



Kaline Klattermaster's Tree House

Haven Kimmel , Peter Brown (Illustrator)

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The New York Times-bestselling author of A Girl Named Zippy is delighted to introduce Kaline Klattermaster, a little boy who understands the importance of a few good friends--make-believe or otherwise. Atheneum Books

Kaline Klattermaster's Tree House Details

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From Reader Review Kaline Klattermaster's Tree House for online ebook

Kenneth McCalpin says

this is a funny book in which the main character (i.e. Kaline Klattermaster) has an active EVERYTHING, including imagination, whose father is not around, for a reason that Kaline can only guess at. And his mother is doing a lousy job of taking care of Kaline and the house, like when she forgets to wake Kaline up for school and then gives him a CHICKEN LEG for breakfast! and the Tree House? it is a place that Kaline dreamed up, and it has food furniture, 2 older brothers and 100 small puppies!(I know, it must have been just a barrel of monkeys naming them all, right?) plus, his stuffed dog comes to life in the tree house!

Jackie says

Kaline Klattermaster's dad has gone missing and all of the compulsive rituals he insisted on went with him. Kaline misses him and wonders where he is. Third grade is about to begin and Kaline is nervous. When he gets there, he has a mostly clueless teacher, Mrs. Gottlieb who just happens to be absent when three bullies pick on Kaline. Kaline's mother thinks he is just making the bullies up and she is in her own little world.

The stress, the absent father, the wigged-out mother and the bullies all contribute to Kaline's imagination and creation of his imaginary brothers, Steve and Nicky who give him some sage advice. They tell him to seek out the next-door neighbor who Kaline has always considered scary. But, when he does, he finds that Mr. Orisis Putnaminski is nice and patient and full of good suggestions...everything he needs to help him cope with the terror of bullies and his parent's pending divorce.

Kaline Klattermaster's Tree House may speak to some child who is having difficulty with issues and stress. The story is told with some humor to make the difficult situations easier to ingest and cope with. Kaline's made-up words are delightful, yet recognizable. Not a book for every kid, but maybe for younger kids who need a vehicle to open up communication on scary and stressful subjects.

Kristin says

So, my eleven year old son and I both read this book. My son read it first and said, "Wow, this author really likes Upper Case letters!" I read it and said, "WHAT was that all ABOUT?"

Overall - I loved the focus on a child's imagination, feelings of insecurity, self-doubt and angst in the form of "What are these strange people called grown ups?"

I found the upper case thing SUPER ANNOYING and was felled by a sense of WORRY and PANGEMONIUM (as Kaline might say) the more I viewed each page.

When I finished reading, I asked my son how he felt about this book and he said he found it funny and interesting. By the by, he liked the upper case letters and looked at me like I had SEVENTEEN heads when I said I found them bothersome. FIGURES - after all, he IS eleven and I AM a grownup.

Lorriezm says

At first I didn't think I would like this book. It was weird to have certain WORDS CAPITALIZED in varying places on the page. I think it was for EMPHASIS IN EXPRESSION-like using a ton of EXCLAMATION POINTS!!!!!! I think you get my drift. Plus, the kid, Kaline, was a super hyperactive kid and it was hard to figure out where he was going. You had to feel bad for his parents.

The book was crazy, ridiculous, wild and funny and I bet KIDS LOVE IT!!!! Kaline not only has to deal with his super activeness, he also deals with BULLYING and DIVORCE and WEIRD NEIGHBORS and IMAGINARY FRIENDS, which is pretty good in a book that is only 152 PAGES, or maybe it was 600 pages!

Anyway, I liked it. I may even order A GIRL NAMED ZIPPY by the same author. Yes, I think I WILL!!

Laura says

This is a difficult book to review, because even after a waiting period, I can't tell you if I even liked the book or not. The back of the book is misleading, the summary describes things that are basically just the last five pages of the book.

The basic plot is that a spastic child named Kaline is dealing with starting a new school year, his father leaving, and various learning disabilities. Throughout the book you are subjected to his viewpoint, leaving you to piece things together yourself. Kaline calls his mother crazy and says she forgets him in the bathtub, when in reality Kaline's father is horrendously OCD and sets timers for everything, including Kaline's bathtime, so when the father leaves, Kaline can't handle the changes and says his mother does everything wrong. While I think that technique is very effective, the book is also littered with randomly capitalized words and stream of thought consciousness from Kaline, which make the reading difficult and disjointed rather than adding to his voice.

I don't think the age levels for this book are very appropriate, the character is 6, which may throw off younger readers in the 7-12 bracket because they don't want to read about BABIES ew, and the subject material isn't all that interesting for many in the older crowd. The best audience may be teachers and caregivers who will appreciate getting in the child's head and can understand the large leaps the narrative takes at times. Younger children may believe what Kaline tells the reader at face value, which would make for a much different and much scarier story.

Abbie says

I thought this book was CUTE and FUNNY. The capital letters did NOT bother me as they seemed to bother everyone else. I loved the RANDOMNESS of this book and Kaline's HUGE imagination. I want to LIVE in a treehouse with 100 puppies in it like Kaline's!

Kevin says

It is hard to describe a conventional plot for this book. The basic storyline is that the title character, Kaline Klattermaster, is starting third grade and his dad has mysteriously disappeared, his mom is having a hard time concentrating, and he is being bullied at school. To cope with these unsettling developments Kaline creates an imaginary tree house full of two older brothers and hundreds of puppies.

When I first started reading I was slightly annoyed by the style. It drops you right into Kaline's stream of consciousness. And what is with all the CAPITALIZED words? The rapid fire thoughts and the lack of introduction or explanation were disorientating at first. I wasn't sure what I had gotten into.

But as I continued on I began to appreciate and enjoy the unique perspective. And I soon found myself a fan of Kaline and of Kimmel's story. It is a tender and humorous account of one boy's imaginative coping with the chaos in his life.

Whether you will enjoy this book has a lot to do with expectations. If you want everything spelled out for you and for everything to make sense and fit into a perfect puzzle then you will be disappointed. If you can put those thoughts aside and just enjoy the chaos so to speak I think you will find a endearing character and an entertaining story.

Inhabiting Books says

The synopsis from the book is very misleading so here is my own:

"Barely" seven-year-old Kaline's life has been turned upside down. His father abruptly leaves home, completely upending Kaline's routine -but imaginative- life, his mother's seriously distracted, and he's being bullied by three classmates. He seeks solace in his next-door-neighbor and in imagining an enormous tree house, where his imaginary two older brothers live with their race car, motorcycle and one hundred puppies.

The story is written from Kaline's perspective, complete with seven-year-old language, chaotic thoughts, and DRAMA -which is reflected in the use of capitalized words. Though hard to read sometimes, the writing style really reflects Kaline's "voice" and thoughts and understanding.

There are some tough issues that Kaline grapples with in this relatively short story: bullies, an OCD father, a different kind of life without his father, and divorce. And while it took me a little to get into Kaline's "voice", in the end I enjoyed the book and have been thinking about it all day.

Charlyn says

Kaline Klattermaster has an overactive imagination which matches his overactive behavior. His constant movement and strange noises distress his father who is obviously obsessive-compulsive. His mother, on the other hand, is the complete opposite—a free spirit. He is a bright child who has ended up in third grade at the age of seven, but his hyperactivity greatly reduces his ability to pay attention long enough to learn. Because he is the smallest in his classroom and his teacher is apparently inattentive, Kaline becomes the object of

three bullies in the class who make daily demands. And Kaline's father is gone and each time he asks his mother where he is, she replies, "Not here."

This inventive story will either entrance readers or make them scratch their heads and ask what is going on when Kaline's imagination takes on a life of its own to fill in the holes in his life. Fortunately, a sensitive gentleman who lives next door takes the time to learn more about Kaline and his life.

Kaline is seven, but a good deal of the humor in this book will be missed by readers that young. The disparity between the age of the main character and the age of a child who would understand the allusions and confusions bothered me. I think this is one of those quirky books that readers will either love or quickly drop.

DaNae says

This is the type of quirkiness that I thrive on. Kaline is the spawn of an OCD father and ADHD mother which results in a child that has a loose grip on reality, an autistic focus on bugle playing, puppies and following strictly enforced schedules; although he himself has no grip on the passage of time or the quantitative elements around him. I tried this as a cold read-aloud for a couple of third grade classes. I do not recommend anyone else stepping into this folly. Kaline is such an odd and nuanced character, that to pull off a read aloud, the reader really must be familiar with what parts of Kaline's life are apt to be genuine and what is pure fantasy.

Arminzerella says

Kaline Klattermaster is a strange boy, prone to flights of fancy, exuberant enthusiasm, annoying sounds, and a host of other characteristics that drive other, normal people, crazy. Kaline's world falls apart when his father mysteriously disappears – taking away with him all of the calming and comforting order he exuded from every pore, and allowing chaos into the Klattermaster home. Kaline doesn't know what to do, and his mom – never one for enforcing her husband's fanatical adherence to neatness and organization and schedules – doesn't seem likely to step in. So Kaline is forced to muddle through as best he can. Kaline's also starting third grade, and three boys in his class immediately zero in on him as their victim, stealing all of his school supplies (not to mention his pants!), his lunch, and forcing him to buy them things with his money. Kaline retreats into his own imaginary world – where he and his two older brothers live in a tree house with 100 puppies and discuss anything and everything. Can they figure out where Kaline's father has gone? And how to stop the bullies?

Kaline's unique world view, overactive imagination, and funny turns of phrase will make you giggle despite the Very Serious Problems he's encountering. I found myself playing psychiatrist throughout this story – does Kaline have Tourette's Syndrome? Is he somewhere along the autism or Asperger's spectrum? Does his father have OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder)? Regardless of what Kaline (or his dad) may or may not have, this never gets deep or dirty with explanations and remains light and entertaining fare. Silly and fun.

Sarah Wilson says

It took awhile for me to get into the rhythm of the main characters thought process and amazing imagination. Once I did, I was able to enjoy the heartfelt story of a boy whose father leaves and the aftermath that follows.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Allison Fraclose for TeensReadToo.com

For third-grader Kaline Klattermaster (who is small for his age and started school early besides), life is full of rules:

1. Do not walk on grass!
2. The chair is not a jungle gym.
3. Placemats on the kitchen table must be exactly two inches apart.
4. Your stuffed dog is not real (even though it's sitting right there).

How he would love to dig in the grass, and how on earth is he supposed to sit still when he's not allowed to talk at the table? Usually, when Kaline ends up sitting upside down, his father goes to the garage for alone time.

Now that Kaline's dad has left, that leaves only Kaline's crazy mom to set the timer on his bath (which she doesn't), and take him to school (which sometimes doesn't happen). It's up to Kaline to take care of things himself until his father gets home, but even he can't handle it himself.

Luckily, he finds aide in the mysterious neighbor, Mr. P, Mr. P's dog, Maestro, and Kaline's two older brothers (who also happen to be in third grade, and who live in a giant tree house with 100 puppies).

Intended for younger readers, I found this book highly enjoyable, fast-paced, and a little crazy, which I think is how it's meant to be.

Marci says

Loved this book! Kaline is a 7 year old boy going into 3rd grade. One day he woke up to find his father gone and his mother sitting around spacing out. The story takes us through descriptions of his neighborhood, life with his father where everything had to be perfect and timed, to his current situation of wondering where is his father and dealing with bullies at school. Sometimes, he gets words wrong and that is funny, but then other times he spouts off sentences fit for Shakespeare. My son and I loved the utterance that came out of his mouth one morning as his mother woke him up late for school and he is getting ready and wondering where his breakfast is. His mother told him to eat a chicken leg in the car on the way to school and he says, "What is the dark meaning of this chicken leg of which you speak!?" He is a funny kid, fun story, although the ending came rather abruptly..I would knock off a 1/2 star for the ending.

Barb G says

This was a cute book for younger kids. I enjoyed reading it out loud. It's similar to Junie B Jones, but without the sassiness.
