



## Kiss It

*Erin Downing*

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A girl's gotta do who a girl's gotta do.

Chastity Bryan has never been shy about going after what she wants. And when sexy, mysterious, *so-not-from-this-town* Sebastian walks into Chaz's life, she knows in an instant that what she wants next is *him*. Chaz has no intention of playing for keeps—but she most definitely has intentions. Who needs true love when you've got true lust?

Sebastian has no idea what he's in for—but maybe neither does Chaz....

## **Kiss It Details**

Date : Published June 15th 2010 by Simon Pulse (first published May 24th 2010)

ISBN : 9781416997009

Author : Erin Downing

Format : Paperback 273 pages

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

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## From Reader Review Kiss It for online ebook

### Michelle. D. says

I dunno why but I really liked this book. Maybe it was the characters, or the setting, or the plot. Or maybe because the whole book revolves around sex?

Anyway, the book was really entertaining and I wish I could read it for a first time again. The introduction of the book was really straight-forward and gets the message across.

"This book is about sex. If you are faint-hearted, close this book now. If not, enjoy! :D"

I love Sebastian. He seems hot. And kinda awesome.

One thing I really want to say is that it is SOOOO obvious what Sadie is! How could you not know. It is so completely obvious!

I seems like people fall in love really fast in this book.

I recommend this book to anyone who likes to read about bunnies. Or sex. Either one is fine... :D

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### Mahina says

I've never read anything by Erin Downing but if any of her other books are like "Kiss It" I will be reading them all. A great book for teen girls - 14 and up (or for that mature 13 year old) that talks frankly about sex without being preachy. I wish I had read this book when I was 14.

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### Kelsey says

Erin Downing was nice enough to send me a copy of Kiss It to review, and I'm really glad I picked it up so soon after receiving it. I'd been reading some negative reviews and was a little wary, but Kiss It turned out to be a really great read.

Chaz was an outgoing, witty main character and her personality and spirit added a lot to Kiss It. She never held back with what she wanted to say and always spoke her mind. Chaz was an original and unique character and was still trying to find herself. Kiss It was not just the light hearted read it first appeared. Cancer, teen pregnancy, sex, and more were all tackled throughout the novel. Chaz had to deal with a lot of emotional experiences and understand that she couldn't always put herself first. Her best friend Sadie was sweet and seemed the complete opposite of Chaz, yet they went together really well. Without Chaz, I don't know how Sadie would have dealt with what happened to her.

Some things were a bit predictable, but the plot was overall interesting and it was a quick enough read that I finished it in a day. Erin Downing has a nice writing style and really got inside Chaz's character- she was very well developed within the first few chapters. Chaz's parents were also good characters who played big roles. I was surprised how emotional Chaz's family issues made me. The fellow workers at the restaurant Chaz waitressed were interesting, too. There were a wide variety of characters that had enough individuality to make them really stand out.

At first, Chaz just thought of sex as just a bridge she needed to cross, something quick and unimportant. She

never thought of loving someone. When Sebastian came along I realized he was a good guy for Chaz. Although their relationship started a bit swiftly and awkwardly, it soon developed into something more. Both Sebastian and Chaz were dealing with a lot, and they each helped the other overcome the hurdles life was throwing at them.

Kiss It did deal with some mature themes and didn't always have the best morals, but by the end most of the characters had learned their lessons. I wouldn't recommend it to anyone under 13 though.

This was an overall well done, if a bit quirky, novel, and Downing introduced a wide variety of topics that certain teenagers could relate to. While I never felt a connection with Chaz and felt there were a few downsides to Kiss It, I overall enjoyed it and will definitely be picking up Erin Downing's past and future releases.

Overall: 3.5 out of 5 stars

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### **Angela M says**

This book is definitely open about sex, it's not exactly raunchy, but it's not far off. A coming of age story about a girl named Chastity, she is very open about wanting to have sex, but is still picky about who she wants to have it with. This is the problem, since in her small town, the pickings are very slim. That all changes when the handsome stranger, Sebastian, comes into the restaurant that Chastity works at. Chaz is determined to win over Sebastian, but he's quite the enigma. One minute he seems interested and the next he's ice cold. Chaz just can't figure him out.

I really liked the snarky bark that Chaz's voice held through-out this book, she reminded me very much of me! She was funny and smart-mouthed and genuinely likable. Sebastian was a great male lead, he was sweet and funny, and it took a while to really figure out what he was all about. I like the way the book was left open-ended so that you can choose what you think might happen as the characters lives go on. Several of the side characters had me laughing out loud.

The only problem I had with this book is that there was really no consequences for bad actions, which is something I like to see in YA books. For someone my age, this book was very enjoyable, but I wouldn't recommend it to any teens I know. I almost think it would have worked a lot better if the character were in college instead of high school. The only thing that was really dealt with was safe sex, but the issues of teen drinking, the parties, promiscuity, and the vulgar language that were brought up in the book had no consequences at all. I recommend this book to the 17 and up crowd.

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### **Lili says**

With the ironic name of Chastity, this main character like no other gets her rocks off by big-mouth talk about her "experience" even though she is eighty percent pure. Chaz likes to say things straight-forward and gives off this attitude of "If you want it, beg." that I admired in a character. She tries to act tough with her "don't mess with me" but once faced the values and norms of reality, can be sympathetic. Living in a small Minnesota town, where her graduating class promptly consists of thirty-four, Chastity feels the desperate need to escape her home and get far, far away. Without a real goal towards her future, Sebastian seems like

an easy enough escape from her small town for a while. He may be just passing through, but maybe that's exactly what Chaz needs right now. Some escape from her religious mother and release from dramatic issues happening all around her twenty-four seven. Teen pregnancy, cancer, self-analysis. So many things happening around Chaz that she needs some form of distraction. What better than from a mystery guy who's only staying for winter break? Will she get what she wants, or will she find that there's more to the guy with the "puffy black Patagonia jacket" than she suspected?

I have to say that *Kiss It* is one of the most daring novels in the YA genre I have read yet. This close-to-vulgarity novel was a delight to read and a damn good sexual refreshment to YA novels everywhere. The blunt murmurings of sex in the beginning of the novel wore a shock to my senses and couldn't keep myself from flipping those pages. Downing took a great risk with this one--a novel I'd compare easily to Judy Blume's *Forever*...--and it payed off in sparks. *Kiss It* is no ordinary contemporary read, it deals with real life issues and wasn't afraid to tackle them. Downing expertly intermingles the equality of sex and love in a blooming relationship; describing different aspects toward previous mistakes.

Though, this book is not without its faults too. I had a hard time relating with most of the characters, mostly because they seemed to be peckish-ly annoying. I believe the author might have made that intentional, but I would have liked to know more about the characters' past before I start judging them. There also rarely seemed to be any facial/body descriptions, that left the book a little bare and up to the readers imagination.

In the end, I believe that the book's favorable qualities more than leveled *Kiss It*'s faults. That is why I recommend *Kiss It* as an enjoyable read that will stimulate you with its detailed lust-scenes.

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For a chance to win *Kiss It*, visit my blog: <http://chicareader.blogspot.com/2010/...>

### **Shanyn (Chick Loves Lit) says**

I actually think the summary provided for this book doesn't do it much justice. I also think that the beginning of this book may scare some people off - it nearly did for me. We begin with a good amount of cursing and sex talk, which led me to believe the rest of the book would be fairly juvenile and not a good representation of emotion and sex for the teenage age group.

Though I was apprehensive, I kept reading because I wasn't bored or anything - I just was not expecting much more than constant talk about sex from Chastity (ironic name for our main character, huh?).

About five chapters in, I began changing my mind. Ten chapters in and I couldn't believe my new found opinion about the book and how drastically different it was from the first few pages.

Chastity meets a boy and starts reflecting within herself - she considers those around her, her family, her friends. Her kind-of friends and friends-with-kind-of-benefits. She was much more mature than I first anticipated she would be, which made it a very enjoyable (and realistic) read.

By the end, you are able to see true progression in Chastity as a teenager - she doesn't make perfect choices throughout, but is willing to learn from her mistakes, and that is something I really love in a book. Thinking

back, I am still pretty surprised at how the beginning of the book compares to the end - if you pick up Kiss It and start to read and don't think it's a book for you, please give it a try for a few more chapters - it's a great book. You just have to be a little patient to find out.

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### **Alea says**

Main character Chastity (what a name!) lives in a very small town that she realizes is not where she wants to live out her life, but while she's waiting it out in high school there she wants to get some experience, in the sexuality department. The pickings are slim in her mind but she tests out the waters, never really finding the right person to go through this education with, until Sebastian comes into town. In Sebastian she sees something different and knows she wants to get to know him better.

What I liked about this book was besides a secondary story with her best friend (that I saw coming from a mile away) I wasn't really sure where the story was going to go and I liked that. I also really liked the small town jokes, I recall snorting a few times I think! Nothing really crazy happens but sometimes that's ok. It was very realistic in the way everything is sort of open ended but personally I would have liked a few more plotlines tied up by the end of the book. I felt like we were going somewhere but we didn't quite get there.

It's definitely a coming of age story but deals with the idea of sex a lot more than other similar books I've read. I liked Chastity's voice and sarcastic tone but it was still missing something in the end, I haven't yet been able to put my finger on.

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### **Literary Cravings says**

This was a very hot, very enjoyable read for me!! I really didn't know what to expect with this story but was pleasantly wowed by Downing's writing. I'm quickly introduced to Chastity Bryan a.k.a Chaz and instantly I know she's a no holds bar type of girl wanting desperately to leave her home town and experience life. She says what she means and goes after what she wants. More so who she wants and it's the new kid in town named Sebastian. I really enjoyed Chaz's daring in your face personality. I was flipping the pages non stop to see whether or not Sebastian would succumb to Chaz's play. I appreciated Downing writing such a daring story from a girl point of view who's view of life and love differ from so many around her, making her deal with important topics for her self and her friends. The romantic chemistry between Chaz and Sebastian was very hot and mysterious and I really enjoyed the role reversal of the romantic chase. Who was pursuing who? What was great about the book besides the great characters was the journey Chaz went through and how she grew as a person. She went from having these crude dejected views of life to opening herself to love and new possibilities. This is a very daring entertaining story filled with humor, spicy romance and thought provoking situations that everyone deals with in their lives. All the characters played an important role adding depth to the story. I defiantly recommend mature readers reading this book, due to some semi graphic sexual scenes in the story. This is a great story and I will be looking forward to more of Downing's work.

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### **Heather says**

I really liked Kiss It. The main character was different, in a good way. She wasn't that sappy teen protagonist that gets old. She's not a cheerleader, former cheerleader, or cheerleader wannabee... she tells you like it is (the reader gets all her secrets, even if her friends and family don't). I wish I had been a little more like her in high school. Instead, I was her best friend Sadie- eager to please and maintain that picture-perfect life, but really setting herself up for some emotional baggage! Good book! I would love for there to be a sequel one day, but I wonder if we are better off not knowing... and leaving it at that!

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### **Steph Su says**

I wanted to like this book more than I did. Unfortunately, I was about halfway through when I realized I couldn't care less what becomes of the characters. Chastity's hang-ups about sex and small-town life quickly grated on my nerves, not because her concerns might cause people's jaws to drop and incite them to cover the eyes of the person nearest them (puh-lease. I read a decent amount of smut myself), but because I couldn't find myself sympathizing with Chaz at all. The way she treats the people around her, "punishes" people for not reading her mind, and then turns around and reports self-doubt and insecurities when she can't decide what she wants with the boys in her life... I just didn't care, and rather wanted her to shut up. Chaz is supposedly this smart valedictorian, but her obsession with sex seemed to smother all other aspects of her life in a thoroughly unrealistic and unsympathetic way.

In addition to my problems with the narrator, I was sad to find that exceedingly little occurs in the book--or at least the first half that I read. She tells us about her previous experiences with Hunter, flirts ambiguously with Sebastian (who's flaky and inconsistent and not at all attractive), and then gets hit with some Big News that feels contrived. I just couldn't get into Chaz's story at all.

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### **Adele says**

Kiss It was a bit of a surprise - you start reading expecting the normal contemporary YA romance path and get something racier. Chastity is an intelligent senior who's unsure of her future direction but is definite in her need to establish a sex life for herself. She's stuck in her wintery hometown where nothing is ever surprising while a stream of issues keep raising their heads. All Chaz wants is a good lay and that proves to be more challenging than one would expect.

Subject matter-wise this novel will be a problematic read for those that object to teen sex and swearing but it does have a heart to accompany its pounding libido. It offers a different perspective to the many (sometimes didactic) wait until love or marriage position we often see. However this position is represented in the protagonist's best friend. They have completely different stances in their life choices but support one another irregardless. Like most teens its a lot of talk and only a little action but that is still more than what would be found in most YA. Despite some sexual content, at its centre this book is more conventional than one would judge on face value. Instead of pushing the idea of abstinence, it subtlety addresses choice, birth control and self-worth.

The central story of Chaz's need for some action works well to highlight her emotional growth as she peruses her boy options. It is quite entertaining (and a little disturbing) to see her rationalise her actions, her

treatment of Hunter and her feelings for Sebastian. At times Downing presents her protagonist as playing the guy - picking and choosing what she wants from those that are interested by her. This storyline flows well in terms of introducing a host of characters (some of which could have been sketched in further) and keeping the protagonist on their toes. However, the two minor stories - both of which I won't spoil - are intriguing. One is telegraphed strongly from the beginning, the other comes out of nowhere and doesn't hit its momentum as hard as it might. That being said, Downing tackles far more in terms of issues than you initially realise.

There's humour, pathos and a lot of sex talk- the latter might scare those who don't wish to acknowledge that female teens have urges and aren't always at the sexual whim of teen males. I found it quite illuminating and empowering to follow Chaz' self discovery and drew a deep breath of Downing's blast of fresh air.

Kiss It is following the lead of Judy Blume's Forever presenting a story where a girl makes informed decisions about her sex life in a responsible manner. Forever was written 34 years ago and its content is still considered to be risque, Kiss It will be in the same boat but what a glorious boat to be in. Kiss It is not a brand new, extraordinary take on contemporary YA but it does provide a fresh perspective with a candid look at sex, friendship and blizzard boredom. I find that brave and it's definitely a perspective we should be supporting and encouraging.

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### **Jenny / Wondrous Reads says**

I enjoyed Kiss It, mostly for its bluntness and hilarious dialogue. I laughed my way through the first half of the book, before things got a little more serious, and reveled in Chaz's no-nonsense attitude to boys and sex. She was a girl who wasn't afraid to go after what she wanted, and I liked that. That's the kind of personality trait I wish I possessed more of (confidence, not chasing boys) but alas, I don't.

Chaz started off as a bit of an enigma. I got that she didn't think sex was a huge deal, and that she would happily engage in some extracurricular activity with even the dorkiest boy, but I didn't understand why she was like that until much later in the book. Downing explored her character fantastically and, I must admit, wrote a couple rather hot scenes à la Jennifer Echols (Who, by the way, is the undisputed master of YA hotness).

Chaz's relationship with new boy Sebastian was one of growth and self-discovery, and realising that, yes, it is possible to escape your small town and experience a life elsewhere, and with different people. Sebastian really opened her eyes to this idea, and showed her that you don't have to do what people expect you to do. Life's a decision you have to make, and Downing does a great job of showing just that. Chaz's friendship with her best friend Sadie was also very well written and, coupled with Chaz's dad's story, provided more of the novel's serious side. I did find Sadie quite irritating, though, and pretty forgettable. The only characters that really stood out for me were Chaz and Sebastian, and the rest of the just kind of fell by the wayside.

Kiss It does include some explicit sexual content and bad language, so if that definitely isn't your thing, I'd probably recommend giving this one a miss. However, if you're looking for a book with clever (occasionally frustrating) characters, witty writing and the ability to make you laugh, this just might be the one for you.

### **Kristi says**

Loved this book, so fun and so much more than what the summary implies. Chaz was a fantastic character, I wish I would have had the confidence and intelligence that she has in high school. And although she might seem a little flaky on the outside, she has hidden depths that you don't discover until later on in the story.

Despite the fluffy exterior of this novel, Downing tackles some serious issues and she does it tactfully and full of grace. If you can make it past Chaz's tell it how it is attitude and sexual innuendoes in the first few chapters... (which I found to be personally hilarious) you are in for a brilliant read!

I loved Chaz's best friend Sadie, she was Chaz's complete opposite and I think that is why their friendship worked so well. I love seeing strong positive friendships in young adult literature. And Chaz's relationship with her parents... or her non exsistant relationship was something that I'm glad Downing touched on as well. I know as a teen I always assumed my parents just didn't get it, but looking back at it now, oh..... they totally got it. Just don't tell them I said that.

Chaz's journey with sex was.... interesting, to say the least. I found her initial idea about sex amusing. I never knew many girls that just wanted to have sex for the sake of doing it. The girls I knew were more like Sadie, the ones that wanted a relationship and then possibly something more intimate later on. That being said, I enjoyed watching Chaz's opinions evolve.... and can I just say that the scene in her bedroom where she 'checks her email' you'll know what I'm talking about if you read it.... that was hilarious and good for you Chaz! (yes, I know she is a fictional characters, but I was so proud of her for sticking to her guns!)

Overall, this book is awesome. It's about so much more than sex, or having sex for the sake of having sex. It's a story about discovery, about how our decisions effect everyone around us and the power of love.

So good.

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### **Princess Bookie says**

My Thoughts: When I first saw Downing had another book coming out, I knew I had to pick it up! I really enjoyed Drive Me Crazy so I was looking forward to reading more from Downing. We meet Chaz who is your everyday small town girl. She wants bigger things, wants to have a bigger future, and move onto better things. There is the small town guy who likes her, Hunter. Her family wants her to be with him, because he's "perfect" for her but she knows she wants someone not from around there. She doesn't want to be faced into conformity. One day she meets Sebastian in her place of employment. She instantly feels drawn to him. Because of the small town atmosphere she knows he's from out of town. Come to find out, he's just visiting.

I really liked Chaz's character. She is outspoken and voices her opinion a lot. Yes, she has fears like the rest of us, but she was real. She didn't take anyone's crap. Than there is Sebastian who is just sexy. You can tell there's more to him than meets the eyes. Just because he's hot doesn't mean he's naive.

This novel was so much more than I expected it to be. I read some bad reviews picking it up but I really enjoyed it. I liked the issues dealt with in this book, virginity, pregnancy, love, trust, fear, etc.

Overall: I really liked it a lot. Its a little more serious than the Simon Romantic Comedies but if you like those, you will probably like this as well.

Cover: Its cute! I love how the bunnies are kissing and I love the heart above them.

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### **Allison (The Allure of Books) says**

When I saw Kristi at The Story Siren's review of this, I knew I had to have it! Lucky for me, there happened to be a copy available on Goodreads swap so I ordered it.

I read it a couple of days after I got it despite the fact that I have stacks of books to read all over the place, and I'm glad I did! There were a lot of layers to this book, and I enjoyed every single one of them.

The first few chapters were absolutely hilarious. In fact, I read the prologue and first chapter three or four times because I couldn't stop laughing. It was very immature of me. Then Shanyn of Chick Loves Lit said "hey! loser! maybe you should read past the first few pages." (Except, of course, she didn't really call me a loser). Anyway, I finally calmed down and was able to keep going.

The humor is definitely one of my favorite parts of the story, but definitely is not all the book has to offer. Once you get to know Chaz, her unexpected depths start to come out. She might be ridiculously immature in some areas...but in others she most definitely is not. She was a really good friend: I loved the interactions between her and Sadie.

And even though I accused her of being immature, once she meets Sebastian she definitely makes some progress in the way she thinks of love and relationships. She realizes that she was wrong when she thought it would be easy to keep her feelings and emotions out of interactions with him. I loved them together, they had great chemistry and I loved the way he really made her think. I also loved the mystery surrounding him and his attitude.

Even though things wrap up very well at the end of this, I would definitely read a sequel if it was published (even though I don't think there are any plans for one). I loved these characters! I definitely recommend picking this up.

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