



Sometime After Midnight

L. Philips

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#AlexFromTarget meets queer Prince Charming in this glittering romcom following a teen music prodigy and the handsome socialite who unwittingly turns him into an internet sensation.

In a dingy Los Angeles club late one night, Cameron and Nate meet and find they have much more in common than their love of an obscure indie band. But when Nate learns that Cameron is the heir to a record label, the very one that destroyed his father's life, he runs away as fast as he can. The only evidence of their brief but intense connection is a blurry photo Cameron snaps of Nate's Sharpie-decorated Chuck Taylors as he flees.

Considering that Cameron is a real life Prince Charming--he's handsome, famous, and rich--it's only fitting that he sets out to find the owner of the Sharpied shoes. Cameron's twin sister, a model and socialite, posts the picture of Nate's shoes on Instagram to her legions of fans with the caption, "Anyone know the gorgeous owner of these shoes? My hottie brother is looking for him." The internet just about breaks with the news of a modern fairy tale and the two become entwined in each other's lives in this sparkling story about the power of music, the demons that haunt us, and the flutterings of first real love.

Sometime After Midnight Details

Date : Published August 7th 2018 by Viking Books for Young Readers

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Author : L. Philips

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From Reader Review Sometime After Midnight for online ebook

Katie says

Review to come, but that was delightful

Melissa says

4 out of 5 stars

Cute contemporary with a little bit of depth, I loved the idea of a "Cinderella" story; a twist on the classic *Cinderella* story and an easy read.

Yapha says

A super fun, modern retelling of Cinderella with a touch of Romeo and Juliet. When Nate meets the cute boy at the night club, he doesn't realize that it is Cameron Pierce, heir to the Pierce music dynasty. Nate always blamed Cameron's father for the destruction of his own father's musical career. As Nate runs from the scene, Cameron snaps a quick picture of Nate's sharpie decorated high tops. When Cameron's twin sister posts the picture online, the hunt for Nate begins. Told in alternating voices between Cameron and Nate, readers will not be able to put down this fun romance! Highly recommended for grades 9 & up.

Sam Barnes says

wow... this was everything i wanted. i loved how L philips explored deeper topics in this book, and i'm so incredibly excited for her next book. my only problem was that i feel like problems were resolved a bit too easily, but i'm happy too let that slide because the book was so goddamn cute.

Sam says

It wasn't as good as L. Philips's Perfect Ten, but I still enjoyed it. No regrets in reading it.

Vicky Who Reads says

4.5 stars

Hot damn.

This book was great. It was wonderful. It was such a lovely twist on tropes that are nearing the end of their lifespan.

I really enjoyed reading this one, and it was such a bundle of fun, I couldn't help but enjoy.

It was like *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*, but better and wayyy more queer. It was more exciting, less try-hard-quirky, and had enough tropes to pull you in but not too much to push you out.

I mean, this was basically made for me. It combines all my favorite tropes (Cinderella? Check! Famous person? Check!) and is diverse feat. LGBTQ+ main characters.

There had to be something large and terrible happen to make me *not* like this book, and I'm glad to say that didn't happen and I ended up enjoying it.

It felt clean and polished--I actually enjoyed how well Philips wrapped up the ending and worked to make it all fall together even though I'm notorious for disliking the endings to contemporaries--but with enough grit & dark background to make the cover seem fitting.

I like how Philips incorporated the background little by little. At first it's just like a Cinderella story (or, should I say CinderFELLA story), but then Philips adds the layers to Nate & Cameron's respective pasts. You find out more and more about what happened with Nate's dad and Cameron's father's record company (without any flashbacks, I might add) and it all was incorporated very naturally.

I love how Philips added this twist on the story, because honestly there's not a lot to the Cinderella trope and you need a little more substance to keep it afloat, else your book could be summed up in a 10 page children's board book.

Similarly, Philips did a nice job of developing the characters. I liked both Nate and Cameron's characters and I thought Philips managed to shape their present thought processes and actions well based on the things they experienced in their past and the way they grew up.

In the end, the only thing I wasn't too fond of was the romance. In my opinion, when Philips added more about their background, it kind of took up more page-time than the actual romance between Nate and Cameron. We ended up focusing a lot on them getting over their past issues rather than them bonding romantically, so it did feel a little insta-lovey to me.

Nate and Cameron bonded a lot over their love for music and they music they played together, and I felt like that dominated the actual romance. I'm not actually sure they could end up being really great romantic partners, but I don't think that was Philips' end goal for this story, so it didn't matter to me.

This is more of a book about finding your way to another person and overcoming your past to potentially lead to something great and amazing.

I have to admit, I was definitely turned off a little by the cover, but the description (and the book) totally won me over. Ignore the cover if you need to. Just read this book!

Overall, I really enjoyed reading and found *Sometime After Midnight* to be a refreshing twist on some of my favorite tropes. There was nothing I explicitly *didn't like*, and I think this book definitely deserves a lot more love & buzz.

If you're looking for a book featuring the indie music scene, a modern twist on the Cinderella trope, and/or queer boys falling in love, I definitely recommend you check this one out!

Thank you so much to Penguin & Edelweiss for providing me with a digital review copy in exchange for an honest review!

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love, trish says

maybe i'm crying

K8 says

I have zero strong feelings here.

Who's it about?

Nate, son of a talented guitar player, and Cameron, son of a record label.

Where's it set?

Los Angeles

What's it about?

Nate is the son of a legendary guitar player who never managed to release an album before the pressure of his record label, Paradise, allegedly drove him to suicide. Cameron is the son of Paradise's president and harbours a dream of singing professionally. The two meet by chance and find their music styles perfectly align.

Romance Factor

Fluffy, sweet, they talk things out a lot. It's a little instalove-y, but almost acceptable considering their work on something rather intimate — their music — together.

Highs

Cute, non-stressful, everything wraps up nicely.

Lows

Written by an (afaik) straight woman, some prose issues, the instalove, might be too laidback for some.

Writing Style

Readable and occasionally funny. There's some issues in terms of filter words, but they don't do any heavy damage. The author's biggest sin is constantly comparing characters to celebrities and describing music styles as $a+b=c$. I could understand describing Cameron as "Elvis and Jack Kennedy's love child" but throwing it in for meaningless side characters is annoying. The same goes for music descriptions. She's capable of decent descriptions — *He's got a voice that's just otherworldly. It makes me picture things like angels ice-skating, or Pan's hypnotic flute* — but mostly it's a lot of:

"See? You get it. Marvin Gaye meets the Beach Boys meets Bob Dylan. But modern, so . . ."

"So . . ." I think. "Adele meets Jack Johnson meets the Avett Brothers."

It's bleh.

Vibes

Sweet, but generic. Feels a little like reading m/m fanfic by a girl who mostly knows how to stay in her own lane.

Representation and Social Issues

The author never tries to awkwardly incorporate any homophobia. It's very much escapism, something sweet and light. There's some healthy discussion of mental illness without demonizing it. "Evil" step-mother isn't a bad person, more healthy discussion there. But man, there are NO characters of colour. None! Friggin' none! Not even as a best friend or in the other bands. *Yiiikes*.

Thoughts

I really don't have any heavy thoughts here. It's a sweet, untaxing read, but might elicit some eye rolls. My only real complaints are the comparisons when it comes to musical and character descriptions, the instalove, and the lack of representation.

Is it fun?

I wouldn't say it's fun, but if it's your cup of tea, it might be something nice to take a break with between heavier reads.

Worth Reading?

Do you like sweet gay romances? Then probably.

Kait(lyn) ? says

Actual rating 3.5

RTC!

Brittany says

This book was exactly what I wanted it to be - sweet, funny, well-written, and full of music that made me want to plug in my headphones and fall into the melodies and lyrics that move me. It reminded me occasionally of Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist, but it had a lovely Cinderella-feel all its own. Both boys are adorable, the sidekicks are wonderful, and it just makes you smile. And let me just say that when I'm willing to stay up to finish a teen-centric novel sometime after midnight (see what I did there?), that's about the highest praise I can give.

Luke Reynolds says

ARC Review (6/3/18, received courtesy of Sarah Prineas)

There was this moment where Nate wanted to go into hiding because the paparazzi attention was too much after the show picture went viral, and I had to put the book down because that didn't make sense to me at all. How does he so easily become a roadie for a band after that?

I feel like this book didn't have the most realistic portrayal of the music industry, but you win some, you lose some, I guess. There was also some feint judgmental towards women lines that could've been removed from the advance copy. Also, the Cinderella-ish stuff happened already. Now what?

I think L. Philips has the perfect style for a short story, but getting a taste of this novel showed conflict kind of getting resolved early and then other stuff. Appreciated the music geekery, even though I didn't get all of the references, but some of the writing and the portrayal of the music business felt off.

Danielle Chambers says

Aw, this book was so cute. I really, really loved Nate and Cameron. They were both so adorable and geeky.

The one problem I had with the book is a fault of my own. I have zero knowledge of music and there is a lot of music references and talk in this book. So, therefore, a lot of those parts went over my head. But the character and main story were good enough that I still loved the book.

I was happy about the lgbt representation in this book. I was pleasantly surprised about mental illness being discussed and addressed. The author did a good job handling the topic.

- ?? DANY ??- (danyreads) says

. : ?? — 4 ★

READ THIS REVIEW ON MY BLOG!!!

<https://bit.ly/2wmj2XC>

girls don't like boys, girls like SLOW BURN SHIPS AND EXTREMELY WELL DEVELOPED CHARACTERS WITH PALPABLE, UNMISTAKEABLE, TANGIBLE CHEMISTRY !!!!!!!!!

dear God, this book was so much more than i bargained for in the best possible way. Sometime After Midnight is definitely the kind of book to read when you're in a mood so specific that i hardly even know what i should call it. if you're ever feeling sad and want a warm hug. if you're feeling silly and want a good laugh. if you're a hopeless romantic. if you like old music. if you want something full to the very brim with the most wholesome and pure tropes in the world. most importantly though!! if you like complex, well fleshed characters and also a whole lot of deep stuff that you definitely won't expect coming from such a seemingly innocent YA, gay Cinderella/Romeo & Juliet retelling.

this book wasn't perfect, but i really did have a blast reading it and i'm always down for cute, uplifting romance books. i don't really think there's too much i can say at this point because i'm still trying to process those last few chapters but i genuinely wasn't expecting this book to be one of my favorites of the year (so far) but here we are!! and i'm having the time of my life baby!!!

Kathy - Books & Munches says

It's hard to figure out where to start my review on this one because there are so many things I liked about it. I

read this book of nearly 400 pages in barely two days. I couldn't stop reading. The story simply flowed and I loved that.

Then we have our two main characters, Nate and Cameron. Sometime After Midnight is written from both their perspectives and that adds so much to the story.

We see how Nate struggles with losing his father, how that impacts his views, principles and overall character. He's still grieving and dealing with everything. I really believe it's portrayed well.

As for Cameron, he isn't the snobbish rich kid I expected him to be. He's quite grown-up and knows what he wants. Although, I have to admit, there are some moments where he goes spoiled and rich all the way but when you've grown up like that.. I guess it's hard not to act like it sometimes as well.

Overall I simply liked how their relationship came to be, grew and how they found their spots in life.

Of course I have to mention the LGBTQIA+ factor in this story. Especially since Cameron's a celebrity and his sexuality is simply accepted. Same goes for Nate. There's no homophobia whatsoever in this story which might make it a bit unrealistic since it's celebrities we're talking about but.. Let's just say it gave me hope for a better world than the one we live in today!

I also adored the musical aspect of this story. The author's musical knowledge really came forward and even made me look up some of the artists mentioned because why not?!

I did miss a couple of things in this story though. Overall I liked the characters, but they still felt flat to me as well. I loved the story, but I simply wasn't really interested in getting to know our characters better than I did? I just wanted to know how the story went - if you get what I mean.

Another thing I only thought of a couple of days after finishing this book is how the characters actually had it.. pretty easy at the end of the story? Maybe throughout the entire story, in a way. Some things got wrapped up very easily, things I expected more of a struggle with. Maybe that would've made the ending more heart-felt.

Even though there are some things I didn't like, I did absolutely love reading this story. I flew through it. It's a cute, fluffy and light gay romance - which I was simply so in the mood for anyway! Definitely makes me go easy on the rating this time, haha.

4,5 / 5!

Kathy

Brooke — brooklynennereads says

This was the perfect "Cinderella" novel that I didn't know I wanted! I didn't really know what to expect with this read and I'm happily pleased with it.

This was a cute and fun read but actually incorporated quite a bit of heavy content. Prior to reading this novel, I had predicted that this would be an emotional read thinking that it would be a coming out story. That actually was not the emotional part because these characters were both actively out. I don't know why but I actually really enjoyed that aspect in this novel. By making it less of an 'event', readers saw more of the side of acceptance from family and friends. I'm not saying that the characters didn't face those emotions when they came out but this story was not centred around that or in that timeline. I hope that makes sense and I'm not offending anyone, I'm just saying that I like how that this story didn't focus solely around being a coming

out story.

I also really liked the two main characters (along with side characters). I liked their personalities, their authenticity, and the fact that along with them both being mature they did keep some characteristics of a teenager.

The writing style was beautiful, it flowed, and was easy to keep reading without wanting to put the book down. I definitely will be looking for more written by this author as the style was just so pleasing to read.

I definitely will be recommending this book to others. It was such a quick-paced read that would be perfect for the summer (or anytime really). I do have to make the recommendation and comparison that for those that like Sarah Dessen's novels, check this one out. For me, who loves Sarah Dessen, the writing style was similar but the main characters for this novel are male instead of Sarah Dessen's typical female main characters.

A sidenote that I have to mention because I really appreciate it as a reader, I love the cover! It's not the typical 'stock photo' that doesn't relate to the story. This cover is uniquely related to the story and I love that. Well done!

Thank you to Penguin Random House Canada for sending me an advanced reader's copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review
