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Kiss Me Again (If We Kiss)



Synopsis

Kiss Me Again, the sequel to Rachel Vail's beloved contemporary teen romance *If We Kiss*, follows Charlie (Charlotte) Collins as she struggles with her feelings for her longtime crush Kevin Lazarus after their parents marry and he becomes her stepbrother. It was complicated enough when their parents were only dating and Kevin was going out with Charlie's best friend, Tess. Now, living under one roof, Charlie and Kevin are crossing paths and crossing lines, sneaking around at night and then sitting down to breakfast together as a family. It feels so crazyâ€”exciting, confusing, impossible, and romantic. It can't last, not like this, but if anybody discovers their secret, everything could explode. . . . Praised for her wit and realism, award-winning author Rachel Vail delivers a poignant tale of first love and powerful kisses, at long last answering the question of what happens when a crush so off-limits it has to be fantasy suddenly becomes very real.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (20 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

As I began reading *Kiss Me Again*, I was initially highly concerned. I really liked the direction that Charlie was heading in at the end of *If We Kiss*. She had finally managed to make a step away from her unhealthy crush on boy-slut Kevin Lazarus, which was really good timing, too, since her mom and his dad just got married. Then, I open the next book and there she is obsessing over kissing Kevin again. Vail does, though, quickly convince me that the story is actually going where it needs to go, and *Kiss Me Again* turns out to be a touching story more about family dynamics than

romance. Now that they're step-siblings, Charlie and Kevin have a serious conundrum, since they are teens who have kissed one another and would like to do that more. The romance, while perhaps the most obvious element of the story, does not dominate the other aspects by any means. Charlie and Kevin both grow a lot in their dealings with romantic relationships, Kevin learning to be more mindful and less of a flirt, while Charlie refuses to lead on a friend with a crush on her. Their surprisingly mature actions, especially in comparison with the events of *If We Kiss* really impressed me and made me much more sympathetic than I was previously. Settling into a new family is difficult. The Lazarus family moves into the house Charlie and her mother have been in. Charlie has to share a bathroom for the first time in her life, and deal with the fact that the soap is now often wet from someone else (which is totally gross, I agree, girl). With her mom, Charlie didn't have many chores, but Joe Lazarus, her new step-father, believes in everyone doing their share. Joe is also much less lenient than her mother. What's great, though, is that Vail highlights both the struggles and discomforts of these two families blending, and the wonderful parts. Most touching, I think is the affection shown by all towards Samantha, Kevin's younger sister. They all try to be there for her. Never is this better illustrated than when she loses one of her baby teeth. While she's sleeping, Charlie slips a dollar under her pillow. In the morning, Sam happily announces that the tooth fairy left her four dollars this time, and you realize that all four other family members left her a dollar for her tooth. Much as they may all have moments where they wish the marriage hadn't happened, ultimately, they are all making the best of it and taking good care of one another. One of the trickiest things for Charlie to overcome in this change is that she has less time to spend with her mom. They're still trying to work out a nice balance of mother-daughter time when the book ends, but they are working on it. I mention this because *Kiss Me Again* has one of the best scenes (meaning incredibly awkward) where a parent tries to discuss sexuality with the child. Charlie also grows as a person on two more fronts. She gets a job, all through her own motivation and earns her first ever money. In a whole other realm of life, she learns a bit about friendship. Though her backstabbing of Tess in *If We Kiss* cannot be forgiven, that does not necessarily make Tess a good friend either. In *Kiss Me Again*, Charlie's starting to realize how imbalanced and unhealthy her relationship with Tess is. I do think that this lets Charlie off the hook a little bit too easily, perhaps an attempt to make her more sympathetic, but it's a good lesson for teens about friendship, and how insidiously terrible for your self-esteem a supposed best friend can be. Rachel Vail's follow-up to *If We Kiss* greatly improves on its predecessor. If you were on the fence about reading the second one, I would recommend it. Charlie's voice finds its stride here, and the focus on family makes this a rare, powerful young adult read.

My Thoughts: This book. Oh my. Okay, so I've been saying off and on about how YA has been kinda "meh" for me as of late. However, this one really had me involved in the story, sitting on the edge of my seat, and pining away for the love to happen. I read *If We Kiss* awhile ago and it was one of those absolutely adorable stories. I imagined myself as Charlie and felt all those feelings about what would happen if I kissed Kevin. And then we're taken down that path again in *Kiss Me Again*, a story I never expected to see written. *If We Kiss* had been written in a way that seemed like the story had been told. Little did I know, the story wasn't over. Having it continue was a brilliant idea, and I loved to see Charlie and Kevin again, and watch their chemistry unfold over and over again... Oh SWOON. *Kiss Me Again* is a worthwhile sequel to a just as great first book. I will admit that yes, I picked this one up a few times JUST to reread the kissing scenes. I mean, the title is *Kiss Me Again*, why wouldn't they be good? Am I right? Just go out there and get your hands on both *If We Kiss* and then *Kiss Me Again*. Rachel Vail knows how to write young adult right and I will keep reading her books. My Rating: Exceptional

I read both of these books in 5 days. There needs to be 3, honestly this is the best book I have read in a long time. And Rachel Vail, you're a great author. You put so much detail in your books. That's what makes the next page so exciting every time you read and turn the page. I think I will die not knowing what happens after "kiss me again." I would love to read a third book of "if we kiss" and "kiss me again". I beg of you to please continue this book. Into maybe making a third one. Because you are one of the best Authors; books I have ever read. Your biggest fan, Jasmine Turpin.

This book was great and I loved the entire thing. Read in one sitting and I really enjoyed it. It was funny and it had its moments where you were biting your nails wondering what would happen next. Definitely recommend this book.

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