



Kite Spirit

Sita Brahmachari

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During the summer of her GCSEs Kite's world falls apart. Her best friend, Dawn, commits suicide after a long struggle with feeling under pressure to achieve. Kite's dad takes her to the Lake District, to give her time and space to grieve. In London Kite is a confident girl, at home in the noisy, bustling city, but in the countryside she feels vulnerable and disorientated. Kite senses Dawn's spirit around her and is consumed by powerful, confusing emotions - anger, guilt, sadness and frustration, all of which are locked inside. It's not until she meets local boy, Garth, that Kite begins to open up - talking to a stranger is easier somehow. Kite deeply misses her friend and would do anything to speak to Dawn just once more, to understand why . . . Otherwise how can she ever say goodbye? A potent story about grief, friendship, acceptance and making your heart whole again.

Kite Spirit Details

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Author : Sita Brahmachari

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From Reader Review Kite Spirit for online ebook

Kirsty says

Didn't draw me in enough to want to finish it

L.H. Johnson says

As you may gather from this, I am a fan of Sita Brahmachari. I think Artichoke Hearts and Jasmine Skies are two of the best, most perceptive and impressive books I've read for a long time. She is an exciting and brilliant writer.

Kite Spirit opens with Kite discovering that her best friend has taken her life. Struggling to cope with her grief over losing Dawn, Kite is taken away to the countryside to help her recover.

The main thing to note about Brahmachari is that she writes with an incredible grace. She is very, very good at getting to the truth inside her work, be that the emotional heartache of Mira in Artichoke Hearts or the near-incomprehensible pain of Kite in Kite Spirit.

So why does Kite Spirit lack a star? It lacks a star, and it pains me that it does, but it lacks it because I longed for this book to be written in the first person voice. It opens in that, spilling the bright lovely Kite onto the page and then retreats into a third person narration for the rest of the book, only descending into first person intermittently. I struggled with that shift, wanting (so much) for the wild grace of Brahmachari's more experimental prose to sing and for that perceptive, sympathetic elegance of her writing to be given full sway. Telling Kite's story in third person just didn't work for me, despite the intensely glorious nature of the story itself.

Essentially I wanted more, because I know Brahmachari is capable of that. She's so very capable.

But the thing is, despite that probably quite personal reservation of mine, there's a magic about Kite Spirit that can't be denied. Reading a book by Brahmachari is a very precious thing indeed. And Kite Spirit is a more than fitting tribute to one of the best writers to emerge on the scene in recent years. It's a book that is packed full of truth, sadness and a very quiet humanity.

LucyKate Newland says

you can keep 13 Reasons Why. This is a beautiful book about teenage suicide that everybody needs to read.

Miriam says

Prvá polka knihy ma absolútne nebavila, uvažovala som o tom, že knihu nemá zmysel dočítať. Ale nakoniec som rada, že som ju dočítala. V polovici sa to zlomilo, kniha sa mi zapáčila, príbeh má nakoniec veľmi silnú

hlavnú myšlienku, preto dávam o hviezdičku viac ako by som dala normálne.

Daramegan says

<http://daramegan.cz/recenze/uz-zase-l...>

Ellie says

I did not like this book at all!

To be perfectly honest, there was no real storyline. Yes, a girl's best friend commits suicide. Wow that could make a really great book! Yeah, it could, unfortunately it did not.

We never find out how or why (which was the ONLY thing I wanted to know from the beginning!) Kite's friend takes her life, which really disappointed me. Instead, the book takes the root of how Kite gets over it. Oh no. This, too, could probably have made a half-decent book, however nothing much happens at all. There were pages and pages filled with pointless writing which was unnecessary and anything that did happen wasn't particularly interesting. The entire story could have probably been summed up in one chapter or maybe less, which quite frankly would have made it a lot less boring. I felt like much of the book was just writing to fill up pages which did not move the story along at all. There was no connection I felt with any of the characters and when I got half way through I was seriously considering not finishing the book. I would not recommend this book at all.

Emerald Green says

Die Idee des Buches hatte mich fasziniert, weshalb ich es mir direkt kaufte. Als ich es dann aber letztendlich las muss ich sagen, dass ich meine Schwierigkeiten damit hatte. Die Figuren hatten meiner Meinung nach nicht genug Tiefe. Kite, die Protagonistin, war schwer durchschaubar und die ganze Geschichte schien keine wirkliche Richtung zu haben. Es war also meiner nach ein nettes Buch für Zwischendurch, dass nicht die Tiefe besitzt, die man erwartet. Trotz allem habe ich das Buch zu Ende gelesen, auch wenn es teils sehr langwierig war. Jüngere Leser könnten durch dieses Buch aber sicherlich einen ersten Einblick in die Trauer um eine Suizid gefährdete Freundin bekommen.

Hessa_n_140a513 says

Writing about "suicide" is not that easy, but I think that Sita Brahmachari did it very well!

The story is about Kite and her best friend Dawn. It starts with Kite worrying about Dawn because she did not show up to her first final exam. After that Kite finds out that her best friend committed suicide and her world falls apart. Her dad takes her to the country side to help her recover. Kite always feels Dawn's soul around her. She started blaming herself for her death and questions everything that happened between them before her death. Kite meets a boy named Garth, and to her opening up to a stinger helped her recover and made everything easier somehow.

What I didn't like about the story is that there was no certain explanation for Dawn's death, only that she was under pressure of her GCSE's.

This book taught me to care and love everyone around me and to support them through everything.
I recommend this book to everyone who lost someone close!

Joséphine (Word Revel) says

There are books that entrap readers—they can't put them down until they have read them cover to cover. Those books don't allow readers to do anything else but read because they must know what happens next. This was no such book. No, it was great in a different manner. Plot was not what drove the book, so I felt in no way compelled to finish it in one shot, even though it's short enough for that. What mattered was the experience of the characters and how they each dealt with the grief of losing someone they loved to suicide. There were so many questions and trying to grapple with all the "why"s in itself was a roller coaster ride with the highs and the lows, that Kite especially, experienced.

"Kite Spirit" is a book that mercilessly tugs at the heart strings. It is for that reason that I broke it down in chunks as I read. Sometimes I had to put it down to think. At other times I had to put it down to collect myself and dry the tears that wouldn't stop falling. Even though the narrative is in third person and we don't get to see what's going on inside Kite's head, we glimpse the pain in the things she says, her actions and also her dreams. Still, as Kite grappled with her loss, her emotions written in the pages became painfully real. To me, there's no deeper way to connect with a character. When a book becomes so real to readers who haven't gone through the same experience, that's when it comes alive. That is the magic of books.

Personally, I don't usually like the style of writing Brahmachari adopted very much. Sentences were relatively short and clipped with little variation, so the narrative didn't flow consistently for me. But in this case it was effective because the resultant breaks in reading, however slight, made me pause and think more than usual while reading. I prefer to lose myself in a story. Suicide is a heavy topic though, so reflecting on my own feelings and responses actually was a good thing. Fiction after all, has a way of holding up a mirror to our reality, even as many of us escape into it to visit another world.

Anne says

16 year-old Kite's best friend Dawn commits suicide and Kite has no idea why. Kite's mum is from the Caribbean, her Dad from the Lakes and they are a dancer and musician respectively. Dawn was a perfectionist, an excellent oboeist; she was a listener and Kite gradually realises she listened a lot to Kite rather than saying what she was feeling herself. Kite is, understandably, devastated and can't imagine life without Dawn. On a trip to the Lakes with her Dad to find out about his mother's past (she was adopted and brought up in Sheffield) she learns that she has to let Dawn go, that her death was not Kite's fault and that the fog of depression can be lifted if help is given.

A strong message, well-written if rather idyllic in some of its descriptions.

T says

I did not like this book

Georgia (The Bibliomaniac Book Blog) says

Kite and Dawn are best friends, and totally inseparable. Kite and Dawn share everything with each other... or so Kite thought. On the eve of their first GCSE exam, Dawn takes her own life, and Kite's world shatters. Kite's dad, Seth, takes Kite to the Lake District to give Kite space to grieve and cry for her lost friend, whilst he delves into his family history. Soon, Kite meets a boy, who seems to understand her pain. Can Kite get help from Garth, this understanding, kind boy, and learn how to say goodbye to Dawn?

I absolutely loved Kite Spirit! It was emotional, heartbreaking and truthful and I couldn't stop reading it. The plot was really great, and beautifully written. I loved the main backdrop for the book, the Lake District- I really enjoyed the authors vivid descriptions. There was a tie-in with the afterlife while Kite was in the Lake District, a little, with the Owls (I won't explain anymore, because I might drop some spoilers!), and I really liked reading about that and how it drew Kite closer to Garth and his grandmother.

I really loved the character of Kite- Sita Brahmachari has managed to convey so much of her emotions, through a third-person narrative. I really understood Kite, and loved her unique personality so much. She was a really strong protagonist, overall. Her ending to the story was just perfect! It really showed how Kite had changed after the events of the book and that she had said goodbye to Dawn.

I liked how Kite and Dawn's relationship with each other in the past was clearly illustrated for the reader with frequent flashbacks, and memories. The really showed me what Dawn was like, and gave me clues as to why Dawn might have committed suicide. Dawn's situation pre-death was very understandable, and the outcome very shocking.

Overall, Kite Spirit was totally amazing, and flawless, in my opinion. It brought tears to my eyes multiple times, but that just shows what an emotional ride this book was. The characters were three-dimensional and realistic, and the setting was really great. I think this book was a great introduction for me to Sita Brahmachari's award-winning writing- I can't wait to soon read Artichoke Hearts, Jasmine Skies, and any more from Sita in the future!

Smithjamest says

Originally posted at www.justthisteenspot.blogspot.co.uk. Visit for more reviews!

Kite Spirit by Sita Brahmachari followed Kite as her world falls apart when her best friend commits suicide.

During the summer of her GCSEs Kite's world falls apart. Her best friend, Dawn, commits suicide after a long struggle with feeling under pressure to achieve. Kite's dad takes her to the Lake District, to give her time and space to grieve. In London Kite is a confident girl, at home in the noisy, bustling city, but in the countryside she feels vulnerable and disorientated. Kite senses Dawn's spirit around her and is consumed by powerful, confusing emotions - anger, guilt, sadness and frustration, all of which are locked inside. It's not until she meets local boy, Garth, that Kite begins to open up - talking to a stranger is easier somehow. Kite deeply misses her friend and would do anything to speak to Dawn just once more, to understand why . . . Otherwise how can she ever say goodbye? A potent story about grief, friendship, acceptance and making

your heart whole again.

Kite Spirit was an addictive story with a poignant plot. Brahmachari weaves a touching plot following Kite's plummet from a confident teenager to a withdrawn confused vulnerable girl and then the slow halting return to her original self. It was a story that I could relate to in certain aspects as will other readers. A huge part of the novel was Kite's confusion over why Dawn committed suicide, she didn't appear any different, just one day she was gone, no warning, nothing. It's similar, though more extreme, to discovering something serious your friend has been hiding and holding on to, and you can't imagine how she managed to keep it from you, and you worry why she didn't feel she could come to you. Kite Spirit helps reinforce the fact that sometimes there's nothing you can do, people have to make the decision to come to you, and sometimes people just feel they can't share that thing with anyone.

It was written in a similar easy access way to Finding Cherokee Brown and it means that it can be read by all ages which is good as issues like this need to be accessible to everyone. Suicide is a big issue that is often avoided or skirted around as it is considered immoral, wrong and shouldn't be discussed. However personally I believe that addressing issues can help people cope with these issues and help others through it. Sometimes it is the people left behind who need to be helped, thought about and given sympathy, rather than the people who have gone. Kite Spirit reminds you life keeps going even though it feels like it has ground to a shuddering stop.

I loved how Brahmachari chose to create a stranger for Kite to confide in, and help her untangle her emotions as I think it reflects the real-life need to talk to people who are removed from the bad situation as it helps people talk through their problems and helps give an honest detached opinion which can then help the person move on.

Kite Spirit receives a deserved 4 out of 5 and only did not receive higher as it was a little fluffy.

Ameya says

Ghostly look at death

It wouldn't be spoiling the story to say it is about teen suicide seeing that is the main aspect of its promo.

There aren't many stories about teen suicide, and judging from this one, there aren't many good ones.

"Kite Spirit" tells of Kite's grieving process following the suicide of her best friend, Dawn, an accomplished oboe player, 'A' student and perfectionist. Kite's grief is palpable in the first few pages, until we are subjected to recurring words and phrases, chapter after chapter. We see not so much a grieving teenager but a self-centred whining teenager who has her best friend's death to deal with.

The scenario changes when Kite's loving Dad, Seth, takes her to his geographical origins in the Lakes District of England; but the wallowing, self-pitying, repetitive tone doesn't let up. The house they rent, the waterfall, stream and paths didn't make much visual sense to me. And everyone she meets seems negative in Kite's jaundiced eye. There is a love interest with Garth that isn't well-developed – insta-love some would call it.

Garth is building a sculpture of sorts in a temporarily-dried-up riverbed that was flooded by a dam for

Manchester city's electricity supply, where Seth's forebears lived. Some chapters later, we are conversely told that another valley in which Agnes Landseer, Garth's grandmother and Kite's temporary landlady, lives, could be the place where Seth's great grandparents lived. Contradictory.

The ghostly scenes and the owl references just made me want to roll my eyes. The author could have told either a ghost story or kept it real, but by using a mish-mash, she did neither well.

There are endless descriptions of the scenes. Really! This is just filler in an otherwise fairly plot-less narrative. The elements and scenes feel cobbled together to make a novel, but it could have easily fitted into a short story, as IMHO there is no plot or revelation, and no character development that I could discern.

Rachel "Rai29" says

(Originally posted on Rai29BookReadNReview)

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How do you pick up the pieces and start again when you lose your best friend?

Kite Soloman is a typical teenager. Just a few weeks off her her sixteenth birthday, she is balancing a hectic schedule of school, hobbies, revision and socialising. Her days are jam packed, her phone always buzzing with a text or a Facebook update - particularly from her best friend and neighbour, Dawn. The girls have grown up together, and share everything. There is nothing about Dawn that Kite doesn't know.

But on the eve of the girls' first GCSE exam, clever, beautiful, talented, Dawn kills herself. And Kite's life shatters.

In a desperate attempt to help their daughter grieve, Kite's parents take her away from the intensity of her London life and constant reminders of her beloved friend, to the calm quiet of the Lake District. There is no phone signal and no internet, just peace, quiet and beauty. Her father is trying to trace his family history, to learn more about his past. Kite is desperate to forget hers. Unable to talk and unwilling to listen to advice, Kite begins to see Dawn everywhere. In the landscape. In her dreams. She is conflicted, filled with guilt over what has happened, anger at Dawn for leaving her and fear of facing an unknown and unpredictable future alone. Who is she without the best friend who has always defined her?

I received a copy of Kite Spirit by Sita Brahmachari for review from Macmillan. Although I quite enjoyed reading this book, I felt it would have been better if there had been parts written from Dawn's perspective. Kite Spirit focused more on how Kite was affected by Dawn's death, rather than how Dawn felt and why she committed suicide. I didn't particularly like the parts where Kite felt Dawn's spirit, as I think they could have been done in a slightly more subtle way. I love the cover of Kite Spirit, as although it could be a very solemn story at times, the vibrant colours and patterns represent the journey of the main character, Kite, quite well. Even though there were a few parts that I didn't enjoy as much, I would definitely recommend Kite Spirit by Sita Brahmachari!
