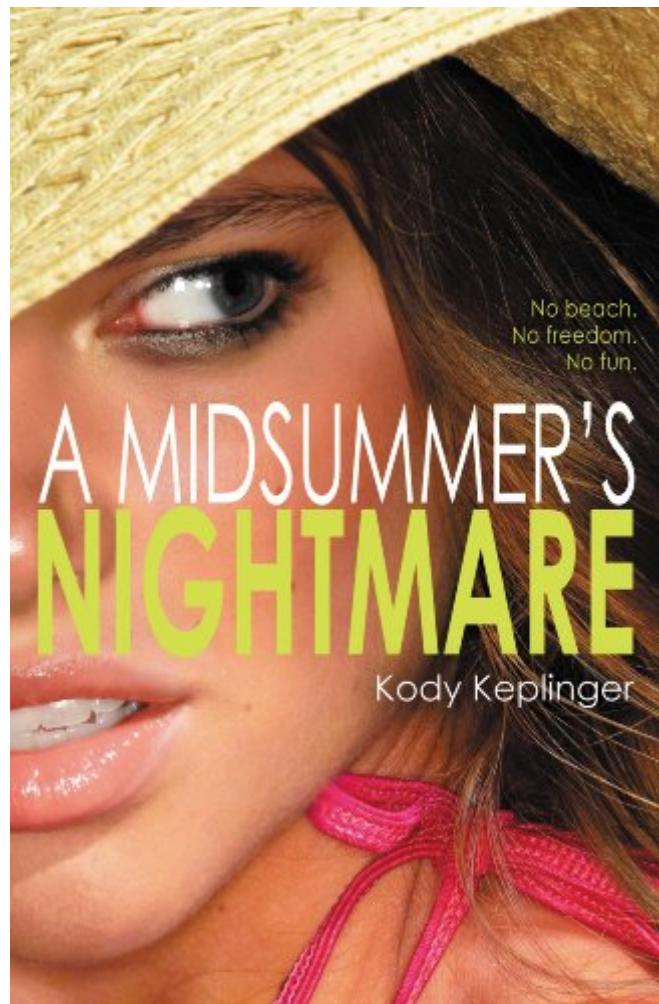


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A Midsummer's Nightmare



Synopsis

Whitley Johnson's dream summer with her divorce dad has turned into a nightmare. She's just met his new fiancee and her kids. The fiancee'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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Customer Reviews

This is my first book by Kody Keplinger, but after reading this I can say that it definitely won't be my last. Whitley is a very complicated character; she's a party girl who drinks too much and hooks up

with random guys and she also has some serious daddy issues. Although, I can understand why she's acting out...she feels like she doesn't have anyone who cares about her. Her mother is angry and distant, her brother moved across the country and has a wife and daughter of his own and her father has a new family; one that she doesn't feel part of, so she drinks to numb the pain. But by the end of this book I can see how much she has grown as a person. One of my favorite characters is Nathan; he has got to be one of the sweetest guys ever and he is so perfect for Whitley. I love that he doesn't let her wallow in self pity but instead he pushes her to be better and to not worry about what other people think. Another favorite is Harrison; I love his sense of humor and I'm glad that he worked his way in to Whitley's life. She really needed a friend (even if she didn't realize it). Last but not least we have Bailey, who wouldn't want a little sister like her? She's incredibly sweet and she really looks up to Whitley. Also, I have to say that I love the fact that Whitley chooses the University of Kentucky as her college (After all, I'm a Kentucky Girl J) I didn't expect A Midsummer's Nightmare to be as emotional as it was, I admit that I teared up a few times and my heart broke for Whitley. If this book isn't on your TBR list, you should add it.

This is eerily similar to Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants. Girl goes to her dad's for the summer, super excited to see him, only to find he's moved to the suburbs with a Stepford-esque fiancÃƒÂ© and two blonde preppy kids, without telling his daughter. Daughter doesn't quite fit in (because she's Latino in SOTTP and an alcoholic in this story), and her father focuses more on his upcoming wedding than his daughter until she can't take it anymore. Since they are extremely identical in set up, minus the extra one-night stand with the soon to be stepbrother and subsequent romantic entanglements (SOTTP spared us from that one), I'll compare them to each other. SOTTP story with Carmen was more based in reality. Because the character of Carmen was more realistic. Whitley, on the other hand, was more fun simply because I don't see her ever being a real person. I like to read these YA romance books, not because they're masterpieces of literature with unbelievable character structure, but because they are light on reality providing the perfect escape straight to fantasy-land. I have to say, however, that I preferred Carmen's reaction to the situation over Whit's. The dads, I'll add, are again too eerily similar to draw any distinction between them. The soon-to-be stepmom had some more depth in this story than SOTTP, given that this book was basically SOTTP Carmen's story stretched to fill an entire book, as did the stepsister. The stepbrothers were entirely different, which is great since he played a main character in this novel. SOTTP stepbrother was actually kind of boring. I was a little freaked out by how similar these two stories were, even some minor details and plot events are the same. Was Kody Keplinger reading

SOTTP before she wrote this? Not that it's a crime, but it makes me question her originality. Nevertheless, the book still fulfilled its purpose. Fantasy-land is really nice this time of year.

I love stumbling over an author and then reading all their books. Kody Keplinger is so good. A Midsummer's Nightmare is the story of Whitley who has struggled for a lot of years to get her parents' attention (drinking, partying, smoking). She's virtually friendless and couldn't care less. But when she goes to spend a seemingly average summer with her dad, she finds he's getting married. And his new wife's son is the boy Whitley woke up next to day after graduating. Her one night stand, Nathan. Her summer is full of learning life lessons (she should have learned a long time ago) and finding out what family really means. I do have to say that Nathan became one of my most favorite book boyfriends! A Star Wars bobble head collection AND a basketball player, a Back To The Future fan and... the list of good qualities in this boy make me swoon. He even makes it okay to say the word. Swoon. Overall a great read I've already recommended it for a few friends.

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