



## **Kiss Me, Stranger: An Illustrated Novel**

*Ron Tanner*

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## **Kiss Me, Stranger: An Illustrated Novel** Ron Tanner

Set in an unnamed country sometime in the past, present, or future, *Kiss Me, Stranger* is the story of one woman's attempts to keep her family together while a civil war rages around her.

Penelope, her husband and her fourteen children live in a small war-torn country built atop a landfill. After her husband and eldest son are drafted by opposing factions in the war, Penelope and her remaining children, desolate and nearly starving, are forced to scavenge for scrap--comprised of discarded consumer goods such as computers, televisions and automobiles--in the bombed-out city. When the government scrap collector makes an unreasonable demand in already unreasonable circumstances, Penelope slaps him across the face, leading to her arrest. Her subsequent escape sends her family on a journey literally into the heart of the landfill, where they come face to face with the stupidity, destruction and at times, dark humor, of war and modern consumer society.

Featuring over fifty illustrations by the author, *Kiss Me, Stranger* is a comical and tragic commentary on war, violence, and consumerism.

## **Kiss Me, Stranger: An Illustrated Novel Details**

Date : Published February 8th 2011 by Ig Publishing (first published February 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9781935439172

Author : Ron Tanner

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## **From Reader Review Kiss Me, Stranger: An Illustrated Novel for online ebook**

### **Elizabeth says**

Kiss Me, Stranger strikes the perfect balance between terrifying darkness and transcendent hope. There are, indeed, moments of despair in the face of apocalyptic civil war, but the love of Penelope for her fourteen children, her hope for her husband's return, and the camaraderie she and her ragged band of kids find with strangers on the landfill transforms the bleak setting into a place that is, if not familiar, strangely comforting. I love the illustrations that, like the novel itself, are quirky and unexpected. There are moments so funny (one involving "concentrated cheese food") that I was laughing out loud. The writing itself is beautiful, and the plot is a contemporary take on the classical tale of homecoming. I highly recommend this book.

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### **Deanna from Deanna's World says**

I don't actually know if this is a good book or not. I just read the first few pages and realised that I could not possibly finish reading this book because it was just too awful, desperate and tragic for me. I gave it only one star because I did not finish it. That's my standard scoring system for books. If it is a DNF, it would be either a 1 or 2 star. Others might like this.

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### **Tracy says**

An eerie look into the future - constant war, hollow slogans, a president with no substance - hilarious and terrifying. Tanner sets up funny situations in a not too distant future. It's likened to Vonnegut, but I'd also like the "happening to"-ness to Evelyn Waugh or Nancy Mitford. Neither are known for their dystopian settings (more like early 20th century England), but they put their characters through extreme situations that are horrifying and allow laughter as a form of relief (there's the Vonnegut!).

The book scratches at poverty, corrupt government, and gender equality, but lets the reader decide if they want to think deeply.

I'm also a sucker for artfully crude drawings.

On the president's wife and her cursed shoes: "She danced so long and hard she turned into cheese." (60)

Ron Tanner will be at the Pratt Library on 5/1/16: <http://calendar.prattlibrary.org/even...>

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### **Anne Earney says**

For starters, I like dystopian novels so much better than utopian novels. I lucked into this one as a free Kindle download, which I read almost entirely on my phone (I just got a Kindle last week and read part of it on there, but finished it on my phone). This was a great novel for the infrequent reading I do on my phone -

mainly while I'm waiting and only when I've forgotten to bring the book I'm reading. With other books I've tried to read that way, I've found that I forget the characters or the plot, and that wasn't the case this time. This story is memorable. I loved the illustrations and the characters. The story mainly concerns a mother and her large family of children, who are funny in the way children who are not watched over constantly can be, going a little astray, but nothing disastrous. In the war-torn setting of this novel, there is much danger, but many of the societal norms are gone, so in some ways it seems like an easier world to live in.

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### **Ashleigh says**

I got this book for free through Amazon. It was weird and I didn't like it very much. I think it was a little too political for my liking. I gave it two stars because I liked that it had little illustrations in it. It was also decent enough that I finished reading it. Other than that I wasn't too impressed.

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### **Mark Flowers says**

Maybe 4 1/2 stars? I'm going to collect my thoughts and write a review for School Library Journal. Will post the link here.

Here's the SLJ review:

<http://blog.schoollibraryjournal.com/...>

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### **Kathy says**

OMG, what was I thinking. This book was not for me at all. I finished it just to see where it would all lead to. I guess lots of people liked this book because reviews were really good mostly, but I could not get into it at all. Made no sense to me.

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### **Mickey says**

this was just a weird little bizarre book. and the illustrations added nothing to it.

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### **Heather says**

Yeah...reading this book was, in some ways, like watching a train wreck. I couldn't stop even though I really didn't want to look at some of the things going on. I will say it was engaging writing (could have used some editing, for sure, though), occasionally entertaining...but it was, in the end, kinda pointless.

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### **Jessica Van Vleet says**

The book was different. Bnot somethimg I usually read but it was good. I didnot know anything about it going in so i had no expectations. you are thrown into the middle of this womans life during a civil war and things unfold. no time or place is given.overall an interesting book. did not need the pictures but afew of them made me roll my eyes and chuckle.

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### **Stephanie says**

This was a strange little dystopic novel. I'm not entirely sure it made any sense though. And I'm not clear on a lot of the details of what went on. I'm definitely not sure what was going on with the illustrations, they weren't very good, they didn't add anything (imagine the Hobbit interrupted with a child's sketch of a pipe every 5 pages), and because I was on my kindle they chopped up the text in an annoying way. It was entertaining enough though, and I had no problem finishing it. It was a bit depressing for my tastes, but the final line of the novel made me smile.

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### **Lisa says**

My first impression of this book was odd, but knowing that it was probably meant to get its political views of society's worse case scenario across seemed at its center. What happens when government is in a civil war with a revolutionary group of citizens? The oddity of watching a family sustain themselves from what they find in the refuse piles which their house is built upon kept me reading. Once you look past the oddity it is about family, sustainability even in the most dire circumstances.

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### **herocious herocious says**

This book skillfully creates an air of ambiguity.

It's very straight forward, with illustrations from the author and everything, but there is a certain dreamlike quality to it that makes it stick with you every step of the way.

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### **Mary says**

Seems like just a generic dystopian novel. It was an entertaining read but nothing that hasn't been done before.

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### **Geoffrey says**

This is a dystopian novel set possibly in the US and possibly not, in the near past, near future or some other

time. It's a strange world without any background to explain it away into a nice little box - and that's one of the things that works about it. It's definitely not your run of the mill dystopian novel.

This could easily have gone very wrong and could have turned out awful in the end - and I'm sure some will not like it. But, if you want something unusual and entertaining, go ahead and give it a try....

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