



Charming

Krystal Wade

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They say what doesn't kill you makes you stronger, and that's great . . . as long as you don't die.

Sixteen-year-old Haley Tremaine had it all: top-notch school, fantastic family, and a bright future, but all of that changed when an accident tore her family apart. Now, an alcoholic father, a bitter younger sister, and a cold headstone bearing her mother's name are all she has left.

Chris Charming has it all: a powerful CEO for a father, a prestigious school, and a fortune at his fingertips, but none of that matters when he lands a reputation as a troublemaker. Struggling to follow in his father's footsteps, he reaches out to the one person he believes truly sees him, the one person he wants: Haley.

Little do they know someone's determined to bring the two together, even if it means murder.

Charming Details

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Author : Krystal Wade

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Genre : Young Adult, Horror, Retellings, Romance, Thriller, Mystery, Dark

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From Reader Review Charming for online ebook

Melissa says

This is a great modern twist on a fairy tale. Characters are well rounded and explained well. The main female character is strong and not whiney (I had whiney chicks). She overcomes the problems in her life in order to make it better for her and her sister. I recommend this book to everyone!!

Sarah Marie says

Charming by Krystal Wade

2 stars

Haley Tremaine lost it all. Her mother died in a car crash that was supposed to take Haley away from her abusive father and now she's stuck with him. She's stuck with him and she has to protect her sister from the truth about who her father is- an alcoholic abuser. Enter Chris Charming, a boy who used to attend school with Haley and now is runner up for her mother's candle making company. He has a reputation as a trouble maker and he won't leave Haley alone. There's a serial killer on the loose and Haley's his next target. This book has been marketed as Cinderella meets Saw. I can kind of see that, but not really. I mean the Cinderella aspect is there and prominent in certain scenes, but the Saw aspect- not so much. I could see it more as Cinderella meets Criminal Minds. I'm sure at least one Criminal Minds episode is exact like this or at least close to it. The beginning of *Charming* is really unsettling, especially for a novel targeted to young readers. If this book didn't read so blandly and have a high school setting I could see this as a dark adult novel, but besides the constant abuse Haley endures at home nothing about this book is extremely dark. I was completely disgusted with the abuse situation and while I can relate to Haley as a victim abuse I also can't.

Whimsical Writing Scale: 2

The main female character is Haley. I'm on the outs about Haley. I don't dislike her, but I don't like her either. I feel like she was a strong character- she's brave and tough for having to deal with her situation- but she also downplays her situation- something I can totally understand. My problem with Haley is that her problem is portrayed very realistically, but Haley herself doesn't seem real. I'm just very unsure about my stance on her.

Kick-Butt Heroine Scale: 2.5

The main male character is Chris. Chris is pretty insignificant. I didn't get the romance with Haley and Chris. There was no connection, tension, or any sign of this so-called love that seemed to have blossomed in 7.2 seconds. Chris wasn't interesting or charming, much to the implication of his last name. I just wasn't buying it.

Swoon Worthy Scale: 1

The Villain- I wish I could say that I didn't see who the killer was, but it seemed kind of obvious to me from the beginning. Since I've recently become a huge Gillian Flynn fan I'm constantly looking to be mind-fucked with books of this nature, but I didn't find it. When the villain was revealed it all just seemed rushed and ridiculous. Kind of like how American Horror Story: Freakshow (which I would've complained about until I saw the most recent episode which was freaking amazing and you should all join my obsession of AHS) has been this season- completely boring and then gruesome right out of left field.

Villain Scale: 1.5

I did not like Haley's sister at all. I think that as a member of Haley's household the abuse would've been pretty obvious since all the signs of domestic violence were there. I didn't like Haley's father either and he was a douchecanoe from day one. Haley's friend was a decent character. I didn't love her, but I liked that she was there for Haley and was a good friend. Where did that random guy at the end come from? What was that? "I kinda know you and I'm friends with Chris so I'll drive you to go and find a serial killer." Like what?????

Character Scale: 2

Charming doesn't have a concrete plot and it seemed to be going nowhere at times and then there would be random plot points popping up and disappearing and then coming back. It was off-putting and while I think *Charming* good it also flows too fast. The best way to describe this novel is fluff in a dark setting.

Plotastic Scale: 2.5

Cover Thoughts: I like the cover when I first saw it I was expecting the novel to be a dark erotica, but after reading *Charming* the setting of this cover makes a lot of sense.

Thank you, Netgalley and Curiosity Quills Press for providing me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Susan says

I have never read Krystal Wade before but after reading CHARMING I can tell you honestly, she is now on my author radar list. I was emotionally invested from page one and couldn't stop reading until I knew what happened to Haley and her family. I felt like I was on an emotional roller coaster, laughing at the antics and conversations between Haley and her best friend, Christine.

Ray says

I read an early version of this book and all I have to say was wow. I will reread the book once it officially comes out, and will write a proper review.

But with that being said, even from the very first rough draft of this book, it was a very excellent read. It is a Young Adult book geared towards the female audience. Even though it was geared towards females, I think ANYONE who picked this book up to read would find it very enjoyable.

Seeing Double in Neverland says

For Full Teaser Review go to <http://seeingdoubleinneverland.blogspot...>

5 out of 5 Stars

Charming is very original, well written, great characters, with only slight nods to Cinderella. I would definitely recommend this book especially if you are looking for a youthful romantic horror retelling of Cinderella!

Jessa Russo says

In this young adult mash-up of Cinderella and SAW, we start out getting a behind the scenes look at Haley Tremaine's life--and not much of a life, if we're being honest. The poor girl has lost her mother, and her father has become a raging alcoholic with a pension for abusing his eldest daughter. Haley's younger sister is oblivious to their father's rage, and only because Haley so relentlessly tries to protect her from it. Haley has learned to live life by going through the motions. She's broken and hopeless.

Her complete opposite, Chris Charming has everything Haley used to have. His family took over the company Haley's mom used to run, and with it came wealth and popularity. He attends the finest school, drives the fastest cars, and has the world at his fingertips. But he doesn't care about material possessions . . . all Chris wants is Haley Tremaine--the girl who won't give him a chance.

It all sounds like the perfect young adult romance, and it almost could be . . .

But there's a killer on the loose, with revenge on his mind, catapulting Haley, Chris and their friends into a thrilling cat and mouse chase where their very lives are on the line.

Krystal Wade does it again with this book! You won't be disappointed!

Ben Alderson says

WOW WOW WOW

I have gone through so many emotions with this book! Perfect fall read! I loved the cinderella and Saw movie re telling!

I can't wait to review this for my youtube account next week!

JUST AWESOME !

Take Me Away To A Great Read says

5 out of 5 Stars

I loved this story, it was sad how poorly Haley is treated by her Father and Sister. I really liked the friendships and romantic aspects of this book along with suspense and mild horror. I thought when I started reading this book I would be able to figure everything out but I definitely couldn't. I really liked the fact that it was a mystery and hard to predict. I love that it isn't just your typical retelling of Cinderella done in horror retelling.

Charming is very original, well written, great characters, with only slight nods to Cinderella. I love the heart pounding suspense! I am a huge fan of Stephen Kings dramatic writing like Misery and Dolores Claiborne and the great way that Krystal Wade writes this story reminds me of some of his great works but with a more feminine youthful flair! I would definitely recommend this book especially if you are looking for a youthful romantic horror retelling of Cinderella!!!

An advance copy was provided by the author for review.

Full Review to come!

Tiffani says

Charming by Krystal Wade was one of my favorite book of 2014, I will be suggesting it to everyone. Charming has made me love Krystal Wade's writing. It also has sparked a love of Curiosity Quills Press other books as well. I can't wait to read more from Krystal Wade. This is an amazing book. I can't wait to see not only what Krystal Wade has in store for us in the future.

Michelle says

The plot and twists and suspense in this book made this book really interesting. But as I read it, the storyline also kind of seemed a bit scattered. It wasn't a bad book though; a three-star for me.

Krystal Wade says

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I'll be at the Baltimore Book Festival Saturday and Sunday, September 27th and 28th. For more details on my events schedule, check out my website!

Merissa (Archaeolibrarian) says

I won an e-ARC of this book from a Krystal Wade Blog Giveaway.

So what happens if you cross Cinderella with Saw? You get a bloody brilliant book that will draw you in and not let go, not even to make your children's tea! I'll be honest, reading the synopsis and seeing that it fell in the horror genre, I wasn't sure if I'd like it. I mean, come on, who wants to read about an alcoholic dad, a dead mum, an indifferent sister and physical abuse, especially when you're a wuss as I am? It turns out I do, when it is written in this way!

The moment I realised that my stomach was clenching on behalf of Haley as she stood before her home, trying to find the strength to go through the door, I knew I was hooked. Trust me, Haley has everything to whinge and whine about but surprisingly does neither. She is destructing, but slowly and underneath everyone's radar or so she thinks. A couple of people reach out to her - her English teacher, the caretaker at the cemetery where she visits with her mum and surprisingly, Chris Charming. The son of the man who now runs her mother's company. The boy who has what she had. The story between Haley and Chris runs through the book but doesn't overwhelm it.

The other part of the story, the mystery/horror of the book, I won't talk about much as I don't want to spoil it for anyone else. Suffice it to say that I was twisted in knots trying to figure out who it was - was it this person or that one? It turns out I was right but Krystal Wade had me doubting everything I thought I knew. Excellent! The horror part wasn't too bad, yes there were parts to it that weren't nice to read - violence, abuse, kidnap to name just three - but there was nothing there that didn't contribute to the story; that didn't help to set the scene or deepen your feelings for that particular character whether they are good or bad.

The plot, storyline and pace were all fantastic - I honestly can't think of anything that let this book down. I can 100%, wholeheartedly recommend this to all fans of YA, Romance, Horror (never thought I'd recommend a horror book!) and of Krystal Wade herself. Another hit for Miss Wade!

Melissa says

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. It combined romance, family issues and mystery in a twisted version on Cinderella.

Haley is a sixteen year old girl who has a horrible home life. She lost her mom and then had to handle abuse from her father. She protected her sister from her dad's abuse and never spoke out. Her life changed after the death of her mother. She went from a well to do family to barely surviving. From private schools to public schools. But the past always catches up with you.

Chris Charming was a boy she knew from her past. He shows back up in her life and Haley isn't too happy about that. She does everything she can to avoid him, but fate is what it is. As she starts to accept him in her life (he is persistent), murders start to happen in her little town. Haley is pulled into it along with Chris and his family.

Secrets are exposed in Haley's life that she didn't want anyone to know. A murderer bent on revenge. Love blossoming. Who could ask for anything more. A must read if you want to see how it all ends.

Vika aka ? of GIF & Grumpy Smut-ateer *P/T Freebie Fairy says

There really is no other way to describe this but as a retelling of a Cinderella if she took some hallucinogens and ended up in Saw franchise.

No seriously. Although the story is told of our "Cinderella" as a HS sophomore there is a lot of adult content such as dealing with abuse. If anything this story reflects much of the original Brothers Grimm story of Cinderella in the gore and messing with your head factor. In the original story there is actual cutting/trimming of feet to get into that slipper. I'm serious look it up. That is REAL!

As for this story our "Cinderella" is Haley... our poor girl in her teenage nativity takes on something that even as adults we have a hard time processing. She takes on abuse from her alcoholic father in order to shield her younger sister to honor her dying mother's wish to shield her.

As I kept reading it all I wanted to do was hug the poor Haley. I mean honestly her life S-U-C-K-S.

Her days spent wasting her youth years being the adult and a punching bag at home and visiting her dead mother at the grave.

If that is not enough on top of it all she has a stalker who took it upon himself the role of a Demented Fairy Godmother. Punishing those who wronged her and "giving" her to Prince Charming.

Aaah Prince Charming... or shall we say Chris Charming... A boy who was always meant to be in her life. A life that was meant to happen if it weren't for the horrible accident that took her mother away and put her in this path of life destruction.

“God, Haley. You let your dad hit you for years, blindly protecting your sister. You took shit from her to honor your mom. I get it. I do. But are you fucking crazy? I’m not them. I’m not going to hurt you. I’m not going to walk away from you. I actually care for you, Haley.

Fortunately, there is a rainbow at the end of this tragic story... a determined girl with a gang of helpful, supporting cast to help... but can they take on the darkness that surrounds her? Well read on and get your answer.

For a YA book there is a lot of blood and gore and violence that made my tummy ache... And like a true sicko I loved every second of it. The author did a fantastic job of retelling the old classic and making it her own. In my age (non-teen age that is) I find it hard relating to issues of HS drama but this story went so much more. A nice bloody horror story.

I'm glad I went outside my comfort zone for this.

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**Copy kindly provided by the Author for Kris & Vik Book Therapy Cafe Book Blog Review*

Susie says

I want to start out this review by saying that I did not want to read this book. I've read everything this author has written. I'll admit it, she's my friend. I get first views at her books. I'm THAT lucky. But when she told me about Charming I said thanks, but no thanks. Nope, not going to read about child abuse. Just ain't doing it.

As disappointed as she was, she understood. But after a while I started to feel bad. Maybe I was being too stubborn. The beta readers were loving it, so I should give it try. I told her I would try it, with an emphasis on try. If it got too uncomfortable for me to read, I would set it aside. Again, she understood.

Well...all I can say is that I am SO glad I changed my mind! Not only did I not set it aside, I couldn't set it aside! I read it in one sitting, straight through, chewing my nails with apprehension, speed reading, sitting on the edge of my chair. I loved it.

It's about a teenager, Haley Tremaine, who has a pretty awful family life. Mom died in a car accident, Dad is an abusive alcoholic, sister is clueless and therefore spiteful towards Haley. Her grades are abysmal, she doesn't have many friends and her only happy times are when she's working in the candle shop her mom used to be CEO for.

The current CEO's son, Chris Charming, has it all: awesome parents, goes to a good school, is Mr. Popularity. And he keeps trying to get Haley to hang out with him. He doesn't get that he is the reminder of everything she lost when her mom died. But he is persistent, and with the help of a "fairy godmother", Haley hangs out with him more and more...

But there is a murderer loose in her town, and when her family starts acting weird, Haley starts to realize that it's not a fairy godmother, but a fairy godmonster and she has to try and figure out how to save the people she

loves, but when put into a sick, Saw-inspired situation, all solutions equal losses.

Read Charming. You will not be disappointed!
