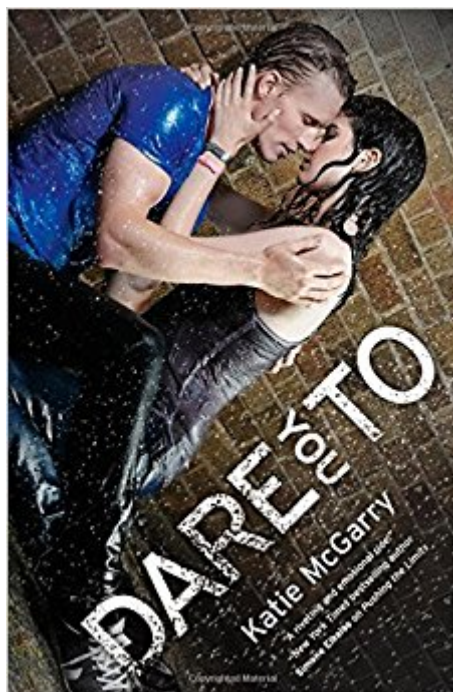


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Dare You To



Synopsis

"I dare you…"
If anyone knew the truth about Beth Risk's home life, they'd send her mother to jail and seventeen-year-old Beth who knows where. So she protects her mom at all costs—until the day her uncle swoops in, and Beth finds herself starting over at a school where no one understands her. Except for the one guy who shouldn't get her, but does.
Ryan Stone is the town golden boy, a popular baseball star jock—with secrets he can't tell anyone. Not even the friends he shares everything with, including the constant dares to do crazy things. The craziest? Asking out the skater girl who couldn't be less interested in him.
But what begins as a dare becomes an intense attraction. Suddenly, the boy with the flawless image is risking everything for the girl he loves, and the girl who won't let anyone get too close is daring herself to want it all….

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 10 Up-Narrated from alternating viewpoints, this contemporary novel tells the story of 17-year-old Beth, a troubled "skater girl" with a hard past, and Ryan, a high school jock with a seemingly perfect life. It all starts at a Taco Bell in Louisville, Kentucky, when Ryan's friends dare him to get Beth's phone number, and she turns him down. Their lives become intertwined after she is uprooted from her abusive home by her uncle and is forced to move to a small town and transfer to Ryan's school. At first he sees it as an opportunity to win the dare, but she resists his offers of friendship. Nonetheless, the two gradually fall in love and learn to trust each other with their secrets, which is equally difficult for both of them. The characters are well developed. The use of drugs, profanity,

and violence make this title edgier than a typical teen romance. The plot often feels drawn out, and Beth's constant attempts to run away throughout the book will likely frustrate readers. However, young romantics should find the story engaging.-Candyce Pruitt-Goddard, Hartford Public Library, CT
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Beth is living on the edges of her mother's drama of addiction and abusive relationships when her uncle rescues her and whisks her off to tony Bullitt County High. There she collides with Ryan, a star athlete whose family is socially and politically prominent, and sparks fly. Using the same setting from her previous book, *Pushing the Limits* (2013), and including some of the same characters, McGarry revisits the concept of star-crossed love with teens that have vastly different secrets to hide. (Ryan's Instagram-perfect life is darker than it seems.) The gritty details of Beth's mom's drug-and-alcohol addiction will draw in readers of Ellen Hopkins' similarly themed titles, and those who love tangled romance will find plenty to enjoy. While the titular dare that draws Ryan and Beth together is fleeting, their connection is anything but. Recommend this one to fans of Simone Elkeles' *Perfect Chemistry* series. Grades 10-12. --Erin Downey Howerton --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I have been dying to read *Dare You To* ever since I finished *Pushing the Limits* and discovered that we were getting a companion novel. I needed more from Katie McGarry and I was very curious about Beth's story. While I admit that I liked Noah and Echo's story more, I still really loved Beth and Ryan's story. It was heart wrenching and emotional and it hurt, but I loved every single second of it. Beth is a very very tough character. I admit that I struggled with her character a lot, especially in the beginning. It was very hard for me to connect with her, not because Katie didn't portray her well, but because her situation is very extreme. I was fully invested in her story and I truly sympathized with her, but I still struggled with her at times. I wanted all the good things for her, but she really frustrated me. Ryan I absolutely loved. He was so sweet and caring and his feelings for Beth unwavering. I was able to connect with Ryan in a way that I couldn't with Beth. He is so strong and determined and losing is not an option. However, Ryan has a difficult life as well. Not the same kind of difficult as Beth, but his life is far from perfect. I really love that this story is focused on two very different kinds of imperfect. We have the imperfect that everyone can see and immediately judges without second thought and then we have the imperfect that nobody knows about but can be just as harmful. Neither Beth nor Ryan has a good home life. Neither have parents with their best interests

at heart. However, both Beth and Ryan have someone who truly cares, it is just a matter of them letting their walls down and seeing that someone does care. I loved how their journeys and growth were parallel and almost the same but in very different situations. The plot in *Dare You To* hurts and it is very emotional. However, it will also take you by surprise. This one didn't pan out exactly the way I expected it to and I mean this in a good way. I knew the ending would hold a twist, but I never thought it would be this twist. On that note, the ending is also very sweet. I definitely had a good amount of awww moments. Despite me spending a good portion of the book wanting to strangle Beth, I still absolutely love this book. From beginning to end, I was invested in the story and it took a lot to pull me away once I got sucked in. This is a series I recommend to all.

I really loved Katie McGarry's debut, *Pushing the Limits*, when I read it earlier this year and was excited to see what she did next. I was intrigued by Beth's character in the first book and wanted to know more about her. I will admit I was hesitant about *Dare You To* because of the fact that Isaiah was not going to be her hero and that I wasn't sure if McGarry could repeat the same magic in a second book. But, my fears were for naught because I found this book to be just as moving and entertaining as its prequel though it was very different in tone. Beth Risk was a difficult character to understand in *Pushing the Limits*. All readers knew about her was that her mother had an abusive boyfriend and that it was greatly affecting her life. I thought Beth was hard to connect with at first. She has major trust issues which comes across even in her narrations. In this book, she gets into some trouble and is forced to move in with her paternal uncle who she hasn't seen in almost ten years. But, I did get used to her voice and really came to care for her by the end. She is a teenager who has had a rough life and is reacting to it in a realistic fashion. Ryan Stone, at first glance, seems to have the perfect life with his good grades and skills on the baseball diamond. But, it becomes obvious that things are falling apart for him. His parents's marriage is on the brink of disaster and no one talks about his estranged older brother who is away at college. He is attracted to Beth from the moment he met her and did everything he could to gain her trust. I really fell in love with Ryan. He isn't tortured in the same way that Noah from *Pushing the Limits*, but still vulnerable. I came away from the book just thinking that he was a decent guy who wanted the people he cared about to be happy. Beth and Ryan's relationship is an example of opposites attract and is a classic YA storyline with the jock guy falling for the biker girl. But, despite the stereotypical shell, their romance was pretty complicated and sweet. Their chemistry is obvious from the moment they meet even if that moment was full of attitude on both sides. I liked watching them slowly become friends and then so much more. The biggest obstacle for these two was trust, especially on Beth's part, and it was nice

to see it develop. Like in the first book in the series, *Dare You To* has a great cast of secondary characters that help provide background for the main romance. I particularly enjoyed the way that McGarry depicted Noah's friend, Isaiah, who has to deal with his crush on Beth not going the way that he would hope. I am definitely looking forward to seeing him get his story in November. It was nice to see cameos of Noah and Echo who are just as adorable as they were at the end of their book. I also loved meeting Beth's uncle, Scott, who had quite a backstory of his own and all of Ryan's friends especially Lacy. Overall, I was really impressed with Katie McGarry's sophomore effort. Her writing style is as entertaining and thought-provoking as before and she really shows her character development skills with her depiction of Beth. I highly recommend this book for fans of mature YA contemporaries!

This second installment in the "Pushing the Limits" series wasn't as angsty as the first book (*Pushing the Limits*), which I liked. At the same time, though, Beth and Ryan's story doesn't pack the same emotional punch. That's not to say it's not chockfull of melodrama: Beth has a truly horrible backstory, trying to keep her addicted mom away from an abusive boyfriend, when her mom doesn't want to save herself or Beth, either. When Beth gets arrested (taking the fall for something her mom did), a long-lost uncle swoops in to take her to the suburbs for a better life -- but like her mom, Beth doesn't exactly want to be rescued. Also, living in a bible-thumping backwater isn't her idea of a better life. By comparison, Ryan is living the dream: steadily (if not happily) married parents, popular at school, good grades, champion baseball pitcher being courted by professional and college scouts. Yet Ryan's life isn't as charmed as it seems: his older brother was disowned after coming out of the closet, and in the wake of that scandal, Ryan's nuclear family is in the midst of a nuclear meltdown. I liked Ryan. I liked Beth. I enjoyed most of the individual subplots of this story. On the whole, the writing was well done and the plotting was tight and well-paced. I just didn't really feel Ryan and Beth as a couple, and I'm not sure why.

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