. What Emme can't see, though, is that her lack of faith could push Brendon away.

There is so much to love about this book. Krysten Lindsay Hager knows how teens think and speak, and she understands why Emme would feel overwhelmed by everything about Brendon - his looks, his popularity, his feelings for her, his exes, his family. Brendon is every teen girl's fantasy come true. Heck, he's every woman's fantasy come true. He's kind. He's sweet. He's passionate. And he pays attention.

Hager has a subplot involving Emme's and Brendon's families that is particularly poignant, adding a layer of bittersweet loveliness to this book. Another subplot, involving their friends, shows you that sometimes you can misplace trust. Your friends may not have your best interests at heart.

Dating the "it" guy is no easy thing to do, at least not for Emme. She's going to need to figure it out, though, which, thankfully, she realizes.

Katie W says

Hager has a way of writing that takes me back to my insecure teenage years and allows me to experience the joys, the anxieties, and the growth all over again. Emme doesn't expect to start dating the high school "It"

guy, but she does. After being cheated on in the past, she has some major trust issues to deal with and they really get in the way of her being fully invested in this new relationship. The drama and mind games are alive and well with this novel!

I was expecting the typical travel log of a high school sophomore--her feelings, her experiences, her relationships--but there was a heavier undercurrent flowing throughout. Emme isn't just navigating the social scene, but she's dealing with a lot of difficult family issues as well, which often spill over into her social life. I would have loved more showing, rather than telling...getting a more emotional engagement, but I did enjoy the journey and couldn't help but to feel bad for poor Emme, dealing with so much.

Friends and romance can be hard at this age, and both were portrayed that way (although I secretly wish it could be all rainbows and warm fuzzies). It was sad to see how fickle some of the characters were. And the lack of communication--we won't go there. ****One little side note**** I have two kids who are in high school now and the way the characters in this story interact does NOT feel realistic at all. My kids won't email and call their friends like these characters did (and if a friend doesn't answer their cell? No way will they call the landline, if anyone even still has those anymore)--it's all about Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, texting. This could have worked 20 years ago, but it's not accurate for today's teens.

I'm not really into horoscopes, numerology, crystals, vegan, etc, and although each of these play an important role in Emme's life, it wasn't too overwhelming. All in all, I did get to experience a little blast to the past and had a nice time watching the progress that was made through the course of the book.

Content: mild romance (kissing, talk of hooking up; there is one matter-of-fact scene of talking about sleeping with someone); mild religious elements.

Suze Lavender says

Emme's ex boyfriend cheated on her. She's reluctant to date again and she doesn't trust easily. Falling in love with the most popular guy in school isn't helping her with her insecurities. Brendon is being chased by plenty of girls and his ex girlfriend treats him like he's still hers. At home Emme has to deal with a lot, her grandparents aren't the strong healthy people she used to know any longer. Emme is completely out of her depth when it comes to dating someone half the school wants to be with and seeing her grandparents suffer is incredibly hard. She tries to get back some control using crystals and living according to her horoscope, but is that really the wise thing to do or will it make her lose the last bit of balance she has left?

Emme is a sweet and talented girl. It's obvious she cares about people and she helps out as much as she can, I loved that about her personality. She also eats healthy food and she takes good care of herself. She worries about her grandparents and my heart ached for her. Krysten Lindsay Hager writes about her struggles in an honest way and it's clear she understands what her main character is going through. She describes Emme's feelings in a detailed and realistic way. I think it's great that she gives this topic so much attention. A lot of teenagers are dealing with the same issues and I found the story really comforting and supportive.

Dating the It Guy is a story with several different layers. One of them is the relationship aspect between Emme and Brendon. They have many things in common, but being the son of a senator brings a life filled with expectations and Brendon is in the spotlight all the time. Everyone is paying attention to him and he's always hanging out with girls who want something from him. I could see why that would be terrifying for Emme. I didn't like how insensitive he is about being claimed by a girl who isn't his girlfriend. Emme has

already been cheated on and what he does might not exactly be cheating, but it is difficult to watch and it didn't feel right either. I had plenty of conflicting emotions when I read about their relationship. Sometimes it takes effort to make things work, especially when the circumstances are unusual. I loved how Krysten Lindsay Hager writes about this problem from different angles and makes her readers see the whole picture.

Dating the It Guy is a thought-provoking story. It made me think about the impact of problems at home on the way things are going at school and the importance of being honest about what your boundaries are in a relationship. Talking about what's going on is essential for the success of a connection and hiding behind crystals and horoscopes might seem the easiest solution to get through a difficult situation, but in the end other ways to deal with a problem might be more effective. Emme and Brendon both have many lessons to learn and it was fascinating to see them grow up. They slowly become more serious when it comes to relationships and I loved the romantic ending of the story. Dating the It Guy is a multifaceted book, it's sweet, interesting and moving at the same time.

Zili says

3 - 3.5 Stars in my Sky!

All the angst! I took the book on a recent holiday, which was the perfect place to read all the teen drama that is Dating the It Guy.

Emme and Brendon bond over their very different circumstances - they certainly experience a lot of drama in the course of the story. I'm not going to discuss the particulars of their problems because it would be too spoilery, but I will mention that I appreciated the message of love, friendship and hope that Krysten Lindsay Hager delivers.

For the most part I liked Emme and understood her insecurities, although I did want to shake some sense into her at times. Her use of candles, signs and horoscopes added depth to her character and made me smile.

I found the characters a little immature at times. Yes, I know it's a YA story but some of the characters did seem naive at times and were often quick to overreact.

The characters were easy to identify with - I think we've all met a Lauren or two *shudders*.

I have to admit I was hoping for a full teen Hollywood style HEA but was intrigued by the ending...

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review!

Heather says

This book is a great book. It is very well written. But I feel too old to be reading it. If I was in high school or in middle school. I would totally read it. I had a hard time getting into this book because of this. But other than that it was a good clean book. It would be very appropriate for these age groups Or anyone.

Donna says

I was given a copy for my honest opinion. This starts out with a snarky voice and gradually matures as she struggles through life's trials. I don't care for horoscopes and such but I thought it was well handled in this story. It was interesting how different her two best friends were and yet they remain loyal and supportive in their own quirky and opposite ways, often giving some horrible advice. Everything seemed to be resolved by one honest and open conversation that was long overdue yet pops up creating an abrupt end. Overall this is a fun and realistic look into the complexity of teen life.

Lydia H says

I love Krysten Lindsay Hager's writing! She always manages to take me right back to my teenage years. All the insecurities, worries, heartaches, and down-right emotions are perfectly developed throughout the book.

Emme was a genuinely good girl. She got her heart broken by her cheating ex-boyfriend on top of dealing with personal issues at home. Falling for the popular guy in school didn't really help ease her worries, but you can't help who you fall for, right? Girls, especially high school girls, can be petty. So to add some more drama to her already not-so-boring life, Emme had to put up with Brendon's ex (man, I disliked her!) and the fact that he was probably the most wanted guy in school. Now, this may or may cause a woman to feel insecure, but when you're a high school teenager, that insecurity is most certainly present. Now, it wasn't all bad though! Ms. Hager made my heart smile during those sweet scenes too! I

The situation surrounding Emme's grandparents really broke my heart. Shattered it, even. I felt her concern and her pain. I wanted nothing more but to comfort her which only shows what an amazing author Krysten Lindsay Hager truly is. She evoked a lot of emotions from me while reading. From the very beginning to the very end, I wanted nothing but for Emme to find happiness.

This is truly a great YA novel I recommend if you're in the mood for a thought-provoking and at times emotional read. 4.5 stars!

Michelle Austin says

<http://i869.photobucket.com/albums/ab...>

Dating the It Guy was a good 4 star read.

Emme is going through a recent breakup and heartbreak since her boyfriend was cheating on her. She has serious trust issues because of it.

Brendon is a senator's son and is the it guy to a lot of girls including his ex girlfriend who doesn't seem to want to accept that it's over.

As the door opened, I held my breath, and in walked Brendon Agretti, the senator's son and possibly the hottest guy in Michigan, okay, the entire western hemisphere.

Emme ends up being Brendon's partner in their summer class. They end up growing closer and start dating. Then the insecurities and trust issues kick in and start causing problems for Emme. We also discover that Emmes family is also dealing with some serious health issues with her grandparents.

I felt like I was back in high school again with all of the drama that is in this book. The struggles that Emme had were right on and my heart went out to her several times. I kept going back and forth on the will they or won't they be together. The secondary characters were great. There are some secrets revealed and the ending couldn't have been better. And the serious topic of alzheimer's really gives you a glimpse into what a family has to struggle with, Krysten Lindsay Hager does a great job of telling their story.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book. Reviewed by MAustin from Alpha Book Club
