



Come See About Me

C.K. Kelly Martin

Download now

Read Online ➞

Come See About Me

C.K. Kelly Martin

Come See About Me C.K. Kelly Martin

Alternate Cover Edition of 1477605142

Twenty-year-old Leah Fischer's been in a state of collapse since the moment police arrived on her Toronto doorstep to inform her that boyfriend Bastien was killed in a car accident. After flunking out of university and cutting herself off from nearly everyone she knows, Leah's saved by Bastien's aunt who offers her a rent-free place to stay in a nearby suburban town.

Initially Leah keeps to herself, with no energy for anyone or anything else, but it's not long before her nurturing neighbours begin to become fixtures in Leah's life and a much needed part-time job forces her to interact with other members of the community. And when Leah is faced with another earth-shattering event, her perspective on life begins to shift again. Soon Leah's falling into a casual sexual relationship with Irish actor Liam Kellehan, who has troubles of his own, even as she continues to yearn for her dead boyfriend. Clearly she's not the person she thought she was—and maybe Liam isn't either.

Come See About Me Details

Date : Published by Create Space (first published June 6th 2012)

ISBN :

Author : C.K. Kelly Martin

Format : Paperback

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Contemporary, Realistic Fiction, Young Adult

 [Download Come See About Me ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Come See About Me ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Come See About Me C.K. Kelly Martin

From Reader Review Come See About Me for online ebook

mich says

"I knew it would be like this with you. I could see it a million miles away and I walked straight into it anyway."

There were parts of this book that I really liked. It's a story about loss and grief and trying to move on and let's just have uncomplicated sex cuz that should help and oops, maybe that was a mistake maybe we shouldn't have started this, now what's gonna happen. Although there were a couple things that didn't quite ring true to me, some of the other stuff actually ended up being pretty good -- realistic and emotional.

But it's also a story about root canals and crowns and making and going to appointments for said root canals and crowns and public transportation and grocery shopping and every single time Leah buys food for her pet hamster and exactly what she buys for him and tons of other little monotonous details that, while fine in moderation, ends up being boring as fuck when littered abundantly throughout the entire book.

But overall, it was alright. Not amazing, but not bad.

There is a part towards the end with the relationship drama that totally made me laugh out loud. Not funny-ha-ha, but funny omg that hits close to home and makes me feel like a moron (you know, that kind of funny). (view spoiler)

Nic says

4.5 stars

Favourite quote *"In two years you can love somebody with all your heart and lose them. You can become the very best of friends with someone and then neglect them to the point that they don't expect anything different from you anymore. You can become someone you never expected and forget things you believed you could take for granted about yourself."*

Come See About Me is contemporary fiction at its best. It is real and flawed. It completely got under my skin. And boy was it was heartbreaking at times. Especially the beginning. I can't believe how quickly this book effected me emotionally.

C.K. Kelly Martin writing is clear and sparse yet full of emotion. This story is written how things really happen in the real world. This is not a story with perfect character, perfect relationships and perfect happily ever after.

This story is a character driven story and they are incredible. So honest and complicated. Leah, the main character is someone who you quickly come to care about. 20 years old, just flunked out of college after the sudden death of her boyfriend and is finding it impossible to move on from it. Then there is Liam, 25 years old, Irish actor who is also trying to move on from own his past. He is a definitely a highlight of this story. Completely believable and multi-layered (which make is hard not to find him extremely hot). Together they

had some amazing chemistry. But it wasn't just about chemistry, it truly felt like there was a honest connection between this two characters.

The only reason I didn't give this 5 stars was because there were a couple of slow points in the story.

Overall, this is not one of those books you pick up to escape from reality because this is reality. Truly an amazing book.

Eunice says

Check out my BLOG for a very insightful guest post from C.K. Kelly Martin and get a chance to win a SIGNED HARDCOVER copy or an EBOOK copy of COME SEE ABOUT ME!

Come See About Me was a very well thought and written book about a girl who suffers from a great loss and how she tries to deal with it and picks herself back. I try most of the time to avoid emotional books but for some reason there was something in this book that just pulls me to it. So, even though it wasn't on my reading schedule for this week I picked it up, squeeze it in and read it. And I'm really glad to find out and say that this book was a very good and lovely read.

First, I have to applaud, the author for writing such a very profound story of loss and overcoming it. She captured the emotions and feelings accurately and realistically making me understand the characters easily. The way she voiced Leah's thoughts and feelings was so genuine and honest. So although some situations seem quite frustrating I could understand that it was her way of grieving and that her reactions were natural and expected.

I love how this book effectively showed that the world continues to move on and that no matter how much you resist it, you'll have to go along with it. That life continues even with all those devastating things you had experienced. That through time you'll learn to accept and live with it. Never forgetting though but still continuing to live life.

As much as I love romance I'm glad that the romance here never overshadowed the plot and that as Leah rediscovered herself it wasn't because of a new found love, albeit it did contribute a part on it, but still it was all her. I wouldn't exactly say that this is a love story because clearly this one focuses more in Leah's struggles on finding herself back, rediscovering and realizing things about herself. But still there were sweet and steamy moments that was very well played here that never failed to make me swoon.

I love how the author wrote the ending. Although it was a little open-ended it leaves you a reassuring feeling that Leah is indeed finally moving on and that everything is going the way it should be.

This is my first book of this author and after reading this I will definitely be checking out more of her books. This is a very well written book about self-discovery and picking one's self up after a devastating experience. The author captured just the right emotions and just the right way of dealing with it. I highly recommend this.

This review is also posted at Book Overdose

Isamlq says

Leah is broken. But, understandably so because given what she's recounted, I got why she was behaving the way she was. I understood where she was coming from, that others expecting her to get better a certain way, was miles away from what she wanted for herself. She'd found her perfect match in him after all and losing him was doing her in. So by the time we meet her, she's broken and wallowing in all things Bastien, in her longing for him and missing him and not wanting to let him go. She's blanketed herself in him. Could I blame her? Eventually she's left with no other options except Abigail offering her the space and time needed to get herself together.

So, when there's another one (who's less broken, more angry) that enters the picture, I thought what a pair they'd make!

"Our problems seem to be opposites- he wants to outrun his past and I'm clinging to mine with a tenacity that makes everyone I know uncomfortable."

Despite both saying one thing (*now, temporary, easy*), I was feeling something else. I went with things despite all that but kept waiting for the shoe to drop. In the meantime, it's all sexy times plus her finding bits of her former self again. Except things could get all conflicted! Shifting between easy and sexy THEN questioning and doubting and unsure; shifts that could wear me down some. Her missing Bastien but wanting someone else...? It's all her questions about *it, her, them* that had her feeling only more real to me. Plus, there's an honesty to her that's refreshing. That she was dealing with things the way she wanted to, not swayed at all by what others wanted/needed for her/from her. A lot of the time it's her: distancing from others to cling to the memories of a guy who was simply 'right' for her. Interesting, I thought.

Eventually, she's not just the girl she was making herself out to be at first. She's not just the one left behind. She's capable of more and was acting as such. She's friend, daughter, lover etcetera ... because life moves on even if she's reluctant to move on with it. Sure, at times, I wanted to give her a swift kick in the pants... but not always. She's (re)discovers things at her own pace and she was coming back. So that if it was all easy and temporary with Liam at first, it didn't stay that way... and it's so out of the blue for her! Swift kicks have never been so attractive especially in the form of an Irish soap opera star. He puts her back together? Not really. More like, she does it herself... slowly coming back to who she was and what made her *her*, with him a delicious ~~distraction~~ addition.

"The problem with your past is that it isn't actually past... It's still here in the present."

3-4/5

Ashley - Book Labyrinth says

I loved this! 'Come See About Me' contained so many aspects that I love, including that it...

- Fits into the new adult category
- Has a Canadian setting, more specifically Toronto & Oakville, so it basically felt like reading a book about home
- Contains a whole lot of UK & Ireland love, with Leah working at a imported goods store, and with Liam,

an Irish actor

- Has a famous actor on the down-low subplot (yes, I am totally smitten with these types of plots, and Liam fits the bill *oh* so well)

Besides all these aspects that I always fall for, I just couldn't help but be drawn into the emotion of the story. You almost ache with loss yourself as you read about Leah trying to deal with the death of her boyfriend. You see how unhealthy Leah's lifestyle has become, and yet you can understand why she feels so lost and alone, because you see through her recollections how strongly she and Bastien felt about each other.

Equally emotional is the slow burning connection that Leah makes with Liam, who is also dealing with pain and loss of his own. I feel like the way they connected was so realistic, because neither of them started out wanting to let someone in emotionally. They couldn't deal with something serious or long term, so they connected in the way they felt was practical. Of course as the reader you can see their feelings weaving together under the surface into something more.

This book was so perfect for me in this moment, so I'm so glad I picked it up. C.K. Kelly Martin has an immense talent for writing layered characters who you root for and relationships that are absolutely beautiful. I can easily label 'Come See About Me' as a favourite of 2012 because of the connection I felt with the characters and the setting.

Note: I feel like I should mention, because I mostly just review YA, that 'Come See About Me' is a new adult book with quite a bit of sexual content. I feel like it was done tastefully, and it was important to the story and the characters, but I did want to bring that up since I know not everyone prefers to read it. You can read a great guest post from C.K. here on A Tapestry of Words where she discusses older characters, the concept of new adult, and the sexual content in the book.

Sarah says

{This review was originally published on Clear Eyes, Full Shelves.}

Love is real and real love lasts. I used to feel sorry for people who didn't believe in it--the people who were lonely with someone else or lonely alone. For awhile I was was one of the lucky ones.

C.K. Kelly Martin, who's written several marvelous young adult novels, couldn't find a traditional publisher for her first book for adults, *Come See About Me*.

According to Martin, no one knew how to market a novel with a 20 year old protagonist. *Come See About Me* certainly isn't a teen novel, it's mature and addresses themes that are not seen in the YA category. And since "Adult" fiction typically features older narrators, not a recent college dropout, it couldn't be marketed as "Adult." Essentially, a marketing problem* prevented this novel from hitting bookstore shelves.

This is absolutely perplexing to me.

Luckily for us, Martin couldn't keep to herself the story of Leah, a young woman who's life has wholly stalled following the death of her boyfriend, Bastien, who was killed while crossing the street in Toronto. She flakes on her job, fails out of school, hides from her friends and family--she can't move forward because of the loss. She wants to be alone with her memories and sadness over what should have been, over their lost future together.

Alone is what's easier. Everyone else would prefer that I pretend my life hasn't been hollowed out. They believe their expectations should carry some weight with me. Only Bastien truly carries any weight and people try to use that fact against me too and tell me what he would want for me. Some of the things they say about that might be right, but since he's not here he doesn't get to decide how I should handle his absence.

The early chapters, in which Leah recounts her relationship with Bastien, were incredibly difficult for me to read. The two went to high school in British Columbia together, though they weren't even friends--acquaintances is a better description--and connected later, when they both went to college in Toronto. Their love was the forever sort, not the college dating temporary sort.

I found myself absolutely gutted by Leah's devastation at losing Bastien. While I'm an admitted book crier (oddly, I rarely cry in movies and TV shows, with the exception of Friday Night Lights reruns), I became choked up and teary at nearly every paragraph in the first chapters of *Come See About Me*. This is a testament to the realism and craft of Martin's writing. I met my husband when I was Leah's age, and her reflections on the early days of their relationship very relatable on a personal level. I felt an increasingly sick feeling for Leah during those first chapters detailing her life post-Bastien, thinking of how unimaginably unbearable a situation like hers would be, particularly with everyone's expectations being that she "move on," because she is so young and has her whole future in front of her. This is wholly, understandably, inconceivable to Leah.

On the verge of losing her apartment, which she shared with Bastien and doesn't want to give up because of the memories alive in that space, Leah is rescued by Bastien's aunt who gives her a place to live in Oakville, a Toronto suburb with a village-like quality.

Initially, Leah maintains her same routine: hiding from the world, paralyzed by the loss of Bastien. However, a dental emergency necessitates her finding a part-time job and a repeated chance encounters with Liam, an Irish actor from a Fair City-style television show, who's hiding from his own life that disintegrated in a very public manner back home in Dublin, slowly draws Leah out of her reclusion.

Lest I've given the impression that *Come See About Me* is about moving on, finding a new love or anything like that, it's absolutely not.

Rather, *Come See About Me* is about Leah finding a new way to be, of finding hope and a new way forward, different from the future she'd imagined prior to her boyfriend's death. Her relationship with Bastien was special, so when she starts a casual sexual relationship with Liam (not a spoiler--this is in the blurb on Martin's website), Leah feels like she's cheating on Bastien. Not his memory, but him.

Leah and Liam's relationship is extremely close, and yet, they both keep their distance too. Neither is ready for a "real" relationship, and yet what happens between them feels very real to Leah. They both need intimacy after isolating themselves so intensely, but it's hard for them too. It could seem lurid or trashy that there's significant amount of page time devoted to the pair's hookups, but it's not at all. It's actually oddly sweet. (And, um... steamy. Not in a gratuitous way, though. In her Goodreads review, Kelly from Stacked used the word "sexy" to describe *Come See About Me* and I think that's a very apt way of saying it--which is also very unexpected for a novel dealing with this subject.)

Interspersed are moments between Leah and Liam of real emotional connection and longing--longing for more.

When you're part of a couple, or at least part of the kind of couple Bastien and I were, someone does things for you all the time and you do things for them. There's always someone there to

pick up the slack for you or for you to talk difficult matters over with. I miss Bastien as a person, all the amazing things he was, but now I realize that I miss the idea of being part of a couple too.

I loved the arc of Leah's character. It's hard to say much without spoilage, but I found her path and resolution to be very realistic and believable, but also very satisfying--it was worth becoming emotionally invested in her story, as hard as it was at some points. I find this characterizes all of C.K. Kelly Martin's novels (or at least all of them I've read--I have an ARC of Yesterday, but haven't gotten to it yet.)

But, I also felt for Liam as well, and wanted him to be okay. Come See About Me is Leah's story, and it's told from her first person point-of-view. However, Liam is simultaneously charming and maddening, because he's not in an emotional place much better than where Leah is--I wanted him to be able to do more for her, but he couldn't and that wouldn't have been realistic, nor would Come See About Me have been as good of novel as it is if he had. And yet his humor and (very Irish**) dialogue at moments prevents Come See About Me from spiralling into a depressing read.

A couple of minutes later Liam's standing back in front of me, setting down a package each of Bourbon cream cookies and Barry's tea for me to ring up. I put Offred's story down and approach the counter. "Is it better than the tea we have over here?" I ask, holding up the package of Barry's.

Liam flashes me a comical what do you think? look. "I don't want to mess with any of your national delusions, Leah, but I'm Irish, we take our tea very seriously. And these"—he scoops the cookies into his hand—"are the very best biscuits to go with the tea. The perfect combination while you're reading the newspaper or sitting in front of the telly."

Also, Liam is dead sexy,*** if that's the sort of thing that matters to you. Ahem.

The secondary characters also made Come See About Me memorable and satisfying.

Try not to pass out from the shock, but there are actual, diverse characters in this novel. And they're not just present to be The Diverse Characters, but instead they all make sense in the context of the story and are a realistic reflection of modern society. I know, right? More of this please.

When I love, love a book, I become a psychotic book pusher, trying to get everyone to read said book. Come See About Me is definitely one that brought on Book Psychosis Syndrome. I really, really enjoy C.K. Kelly Martin's YA novels. Her writing is very special, it's real and raw and authentic, but her skill with telling a story that makes you feel all the things right along with the narrator is so, so, so much more pronounced with the freedom that comes along with writing for an adult audience. While I know the self-publishing route is a tough one, I hope that Come See About Me has some success so that we'll maybe see more adult fiction from Martin--it's just that wonderful.

Come See About Me is the sort of contemporary adult fiction I'm always wanting to read, but what doesn't seem to exist in the marketplace.

That absence is what drives me to YA when I want a contemporary read. It's an adult novel that deals with emotions and growth and connection--not with divorce, money problems, infertility, parenting or what it means to be human. There's zero pretention in Martin's writing, instead, it's simply real, with raw emotion and a thread of hope shining through in a story that lingers.

FNL Character Rating: Matt Saracen in the heart-achingly beautiful and difficult "The Son" episode.

Note: You can read a couple of sample chapters from Come See About Me on C.K. Kelly Martin's website. It's available right now in ebook form and paperbacks should appear on Amazon any day, according to the author's blog. While it's disappointing that this special book isn't going to be popping up on store shelves, I'm thankful that digital publishing has allowed Martin's first adult novel to get into the hands of readers, despite the publishing world's lack of creativity about how to sell this book.

Update: Paperbacks are available now via Createspace from Amazon.

*As someone who's worked in marketing departments in the past, I feel confident in saying that marketing really shouldn't drive business decisions. Not that there aren't creative, brilliant people working in marketing, but marketing departments are often led by very risk-averse people, in my experience. But, hey... that's the way of the world.

**I lived in Ireland and received my graduate degree from an Irish university. So, I loved the subtle details or Liam's speech patterns. It made me long for that very specific sort of humor that characterizes that country.

***Also: In all the time I spent in Ireland, I saw very few Liam's running around. They're rare outside novel pages--sorry, ladies.

Initial reaction after reading:

Love, love, love, love.

LOVE.

Reaction after finding out CK Kelly Martin wrote an adult novel:

CK Kelly Martin is writing an adult book!

pumps fist in the air

throws glitter

does happy dance

oliviasbooks says

"Was I wrong to ask you to ring me? Sometimes I think I should've left you alone. I don't want this to throw either of us off."

"You weren't wrong," I say. "No one's being thrown off." I haven't forgotten what he said two weeks earlier, that he didn't want another source of confusion. "This is like a vacation from real life."

"It feels like that," he agrees.

At this point I do not know yet how many aspects my review is going to cover. But let me tell you first that in my opinion *this* is how all New Adult fiction should be like. Heavens, no, I do not demand that every author decides to kill off her heroine's perfect - and I do not mean sunshine pretty with a later to be discovered rotten core, but considerate and sexy and artistic with realistic flaws - boyfriend right in chapter

one to have her quickly spiral downhill. There is without question a limit to the number of grief-centered books I can stomach in a given time period. But in real life there is a vast variety of good and bad life-changing experiences college-aged women encounter, which is why it made me exhale in relieve to read about Leah, who loses her live-in boyfriend of one year (who is not Caucasian, by the way, which means a bonus point in character diversity) and cannot and does not want to let go and heal afterwards (view spoiler), instead of reading about the weird ups and downs of *another irresistible female* who needs to come to terms with her virginity, her past abuse, her sexuality in general and a small, foreseeable number of other super special secrets and *another gorgeously violent I-hide-my-inner-fluffy-kitten-until-SHE-turns-up-and-me-on bad-boy*, whose-farther-from-life-than-Earth-from-Pluto personas only exist to awkwardly populate some supposedly hot-sex-on-a-platter script.

If this comparison caused you to sulk about a lack of physical excitement in *Come See About Me*, you have simply misunderstood. There is sex - even explicit sex - aplenty in established Young Adult author C.K. Kelly Martin's first New Adult attempt. But it smoothly fits the plot and it does not make the cast and the story feel like props. Leah starts having an affair she wants to keep purely physical and ephemeral with an almost stranger and struggles with the feeling of betraying her dead boyfriend and his family. But although the guy supports her idea of a 'vacation from real life', he claims that *"Nothing can ever only be sex, can it? Otherwise it wouldn't matter who you were having it with. And I like you. We've been friends too, haven't we?"*

In spite of my lucky lack of similar experiences I thoroughly felt Leah's state of frozenness, her flight into constantly cheating her consciousness into imagining Bastien alive and besides her. I understood her selfishness, her dismissive behavior towards her - wonderfully depicted, by the way, I *do* adore Yunhee - best friends from university, her job inn Toronto and her parents. And I got her craving for touch and her stupidity when she throws all caution to the wind.

The minor characters were interesting and well-rounded, too. Instead of suffering from the obligatory cliché gay sidekick on match-maker's campus prepare to shake hands with a 100% normal, middle-aged lesbian couple. Plus there is Armstrong, the hyperactive hamster!

I even liked the half-open ending, although I am kind of partial towards completely vague but hopeful ones like the one in *Holier Than Thou* – another New Adult novel I wholeheartedly recommend. A few reviewers declared the outcome of Leah's problems to be too positive and sweet. In my opinion it was pleasantly elating and *Happy*, but allowed for many other ultimate futures besides an *Ever After*.

Consequently I am sufficiently puzzled why the author could not find interested publisher (Thanks for finding that link, Sarah Moon.) - due to the lack of a fitting target group - and eventually had to go the indie way. Or to put it differently, I am flummoxed why the target group for a generic problematic-virgin-meets-clingy-bad-boy-plot is everlastingly huge, while a gem about a regular young woman like you and me like this is only appreciated by a handful.

Christina (A Reader of Fictions) says

After being impressed with the intensity of C.K. Kelly Martin's young adult novels, I was really curious to try her new adult *Come See About Me*. As expected, *Come See About Me* has all the grit and sexiness of the typical new adult novel, but also takes on everything in a very true to life, sincere, and healthy way. Though a romance in its way, *Come See About Me* is primarily the story of a young woman seeking to find herself again after the loss of a loved one. Powerful and sexy, *Come See About Me* features all of the elements I've always loved about Martin's writing.

Read the full review at A Reader of Fictions.

Kelly says

19-now-20-year-old Leah's boyfriend Bastien was killed in a terrible accident, and she is deeply grieving the loss. It's not easy (not that it would be) but his loss throws everything she's had planned for her future into a tailspin. She withdraws from everything that had been giving her purpose in her life -- school, work at the museum, socializing with her good friend Yunhee. She's stopped answering the phone, talking to her parents, caring.

When Bastien's aunt offers her a place to live outside Toronto, she takes the chance. Besides being a change of scenery and a place not filled with the memories of her time with Bastien, this is an opportunity to figure out where to go next. And while she doesn't recover from her grief gracefully, it's through an encounter -- multiple encounters -- with Liam that help her realize how much she needed someone in her life.

This is an incredibly sad and incredibly sensual and hopeful book all at once. Martin has a gift for writing with an authenticity and given the freedom she has in writing a non-YA book, she offers us powerfully raw and honest character growth and interaction. Leah and Liam have a very intimate relationship, and it's from that relationship where the character growth occurs. But it's never obvious to Leah and it's not necessarily obvious to the reader, either. The sex is steamy (oh my word is it steamy) but it's less about the physical connection and much more about the emotional intimacy. About what Liam and Leah offer one another on a level that only comes through opening themselves up to their most basic physical desires. (view spoiler)

Leah has a great arc, and I really loved how things turned out in the end for her. I appreciated how much focus there was in the story on the mundane and the routine -- it's all a part of the process, and since we're in Leah's mind, these things are all a real sign to us as readers that she is learning how to move forward (not move on, but move forward -- you never "move on," and that in and of itself is something Leah learns (view spoiler)). Leah also learns that no matter how much you want to control life, especially when you're finally allowed to have your life for yourself, you can't always do it. That things sometimes are beyond your control. Isn't that the truth about this age and about adulthood all together?

This book will have great appeal to teen readers who want a book that is more mature without being "an adult book" dealing with "adult issues." It'll also appeal to adult readers. Everything Leah does and feels is true to adulthood -- it's about figuring out how to tackle life when you don't have your parents there to tell you what to do anymore. When you aren't sure you want them to hold your hand through it all because you DO have to figure it out yourself. Even if it hurts and sucks.

Full review here: <http://www.stackedbooks.org/2012/06/c...>

Keertana says

Rating: 4.5 Stars

I've taken to fleeing inside a closet whenever I hear the term "New Adult." It's a shame as I believe the genre has a great deal of potential, particularly because of the age group it's confined to. Thanks to hordes of mis-marketing when the term was first coined, however, New Adult will forever be associated with vapid heroines, hunky heroes, and dramatic situations. Not only does the genre manage to completely gloss over

the complexity of the first adult years, but it also becomes increasingly predictable, the final pages of a book more cloying than satisfying.

Come See About Me, on the other hand, is a far cry from the dozens of novels hitting shelves these days. From beginning to end, this book drowns you in a sea of complex emotions, its prose evocative and strangely compelling, despite its subject matter. Moreover, while Martin's stark realism can be difficult to swallow at times, it is a much appreciated slap into reality. *Come See About Me* won't be a book for everyone, but as a reader who actively seeks gritty novels that are deserving of their "realistic" tag line, this novel was a godsend.

Martin's first foray into adult literature is not a simple piece to get into. Within the first few chapters of this novel, we are introduced to our narrator, Leah, and the heart-wrenching realities she must face every day. Bastian, Leah's long-time boyfriend, has only recently been killed and, unable to cope with his sudden death, Leah has moved to a small town on the outskirts of Toronto known as Oakville. I wouldn't be surprised if many readers were turned off by a sample of this novel, merely because these first pages are hard to read. Martin's writing pulls you into Leah's head, which is a dark and depressing place. And while Leah is drowning in emotion, caught up in her grief and pushing the rest of the world aside, her feelings seep into your skin.

For me, this is a testament of Martin's writing skills. Although I can't say I enjoyed the beginning of this novel, it was powerful, ensuring I was wholly invested in Leah's tale. And, don't you doubt it, *Come See About Me* is Leah's story, through-and-through. While the synopsis for this novel relies heavily on the romantic components, in reality, the romance is an after-thought. Martin's novel instead explores Leah's gradual healing process as she learns to cope with her grief and move on into the future - on her own.

I feel as if I cannot emphasize this point enough. I'm so used to seeing couples in books heal one another that it was such a pleasant surprise to see good-old time and thought heal Leah. Following Bastian's death, Leah is unable to move forward and the worry of her close family and friends - their expectations, really, that she get on with life and not allow this event to derail her future - is suffocating. Instead of complying with their wishes, Leah moves away to be alone and though her apathy to the world still exists, it slowly begins to wear away. Martin paces Leah's growth impeccably and, moreover, I particularly love the small decisions Leah begins to consciously make, whether it be reviving a friendship she has neglected or just forcing herself to eat dinner with her neighbors. Though Leah doesn't want to let go of Bastian or his memory, she does - however subconsciously - want to live again and the slow manner in which she re-discovers pieces of herself is beautiful.

Come See About Me also offers a surprisingly diverse cast: old lesbian neighbors, a Korean best friend whose younger sister breaks under the expectations of an immigrant household, an African American family who is wealthy and educated unlike the typical stereotype. Best of all, though, these inclusions never feel forced. Whether it be a traumatic plot thread or these atypical characters, their presence throughout the novel never jolts the arc of the story and only enriches it. Moreover, they contribute greatly to Leah's own growth and acceptance of her life after Bastian's death and the friendships that Leah sustains are real; messy, often difficult to maintain, but true in their affection.

Nevertheless, what I love most about this novel is that there are no heroes in it; just normal people doing their best to live with what's been given to them. Leah never romanticizes Bastian and though the two had a healthy and sustainable relationship, she acknowledges his flaws and the fact that her grief is, in large part, for the future they would never have the opportunity to share. Moreover, the relationship she strikes up with Liam, an Irish TV actor hiding away in tiny Oakville to escape problems of his own back in Dublin, is shockingly unromantic. Both Leah and Liam are at difficult stages of their life, but the purely physical companionship they find in one another quickly spirals out of control. Although neither of them want another relationship - and reiterate that their interactions are strictly temporary - they nevertheless *feel* very real,

especially as what was meant to be un-complicated becomes increasingly complex over time.

Martin, however, never compromises Leah or Liam's troubles for the sake of the other. Neither is able to provide the comfort or support the other needs, emotionally or mentally, which makes what they share so much rawer and difficult to place a label upon. It isn't a classic tale of a broken hero and heroine who find it in themselves to reach out and heal one another. Instead, the relationship between Liam and Leah remains one of friendship and intimacy, but of a distant kind as neither is ready for something more "real". While the novel is narrated from Leah's perspective, though, it is impossible not to feel strangely close to Liam. Granted, these two lack the familiarity of sharing a bathroom cabinet or knowing how the other feels from their tone of voice, but the glimpses of hurt and pain they release to one another are all the more revealing. And despite the fact that Liam is upfront about his personality, honest that he isn't the nicest of guys, his charm and troubles never fail to work in his favor (which really just means that yes, his accent is alluring, and yes, his looks are even more killer).

Come See About Me has, surprisingly, filled the long-time hole inside of me that has been craving for something *more*. I've been feeling unfulfilled as a reader off-late, but this novel depicts life, friendships, relationships, and growth in a light that isn't always neat or clean or easy, but rather one that is far less pretentious and rewarding. Moreover, I adore its ending; open, but with just enough temporary closure to satisfy readers who shy away from non-endings. Although this is only my first Martin novel, her richly depicted characterizations and beautiful prose will keep me coming back for more. For anyone who doesn't love a book placed in a tidy box and tied up with a fancy ribbon, this one is for you.

You can read this review and more on my blog, Ivy Book Bindings.

Nomes says

The thing that most sucks me into C K Kelly Martin is how she gets right under the character's skin, and she has done it again in *Come See About Me* with Leah. The prose is pitch perfect, this elegant blend of simple and straightforward with some poetic turns of phrase sprinkled throughout. Martin is a talented writer, for sure, and there's nothing like sinking into a book from the first page thinking 'this is going to be good'.

And it was good.

From the blurb, you know it's a grief book, coupled with sexy times.

My gosh, C K Kelly Martin brings the angst and depression and sorrow and longing and utter devastation with such expertise. I really felt that. On the flip side, if there was one thing I would change about the book, would be that, although it felt 100% realistic, the first 20% where Leah was drowning, I started to feel like I was drowning, too. But, if the pacing feels a little slow at the beginning, hang in there, because it is so worth it. Just a few more chapters along, and suddenly I couldn't put the kindle down.

Liam.

My gosh.

You guys, it would be remiss of me to just get all SWOON and SEXY regarding Liam. Because he is so much more than that. I love all the shades of grey in his character and in his relationship with Leah. Liam is Irish and gorgeous and has some unique background/occupation not often seen in the YA scene making him completely intriguing. He is also complicated, messy, older. And Leah's relationship with him is

complicated, messy and definitely older.

A word about the sex: It's sensual and steamy and completely hot (as in HOT). Without the bounds of being a YA book, Martin is able to explore more sexually, and the scenes are essential to the relationship and so gorgeously and evocatively done. The scenes weren't just some steamy filler, guys, they had depth and emotions and all kinds of excitement and confusion that comes with a sexual relationship in your early twenties. Caution: The sex scenes are not fade to black, and are for mature readers, not young teens (IMO).

Where was I before I was distracted by Liam? ;)

Oh, I was glued to the pages (after making it past the little 10 - 20% slow hump). Coming to the climax and resolution, I had this sudden panic attack. So bewitched by the story, it had slipped my mind that this is a Martin Book, and her stories often have these bittersweet (read: painful) endings. The suspense in those last chapters nearly broke me. Which is a true sign of my love for the characters, my gut clenching for them. No spoilers here, but absolutely everything I felt while loving in this world was worth it and I thought the ending was perfect.

This is what I want you to know: C K Kelly Martin is truly one of the talented writers for this YA generation. She brings what feels like the truth with a heartbreaking and hopeful clarity. Come See About Me is a New Adult novel, set outside of high school, with sex scenes more explicit than regular YA stuff. I was sucked in, swallowed up and mesmerised by this story. I read it over the course of one blissed-out ache-y day and one month on, I am still feeling the emotions of this read.

I find it hard to pick favourites, but I think Liam and Leah is my fave C K Kelly Martin couple so far x

Autumn Review says

Wow...this was an emotional story. My heart broke for Leah. I can't imagine what it would be like to lose someone you love in such a devastating way. She was lost without Bastian. Then she meets Liam and she starts to allow herself to heal. While their relationship certainly had it's obstacles, I really liked them as a couple. I also love that the author made it clear that while Leah was moving on, she never lost her memories of Bastian.

I'd definitely recommend this one. It is a bit sad, but the story is about healing, love, and self discovery. This was the first book I've read by this author and I will definitely check out her other books.

Nyrae Dawn says

Wow. I'm a huge CK Kelly Martin fan and this book didn't disappoint. Leah's journey was beautifully told. Her pain was so real... so raw that I felt it along with her. My heart broke for her. And her journey and healing was just as powerful. I loved watching her grow—though at times it emotionally wrecked me, there were also those moments where I couldn't stop my smile. As she started to heal I loved watching her transition. And Liam. Fun sexy. The scenes with the two of them were definitely some of my favorites in the book. They both transformed in different ways throughout the story and they were a joy to watch together. There were times I was angry at them, but I think that's a good thing. It shows that the character affect you and mean something to you.

Another amazing part is how CK was able to make me love Bastien, too. Just through Leah's memories I see why she loved him and why she's struggling so much with losing him.

COME SEE ABOUT ME was a sexy (super sexy!), emotional, beautiful read about love, loss, pain, growth and learning to live again. It was so very real and I feel lucky to have experienced Leah's story with her.

Favorite quotes:

"One accident doesn't prevent another. Bastien's death doesn't offer me some kind of immunity from other pain."

"I miss Bastien as a person, all the amazing things he was, but now I realize that I miss the idea of being part of a couple too. It's not that I haven't realized this before. But every time it occurs to me it feels fresh. When you're alone you have to learn to be just you, and not the person that was part of a unit, all over again. You have to ask other people for help when you wouldn't have before."

Catie says

3 1/2 stars

Unconventional review time!

Over at the blog today, I posted a double review of this book along with C.K. Kelly Martin's *Yesterday*. If you're starting here - great! Follow the links to read my whole crazy train of thought!

Many of my friends have urged me to try out C.K. Kelly Martin over the past year, and it just so happened that I ended up reading two of her books in succession this summer – two very different books, as it turns out. I liked one of them a good deal and the other one...not so much. So today, I thought I'd pull out the old Sandwich Method TM and review them both in one post.

So. Firstly, for the delicious bread part of the sandwich (I'm thinking it's Great Harvest white cheddar and garlic): *Come See About Me* really stands out amongst its YA brethren. Which may or may not be because it's actually an adult novel. Yeah, okay...maybe it's not quite appropriate for the younger side of YA, but I would easily recommend this to anyone 16 and older. The protagonist is in her early twenties and is experiencing debilitating grief for the first time. She's a young person trying to learn how to cope with loss, school, parents, and relationships. It reads like a YA. It walks like a YA. It quacks like a YA. The only way that it doesn't quite fit the YA mold (particularly in America) is that it contains a few sex scenes.

Let's talk about the sex scenes because they were – seriously – my favorite part of the book. (Cue the studio audience track going *Ooooooooooh*.) No, no, not in that way. (Okay, a little bit in that way.) The sex scenes in this book are some of the most honest and healthy portrayals of sex I've ever read. The sex here is messy and awkward. It's fun. It's a stress-reliever. It's casual, but not callous. And the lovers somehow manage to do it without being perfect the one forever and ever for the rest of eternity soul mates. All of which is depressingly unheard of in our stories about young people. I love the relationship between Leah and Liam – two very flawed characters who don't have a perfect relationship but still find some small measure of solace with each other.

I also really love the way that C.K. Kelly Martin writes. Her prose is very straightforward and stripped down in a way that reminds me of Sara Zarr. It's the kind of writing that tends to gut me about 90% more efficiently than flowery prose ever will. However (and here's where we start to bleed into the filling part of the sandwich – I'm thinking it starts off with mayonnaise, blergh) that just never happened for me. I never connected emotionally with this book. I think this just might be one of those times when a book and I simply don't fit. I couldn't relate to Leah and her complete, debilitating breakdown. No part of this story resonated with me. My own grief stayed silent and cushioned and safe in all the corners where I like to stash it away. Maybe that's because I am not really a breakdown kind of person. I am more of a recovering shove-it-all-down-and-soldier-on type of person. Where the matter of fact voice of Holly from *Holier Than Thou* nearly ripped me in half, Leah's story did almost nothing for me (more on this later).

And now we come to the part of this review where I've (hopefully) wedged my negative thoughts between two slices of deliciousness. Follow this link to my review of *Yesterday*!

Back Now? Okay, enough about that. Let's get back to the bread.

Come See About Me is one of the best self-published books I've ever read. Admittedly, I haven't read very many but I'm pretty surprised that this book wasn't picked up by someone. My friend Kelly from *Stacked* also compared *Holier Than Thou* to *Come See About Me*, saying (about *Holier Than Thou*):

"This would be a neat book to pair with CK Kelly Martin's COME SEE ABOUT ME since they tackle grief and figuring out what lies ahead for those who are young but not teenagers. I didn't think Buzo's book was as strong, but it was still enjoyable."

I completely agree (well, except that I preferred Buzo's book). I have this theory that those of us who related strongly to *Holier Than Thou* won't connect with *Come See About Me* and vice-versa. I'm mailing my copy of this book to Tatiana to see if my theory holds water. I have three data points so far - if you've read both of those books I'd love to have more!

As for my future with C.K. Kelly Martin, I will definitely be checking out more. I can't recommend *Yesterday*, but *Come See About Me* is worth reading. I love her writing style, and I'm convinced that one of her books will work for me.

This review (in its entirety) was also seen at The Readventurer.

Lauren says

Come See About me started out as a grief book but ended up veering into "chic lit" territory with a stale friends with benefits storyline.

Leah is a Canadian twenty year old college student with a perfect boyfriend, named Bastian. When Bastian is killed she is overcome with grief, and her life starts to fall apart. This is where the book had something to say about relationships. Grief is something that certainly everyone on earth will have to face. Why do we find ourselves at a loss as to what to say when someone we know loses someone? We know exactly how they feel.

You would think having faced that situation ourselves, we would know the right thing to comfort someone. I don't despite having lost my grandfather in 2001. My father's death as a child was confusing because I never knew him. A girl in my class told me that I was cold and horrible for not crying when asked about my father and I replied he had died. It hadn't just happened that day but three years previously when I was eight. Was I

suppose to break down and cry on her shoulder? I understood Leah's constant fretting that others judged how she grieved.

The underlining theme of this book is that each person handles their grief differently. Leah's parents could not accept that her grief was on a different timeline than theirs. Rather, Leah avoided everyone so she did not have to face herself not being able to deal with them. What I gathered from her character was that she felt uncomfortable around people living their lives. This was part of the book that worked best. Scenes such as the concert she attended with her friend or when her boss fired her.

Leah is a relate-able character to anyone who is trying their hardest to avoid accepting they need help. People with addictions, depression problems, bad relationships, anything shameful really will go at lengths to avoid those who love them to avoid having to change themselves.

Why was grieving her boyfriend a shameful habit?

It should not have been but Leah let her grades, bills and her job slip out of control instead of asking for help. She tried to cover these problems by avoiding those closest to her.

I liked this half of the book a lot.

My issue was with the second half of this novel when it simply became stock romance novel Irish guy and witty banter that wasn't actually all that witty. Everyone but my mother knows the original *Life on Mars* show is better than the remake, but both series endings were rubbish. Cheese and onion crisps are tasty, but they aren't a patch on paprika chips I got in Germany. It didn't help I pictured this guy and not Michael Fassbender as Liam.

Hey, she said he wasn't Hollywood good looking but an apparent less accepted version of hotness in Irish tv. I was not charmed by Liam. He was the boring guy who tells a girl not to get attached and whines about his ex girlfriend. The mix signal guy is not my favourite.

While Liam was flawed the dead boyfriend was not flawed enough. I'll forgive the rose coloured lenses of how we view dead people, but as far as the love story went this was a problem.

This book did not affect me the same emotionally on the actual dead guy, Bastian, unfortunately. Who was he? He wasn't as realised as other dead characters such as Alina from *The Fever Series* or Uncle Joe from *The Piper's Son*. Their loss was palpable on every page. I felt I knew those people just from how the other characters talked about them.

The French film *Blue* dealt with a woman whose husband had died. Her grief was cut by learning he had an affair during their marriage and how this changed what she thought she had with him. *Blue* is my favourite film about grief while *The Piper's Son* is my favourite novel on the subject.

Come See About Me could have had more impact had he simply dumped her. My mom has a viewpoint that it is better when someone dies than leave you. She thinks it hurts less if they don't choose to leave you. I disagree with this statement wholeheartedly. What about everyone else in their life?

I guess the happy resolution was Leah finding someone else that bothered me. My older sister's phrase used to be "The only way to get over a guy is to get under another one." [She no longer feels it is acceptable to use someone. The love triangle in *Twilight* bothered her for that reason.]

This makes this relationship come off very Bella Swann. Leah admits to mourning being in a relationship as much as missing Bastian. The story could have fit the tale of being dumped just as easily.

I felt utterly nothing for Liam or his problems. Scratch my idea about her being dumped. We could have had two Liam's with that storyline. That arc was there as she was essentially a succession of women he slept with to get over his girlfriend. Not at all romantic. I did not swoon over this couple. The scene where she asked Bastian out was sweet by comparison.

There is something to be said that her hamster did not die. I thought he was a goner when she hoped nothing would happen to Albertson. That is usually a death warrant for a pet. Take a look at the film *Willard* or the tv

show Strangers with Candy if you doubt me. I fretted for the little guy whenever Leah would forget to take his wheel out of his cage that he'd be dead. There was a sadly hilarious scene in an Australian tv show called Halifax about a guy who loses his friends and coworkers to a gunmen attack. He finds his dog dead on Christmas and discovers the generic rat poison is next to the same generic blue dog food box. He had poisoned his dog. I was afraid poor Leah would come home from the British speciality shop she worked in to find the little guy dead. I'd have cried over his death. I felt I did know all about little Albertson and his habits.

I have quite a sad story about a bear hamster named Pansy Parkinson. She was eaten by my dalmation, Fox, who puked her up in my bed. It was sad and gross. The moral of the story is not to name your hamster after Harry Potter characters. My older sister's hamsters Harry and Hermione did not meet nice ends either. Fox's nickname used to be dinky dudderdums like Dudley Dursley. He was fat and had watery blue eyes.
