



Kane Richards Must Die

Shanice Williams

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After an unexpected transfer to the States for her senior year, Suranne's new friends give her just one instruction: stay away from Kane Richards. According to everyone, he's a heartless playboy concerned only for himself. With one glance, it's easy to see why he gets away with it. But things aren't always what they seem- especially when he sets his sights on her and whispers that she's different. Despite all the red flags, Suranne considers whether or not his intentions are genuine or if she's simply another name on his list. In the process, she may just uncover the real Kane Richards. But, when it comes down to it, the real Kane Richards may not want to be found. Filled with raw emotion, Kane Richards Must Die explores relationships, trust, love, and what can happen when life takes an unexpected turn.

Kane Richards Must Die Details

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Author : Shanice Williams

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From Reader Review Kane Richards Must Die for online ebook

Victoria says

Oh god this might be one of the most annoying and worst books I've ever read. Please take my advice and don't waste your time on this book UNLESS:

- 1) you are a teenager who has never read a book before in your life for pleasure (therefore you have never had the pleasure of reading a book with a better plot)
- 2) you love the whole bad boy and sparkly-new-girl-who-happens-to-be-oh-so-different romance
- 3) you want a very very quick read with a super shallow plot (that's what I wanted so I can't guarantee that it will satisfy you)

About five chapters in I was hoping that Suranne wouldn't be like all the other girls and fall all over Kane but nope that's not how it went

This relatively juvenile plot would be ok for younger teens like 14 and under but honestly, with the amount of cussing and sex I wouldn't want any middle schooler reading this

The language was a bit funny (no American that I know says "piss off") and seriously, does the author think all Americans just cuss that much and says f*** all the time?? I don't know about you but saying the f-word in my high school would automatically get me sent to the principal's office. The use of the f-word earns a NC-17 rating - I dearly hope little middle schoolers aren't fooled by the summary

Next: the title has nothing to do with the story - entirely misleading if you think it'll be like the movie. In fact, the movie is sooo much better than this book so I recommend you skip this book cause the movie's plot is actually a lot more interesting and worthwhile and probably won't get you riled up like me that you have to rant

All the while I was thinking - does the author wish Suranne was her or something??? Cause it certainly seemed like she wanted to be this British bombshell with the "hot accent" and catch the attention of the hottest douchebag in the school. Like WTH??

Then you find out that little Kane just loves piano too, but what song does the author choose? River Flows in You or whatever by Yiruma which happens to be the most cliché answer for anyone claiming that they like "classical" music - *oh please*, half of the high schoolers in my school claimed that they love classical music and name Yiruma as their favorite composer - this fact made me even more mad. Besides this, the other little redeeming quality about Kane is that his mom is a drunk and his dad died so he's been messed up by that (i don't remember if i'm right, but i think at one point he calls his little sister dipsh** either that or he was calling his mom that) - like wth? nice try, but another plot cliché (other authors do tortured/damaged heroes with a lot more depth and handle it a lot better without creating the douchebag that is Kane)

AND THEN I looked up the author and now I understand!! she's super young, from the UK and has no experience in writing

NOT that she doesn't have potential in being a great author, but seriously, better books than this deserve to be published

It seemed like if the author took a different direction it could have been a MUCH MUCH better book

Wendy Darling says

Possibly the most juvenile, cliché-ridden YA novel ever written.

Paige Bookdragon says

Do not fucking read this book. Stay away from it like you stay away from those person who has cooties.

Good God. Is there any non-fantasy YA heroine who doesn't go stupid over a gorgeous boy who doesn't give a flying fuck to anyone but himself? I don't know why I add this one in my TBR pile, maybe I drank too much coffee one day and I just clicked this little shit here in GR without thinking about my mental well being, I don't know but I sure as hell know that this book deserves to be DNFed.

The only reason why this book is in the YA genre is because the setting takes place in high school, land of the hysterical shallow girls and perpetually horny boys. If this took place in college you can bet your sweet ass that it will be that annoying NA romance that I hate.

Let's start why this book made my blood pressure took a hike early in the morning.

1. Typical "NA" heroine was converted into a more immature YA heroine.

You know those "I'm new here so half of the girls wants to be my friend while the other half wants to slit my throat. Let's not forget that most boys wants to get into my pants but I'll just lightly flirt with them because I'm secretly pining for that douche guy who I publicly hates" type of heroine? Yeah, the heroine in this book is exactly like that. God have mercy on us.

2. What's worse than an arrogant NA hero who thinks its cool being the douche playboy? When that NA hero was turned into a YA hero.

Self explanatory.

3. The plot was too much.

Too stupid. Too cliché. Too annoying. I feel like kicking someone just by remembering what I've read.

I stopped reading after chapter three and skipped to the last two chapter to see if it become better but it's still as horrible as ever.

I feel like I've suffered enough stress for the whole week so I decided to stop the torture and feed my baby dragons instead because the number of fuck that I gave in this book after that is equal to the number of times Leonardo DiCaprio won the Oscar.

So sayonara sucker, I won't miss you.

Sadie (formerly known as Lennongirl) says

I don't even know what to say. This book made me angry - not the good kind of angry, the kind you feel because of evil characters, unfair fates or something. No, this wasn't being angry because of compassion, because this book offered me nothing to care for. I was just angry at the book itself. I usually don't write lengthy review about books I didn't like - but this one, like I said, made me angry and I needed an outlet. So, here we go. Keep in my mind this is just **my** humble opinion, though.

It could've been such a sweet story: Despite her better judgement, the innocent girl falls for the apparently bad, but very hot guy (who's not really bad, just broken, you all know the drill). It's a popular storyline that's been done countless times before, and all other version I've read so far were better. The DUFF, for instance, or Perfect Chemistry. Jeez, even Twilight does it better.

So what's wrong with this one? Three words: Shallow, flat, unrealistic. You know, after reading the first chapter, I actually thought this was supposed to be crack. Like a YA satire or something, *Not another Teen-movie*, that kind of stuff. I was excited! I was sure to love it! Then I noticed it was... not a satire, but all serious. And it all kinda went downhill from there. A few more details go under a spoiler cut: (view spoiler)

I could go on and on, mention other examples, but you see where I'm getting at. Basically, the lead characters are both annoying, bland, unrealistic and unsympathetic. And I didn't feel any chemistry between them. I basically couldn't care less about either of them. Maybe you will. If so, congrats, good for you. If not, don't say I didn't warn you :P

Annette says

Delicious, sexy, hot, intense, hilarious reading! Kane Richards is definitely UNFORGETTABLE!.

The story is a bit cliché, but I'm a sucker for these stories! (I love LOVE) I enjoyed so much Suranne and her bloody words because I am a huge fan of England!.

Sometimes when I was reading the book I find myself reminiscing Perfect Chemistry, so I think that if you liked Perfect Chemistry, this book is for you.

I would've loved if this story had a closure, I think I needed that.

Some scenes were so damn hot! omg! I feel breathless!

Amazing book!

Mundie Moms & Mundie Kids says

I've been looking forward to reading Kane Richards Must Die since reading the premise. What the story offered was something I wasn't expecting. I'm not a huge fan of YA books that are full of sexual context and sex scenes, both of which are throughout this book. Even though there were things that turned me off from the book I couldn't stop reading it. I was totally intrigued with Kane Richards. He is such a broken boy in every sense of the word that I had to know more about him.

I liked Suranne's character. I had sympathy for her when she's forced to leave England while her mom is away on business to go live with her Aunt in America for a few months. Unlike all the other girls in her new high school, Suranne isn't afraid to give Kane a piece of her mind. The two of them had this chemistry where they both despised each other and yet find themselves falling for each other, and I really liked that. It made their chemistry feel more realistic, and yes it's a hot one. The other thing I liked in the story was the alternating points of view, which I thought was well done.

Aside from their physical relationship, I really liked seeing how much Kane changed. Shanice did a great job at keeping a realistic feel in her story, both in what the characters deal with, and how they change each other. Kane's story is heartbreaking and I liked seeing how Suranne is able to break down the walls he's built around himself, little by little, slowly revealing who he really is. Kane Richards Must Die deals with some heartbreaking emotional issues, love, friendships and most importantly trust. I would definitely recommend this to older teens. There is a lot of sexual context, sex scenes and language throughout the book. I think fans of The Duff will really enjoy picking this book up.

Hannah says

I really hate writing bad reviews, but this book annoyed me to no end, and I just can't give it anything more than 1 star. Of course I wasn't expecting Kane Richards Must Die to be the most meaningful, literary book ever, but it took the whole fun/thoughtless-romance-thing way too far. Everything about this annoyed and frustrated me, so much that I didn't want to finish it (I only finished it because I didn't have enough other books with me on vacation).

What annoyed me is how melodramatic the whole book is. From the beginning on, it's like the relationship between Kane and Suranne is the only thing that exists in the world. Suranne is new at school and everyone knows about it - everyone's talking about how there's going to be a new girl, everyone knows her name and where she's from. Maybe it's like that at a really small school, but Suranne says the school is so big it's confusing, so that makes no sense. Kane also immediately comes up to her, which I didn't get - what does he need Suranne for, if so many girls want to get with him? How would anyone even know about her? The

whole book is way too focused on that storyline - no other storylines are really explored. Highlight to see spoiler: (view spoiler)

The characters annoyed me. Suranne has absolutely no personality - we know nothing about her outside of her relationship with Kane. We know she plays the piano, because that's what connects her to Kane, but other than that, she has no interests of her own. There are no hobbies, no friends in London she misses, no scenes with friends in the US, no scenes with her aunt, with whom she's living in the US, except for when they're talking about Kane. Suranne has no personality; we know almost nothing about her, and she's our main character! And one little thing: Suranne's last name is Williams, just like the author's. Shanice Williams wrote a book about Suranne Williams. Is it just me, or does anyone else think that's weird?

Kane is just as bad. While he has a personality, somewhat, I really, really disliked him. The way he treats girls is terrible! He doesn't even remember the name of the girl he slept with last night! The stuff he says to them is incredible (I should have gotten a quote, but I'm not reading through it again to find one). He treats girls, including Suranne, at least at the beginning, like objects, and I really, really hated him. Yes, later on we find out about his life, and I guess that explains it, but that didn't make me like him. He's still conceited, talking about how good-looking he is and how he could have any girl he wants, and he's still only interested in sex. It seemed like the author wanted the reader to like Kane, once we found out his secret, but that didn't work for me at all - he just pissed me off. Kane's issues are under-developed and do not seem realistic, and they're solved way too easily.

Another thing that annoyed me about Kane is the swearing. Not that he swears, because that's normal, but the way he swears. He uses swear words in the weirdest ways - I can't even explain it, but it's just not how normal people talk. It seemed like those were used to make him seem like a real teenaged guy, but it didn't work - basically, it's that 'shit' is added at random times in random sentences, and it just sounds off.

The plot is, well, kind of crazy. I thought the plot would be predictable, but that's not the case. There are crazy plot twists, which is a good thing, normally. The problem, though, is that they make no sense. It seemed like the author just made stuff up along the way, like "Oh, now that could happen to the characters", and didn't go back to make sure it worked with what she'd previously written. Of course I know that can't actually be the case - she must have edited, like every author does - but it seemed that way to me. Kane's secret, for example, isn't mentioned at all before he tells Suranne about it. I don't mean that the reader should know about it before Suranne - that would take the suspense away - but... Okay, how do I explain this without spoiling it for anyone? For example, Kane plays the piano at night and says something about waking his family. His secret is a family issue (that's not too big of a spoiler, right?), and because of that what he said makes no sense. The plot-twist with Kate is like that too. There were absolutely no signs for what happened - and I don't mean that in the good, I-never-would-have-seen-that-coming way, I mean that the plot-twists make no sense.

One storyline I would have enjoyed reading more about is Suranne's friendship with Kate, but that's underdeveloped; barely even addressed. Kate tells Suranne to watch out for Kane that first day, and just like that, they're friends. We don't really have any scenes between the two of them; we're just told that they're friends, and they sit together at lunch. I would have liked to read more about how Kane affected their friendship, but that's never even addressed. I was frustrated by how Suranne chooses Kane over Kate without a second thought - what kind of message does that send? The same goes for Suranne's relationship with Lawrence, the one character I could have liked, if there'd been more scenes with him.

Despite these problems, I guess this could have still been an enjoyable read, if the romance were well-done - it is, after all, a romance novel. But I didn't like the romance either. Honestly, I didn't feel like Kane and

Suranne had much of a relationship - it's almost all physical, which is strange, as Suranne supposed to be different from all the meaningless sex Kane has with other girls. There's nothing about what Kane and Suranna like about each other - they just talk about how hot they think the other one is. The attraction is all physical. Really, the only reason Kane goes to Suranne in the first place is because he can't get it up anymore when he's with other girls. They even say that they only spend time in the bedroom. It's not that I mind a few scenes like that, but that alone does not make a good romance.

The whole topic of sex is kind of strange in Kane Richards Must Die. It's not that I mind that the characters have sex - that's normal. But Kane is seventeen and says he's with a different girl every night - and it's been that way since he was fourteen. That's just, well, crazy. Where does he find so many girls willing to sleep with him, at that age? Even if he's as good-looking as the melodramatic descriptions say he is, not that many teenaged girls sleep with guys if they're not getting a relationship out of it - that's just not realistic that there are hundreds of girls throwing themselves at him, willing to sleep with him even though they know it's just for one night. Suranne doesn't address the topic, either - she sleeps with Kane after going out with him once or twice, and she doesn't even think about it. I don't mind that they have sex, but I mind that it's dealt with as if it weren't a big deal at all.

Wow, my review is long. If you've beared with me this long, thank you! Obviously, I did not enjoy Kane Richards Must Die, not a single aspect. It's not a fun romance, it's melodramatic, superficial, annoying and kind of ridiculous.

Reviewed at <http://www.paperbacktreasures.blogspot...>

Jessica says

Alright, I want to start this review by saying that I was specifically asking for a book like this one. My book recommendation request read as follows:

"I'm looking for a YA Contemporary Romance à la Perfect Chemistry, The Duff or The Truth About Forever. Preferably some kind of bad boy falls for good girl story. I won't mind if it's a little cheesy."

While I wouldn't say that I got something similar to The Truth About Forever, I certainly got something that could be compared to Perfect Chemistry (because of the steamy romance) and to The DUFF because of the whole bad-boy-slash-womanizer-with-issues-turns-into-good-guy-with-issues-because-of-a-girl scheme. However, if you liked the books I just mentioned and you're now feeling encouraged to read this, I'd say, go ahead, but I'd like to point out the following first.

You should be aware of the fact that this book is one big stereotype. What you'll get is a rather predictable story about a stereotype bad boy who only uses girls for sex but learns the error of his ways when he falls in love with our stereotype female main character. The language is kinda rough at times and the make-out scenes graphic. And by graphic I mean *really* graphic. Adult Urban Fantasy graphic. Not that I minded, but this is YA, after all, so I considered the porn-ish quality of the make-out scenes noteworthy. If I were a mum and would be reading this together with my daughter (I'm mentioning this because I think one reviewer said something about reading this for her mother-daughter book club) I would die of embarrassment. I mean, there are entire chapters dedicated to sex.

As you can see, I "only" rated this 3 stars, whereas PC and The Duff got a solid 5 stars rating from me (due

to their entertainment value) so, this begs the question: what kept me from liking this as much as I liked the other two? After all, this should have been right up my alley (which it actually kind of was) but there were a few things that bothered me. This is a little difficult to explain and I don't know whether you'll understand what I'm trying to say but somehow there was a bit too much of everything in this story. Kane was a bit too hot, the hype around him was a bit too big, Suranne was a bit too smitten, the feelings they had for each other were a bit too strong, they fell for each other a bit too quickly...you see where I'm going with this? I really don't know how to explain this any better than saying that Williams has overdone it a little. If she had knocked it down a notch - the hotness, the attraction, the issues...all of it - then I think the whole scenario would have felt so much more realistic. There was also a lot of eyebrow raising and eye rolling going on on my part while I was reading this. The misunderstandings our two main characters had also felt kinda forced. I remember thinking "Come on Suranne, you can't possibly be that stupid, can you? There's no way anybody would have taken what he just said the way you did!" What I also found weird was that some of the subplots only seemed to be thrown in for good measure since they remained entirely unresolved. (view spoiler)

Another thing that bothered me was Kane's POV. This story is told from Suranne's and Kane's and while I thought the girl's POV was well done, the guy's POV felt very unrealistic to me. I just can't see any guy talking like that. And you know what I really hated? How Kane always referred to Suranne as "*his girl*". I know, this is totally subjective and you might not understand my annoyance with this if you haven't read the book but the constant "my girl this and my girl that" really got on my nerves.

Ok, and then there's one more thing that annoyed me which - again - might be entirely subjective. Kane doesn't kiss girls on the lips. He has sex with tons of girls but he doesn't kiss them. Um...isn't that common practice among prostitutes? I don't know, this just gave me a weird feeling.

Oh, and I also didn't like the ending. It wasn't a cliffhanger, don't worry, but I found it kinda sucky nonetheless. I hope there will be a sequel sometime. *nudge nudge*

I know, I seem to be having an awful lot of complaints but overall I really enjoyed reading this. What can I say, I just totally dig these kind of stories. I hope some of my friends will read this book too, because I'd love to hear their thoughts on this one!

Thanks so much for the rec, Alexa!!! :)

Halyna says

Well, I'm definitely not a teenager and I've read MANY books, so I can compare, and I find this book endearing, pleasant to read and touching! I liked the protagonists, their dialogues, misunderstandings, humour, everything! This is a perfect book for relaxing - one cannot constantly read the books, which have complicated plot and some major issues, so from time to time I, personally, like to read books, that make you smile, have fun and relax! This book provided me a great time, good mood and rest! I enjoyed it immensely!!!

Mari says

After an unexpected transfer to the States for her senior year, Suranne's new friends give her just one

instruction: stay away from Kane Richards. According to everyone, he's a heartless playboy concerned only for himself. With one glance, it's easy to see why he gets away with it. But things aren't always what they seem- especially when he sets his sights on her and whispers that she's different.

Despite all the red flags, Suranne considers whether or not his intentions are genuine or if she's simply another name on his list. In the process, she may just uncover the real Kane Richards. But, when it comes down to it, the real Kane Richards may not want to be found.

This book was a pain to read. Kane Richards is a womanizer. He sleeps with girls whose names he can't even remember and treats them like crap. Said girls don't mind though because he is so gorgeous. Enter Suranne, a transferee from London - she's beautiful, sexy and has a killer British accent. She sees for herself how much of a jerk Kane is but she can't help but like him because as the book mentioned about 20 times now, he's absolutely gorgeous! Blech. We learn afterwards that Kane has been dealing with a lot of issues at home - his father's death, his mom's alcoholism and trying to take care of his sister. As if these things provide enough excuse for Kane to act as horrible as he has been towards other girls. Of course Suranne understands! He trusts her. He's never felt this way towards a girl in quite a while, yada, yada, yada. I've had enough of these two at this point. A couple more stuff happens but I couldn't care less. I thought both Suranne and Kane were unlikable. And the amount of swearing in this book is staggering! Not to mention the sex! I mean, I don't have a problem with reading about sex, even in YA - I liked Echols' Forget You and loved Keplinger's The DUFF - but in these two books previously mentioned, sex was presented tastefully. In Kane Richards Must Die - not so much. It was like a Harlequin Blaze novel disguised as YA - with crass, cringe-inducing talks about hard-ons and touching crotches. LOL.. Also, the title didn't make sense with regards to the story. Maybe they wanted the title to be catchy. I thought I was going to get a rehash of the storyline from John Tucker Must Die but boy, I was wrong. It was worse.

Tash says

Okaaay. This book annoyed me. BIG TIME. This book is full of kiss, sex, kiss, kiss, sex, sex, sex. I also saw the author's attempt to put family issues in it.

Suranne move to the states 'coz her mom needs to work somewhere(I don't remember where). She moves in with her aunt. Suranne met Lawrence and Kate at the first day of school. Lawrence, Kane's best friend (i didn't see that anywhere in the book) and Kate (a super fan of Kane) warned her about Kane Richards. And TADA! She didn't listen to them. She fell for him. They say Kane sleeps with different girls every night but he doesn't kiss them in the lips. When they met, Suranne told him she won't sleep with him and he just said "Okay". After weeks, they kissed on Suranne's porch. They became together as in really together.

Kane's dad died three years ago, his mom is a drunk and he has a twelve-year old sister. That's why he is unstable. He can't say 'I love you' to Suranne. When he finally does, a few days after, Suranne relieved a phone call from her mom telling her to go back to UK. Turns out, her mom was sick and was away because she needed to be cured. Suranne goes back to UK. Kane's left empty. Two months later, after the graduation, Kane buys a first class, one-way ticket to Gatwick, London.

Read this book if you want to. Just don't expect so you won't be disappointed.

Ari says

I usually don't write reviews when I don't really like the books. I think that the author made a great effort to write a book and I would be somehow mean to her/him by saying bad things about her/his work.

But for the same reasons I wanted to read the book some others might as well, and i wouldn't want them to be as disappointed as I am now..

So, here's my piece of advice: Read it if you think that this book is *your* type, but not because other people compared it with some books you liked in the past.

Now, about **the book:**

I wanted so badly to read it because i've seen many comparisons with Perfect Chemistry and The DUFF (2 books that i got to love) and because the premise was sort of intriguing (I love to read love stories and I love the bad-boy-turned-to-good scenario even if it is getting kind of old).. you can see clearly my disappointment about this one.

One word: shallow!

The characters are ~~two~~ one-dimensional (I never really got the idea of 2-vs-3-dimensional characters into the other people's reviews, but i can see it now so clearly). There is almost nothing you can say about them.. They felt as flat as the printing paper.

The girl: she was stupid, misunderstanding everything, having no personality at all (not much pride either), falling in love with someone just because of his good looks (come on, this is really getting old) - or maybe because the others told her to stay away from him. She barely saw him in the distance and she *knew* why girls love him so much - yeah.. it is because of his personality *of course*.. NOT! (not to mention that he treats her like hell even when they are a couple, but she loves him so she can't be mad at him) (view spoiler)

The guy: Ok, this is complicated.. He was supposed to be perfect, and he was perfectly wrong in every single way.

I understood the bad-boy act in Perfect Chemistry mostly because of the gang thing (in fact I had a good friend playing the bad-boy role just because he had a reputation to maintain, even though he was a sweetheart when you knew him better - no gang included).

Also I kind of understood the man-whore in The DUFF because I could see in a way why girls fell in love with him - he was smart, described as being really-good-looking, and charming.. i could see it in the book, in the conversations - at least he treated the girls he wanted to sleep with in a good way (or so I remember, maybe I need to read that book again).

I should also mention that in both books the chemistry was amazing, the intimate moments tastefully described, and the stories kind of sweet. Those books kept you wanting to read more, the characters were smart and funny even with there flaws, you could enjoy reading their story - and if you didn't, I can't really imagine why would you enjoy this (or enjoy it more)

Now back to this book... this is nothing like the books above. And the male character is nothing like the guys before him.

He treated girls horribly.. not only the ones he didn't like, or the ones he wanted to sleep with but had no further interest in them, but also the girlfriend(s). He was mean with no reason, annoying, always complaining, always doing the wrong thing, and I couldn't care less about the reason he acted like a jerk (view spoiler). This being said I wouldn't like this guy not even if we were the last to people in the world or our life would depend on it.

At the beginning I thought that maybe I will find something good about him in his POV, but I got so mad at him for being such an egocentric, selfish, perfect jerk that I wanted to punch him so badly.. I don't remember the last time I hated one of the main characters this much.. I understand the title of the book.. really!

And what about the 'I don't kiss girls on the lips' thing? That was king of weird, and had no purpose other than making the girl special because he kissed her and only her (how lame is that?)

The story:

I had a hard time getting over the first part when everyone kept telling her to stay away from him - it was not realistic at all (imagine that you just talk to someone for the first time, is this the only thing you could tell her: to stay away from X???). And who did it? The man-whore's best friend and Kate (view spoiler). I must tell you that I never felt bad for Lawrence (I hope I got his name right) because he liked our girl but never said a damn thing to her. He felt miserable but didn't even try, not for one moment, not even in the beginning - he also *knew* that she was going to *love* our guy, so he never made an attempt to win her heart. My best guess, he had a very low self esteem.

The rest of the story didn't impress me much - I didn't feel the connection between the main characters, I didn't understand why they did fell in love with each other, the reasons for why they broke-up where kind of silly and the resolutions where not so different.

So I had almost no feelings at all (do annoyance count?) - I didn't feel happy for them, I wasn't sad either.. yes I was rolling my eyes from time to time and I skipped some pages near the ending, but being bored is not what I was looking for while reading this book.

PS: don't even bother asking if this book is somehow similar to the movie "John Tucker Must Die" .. there is NO relation between them - *not that it is a bad thing* (but at least the movie was funny.. really silly, but also kind funny)

This review can also be found at ReadingAfterMidnight.com

Katrina Passick Lumsden says

If someone were to ask me to sum up my feelings about this book in one sentence, that sentence would be, "I truly wish I hadn't spent \$7.99 on it."

The premise is pretty standard YA romance fiction; pretty new girl at school, hunky stud, undeniable attraction, hurdles, problems, sappy revelations, etc. This particular story, however, was a bit too over-the-top for me. I prefer a little subtlety in my writing, and this book wouldn't be subtle if you ripped out every-

other-page.

Suranne is desperately attracted to Kane while at the same time being repulsed by his cockiness and misogynistic nature. He uses girls like tissue, tossing them aside when he's had enough of them, but this doesn't stop Suranne from desperately craving his "deep brown eyes that swirled with a thousand passionate emotions". MY eyes were rolling every time this sort of description of Kane's eyes was used (which was far, FAR too often).

Kane Richards is the "perfect" hunk, chiseled features, perfect face, voice, etc., etc. There's just one little problem; he's a complete ass. It's OK, though, he's got a REASON to be an ass. His daddy died in a plane crash three years ago and his mommy is now a drunk. He uses alcohol, drugs and sex as an escape from his terrible home life, in which he tries desperately to avoid his drunken mother while protecting his younger sister, Ashley. In the beginning, he wants to bag Suranne and treat her like all the others, but she resists him and, his curiosity piqued, he soon realizes he wants more from her than just a one-night stand.

The first indication that things were not going to go well occurred maybe a quarter of the way into the book, when Kane showed up at Suranne's house in the middle of the night because he couldn't sleep from thinking about her. It was well known that Kane didn't kiss girls on the lips, so imagine Suranne's surprise (and twisted sense of pride) when Kane kissed HER. The following day at school, however, Kane has decided he doesn't need the complication of a girlfriend because he has his mom and little sister to look after, so he pretends to be cozy with some other girl right in front of Suranne.

Let the emotional games begin.

A few scenes later, Kane and Suranne are sitting on a park bench together after Kane has summoned Suranne there via text message to "explain things". Kane has decided to let Suranne in. He has decided this after having spoken maybe thirty sentences to her over the course of two-three weeks. So in one fell swoop, the readers are asked to suspend their own knowledge of emotional trauma and believe that a guy who's been repressing his feelings and shutting people out for three years will just open right up to someone he barely knows. Right.

To top it off, there's another reason Kane uses girls instead of trying to form a meaningful relationship with any of them; the last girl he thought he loved broke his heart. The entire story surrounding said relationship is completely ludicrous. They were 14 years old and had been together seven months.

Yes, you read correctly; 14 years old and seven months. This apparently soured Kane on relationships completely....because, as we all know, ending a relationship of seven months at the age of 14 is just as painful and disillusioning as a divorce.

Seriously, it was THREE YEARS LATER AND NEITHER OF THEM HAD GOTTEN OVER IT.

I understand and am completely OK with providing some latitude for emotional baggage, but the other characters in the book (try everyone except Suranne) censured Kane for his "quirks" without once wondering if things were OK at home. And Suranne? She allowed him to use his emotional baggage as an excuse to treat others like crap. The one person who DIDN'T allow him to do so (his ex-girlfriend, Kate) was looked on in a negative light for "abandoning" Kane when he'd needed her most. It's as if Ms. Williams decided to tell all teen girls that, despite anything to the contrary being asserted over the past twenty or so years, it is NOT OK to leave an emotionally abusive relationship if your boyfriend is in terrible pain. As long as he has an excuse, you should stick by his side and allow him to treat you however he chooses.

This is further evidenced by the scene in which Kane is dealing with the four-year-anniversary of his father's death. He had asked Suranne to come over and be with him to help him through it, but when she shows up, he's drunk, angry, and dangerous. He frightens Suranne. She tries to tell him she loves him to bring him out of his self-pitying state, but he doesn't respond. The following day, she is understandably upset. Not because he was drunk and acting as if he might physically assault her, but because he wouldn't tell her he loved her. To make matters worse, Kane apologized to Suranne by saying, "That wasn't me". Isn't that the rallying cry of nearly every abusive drunk and their enablers?

The characters in Kane Richards Must Die are insanely dysfunctional, unabashedly selfish, and unbelievably shallow. Kane and Suranne's entire "love affair" revolves around two things; lust and an interest in playing piano. That's truly all there is. They both play piano and enjoy music by Yiruma, and neither one of them can keep from checking the other out. That is not love. While I appreciate the fact that lust is generally how most relationships begin, especially in adolescence, I find it insulting when an author expects me to believe that two teenagers have found "true love" based solely on their mutual fondness of each others' anatomy.

The writing was trite, the situations void of any real feeling, the implications frightening, and there was an overall feeling of being rushed. It was almost as if Ms. Williams wanted to get her readers through the story as quickly as possible so they wouldn't have time to dwell on any of its obvious shortcomings. It is impossible to like anyone in this story as those who are even remotely developed are truly horrible people. Kane is an abusive, self-pitying, emotionally manipulative baby and Suranne is silly, shallow, and passive. The only time she shows any real backbone is when she breaks up with Kane, but she does so for entirely the wrong reason; his aforementioned failure to speak those three little words.

I tried. I tried to like this book. With every new chapter, I kept hoping things would look up, but they somehow just managed to get worse. In the right hands, this story could have been really good. Given the material and premise, it could have been on par (or close) to a Sarah Dessen novel. The characters could have learned, evolved, and matured to a state of comprehension previously unknown to them. It is obvious, however, that Shanice Williams is no Sarah Dessen.

Edit: Have recently learned that Ms. Williams is a mere 18 years old, which helps explain the severe lack of emotional maturity in her story. One can only hope that if she continues to write, she considers tackling deeper subjects with a little more realism and a little less melodrama.

Katherine says

I got this book from one of the giveaways. I was very excited to read this book, but to be honest im dissappointed. Books these days are all about looks, why do all the guys that are the protagonists of the book NEED to have excessivly great looks. Cant they just be good looking, do they have to be model looks and all that crap; its unrealistic. Even though Lwerence was so nice to her from the start, nah shes gotta have the guy thats a dick and has the best looks in the school. This book, like most books that are out these days reminded me of twilight. They all have the same kinda story line (of course with some differences); girl goes to new school, her mum has sent her to go live with her aunt (not uncle as in twilight) there is a sexy guy, he wants her. Her guy friend gets jealous cause he likes her. Guy and girl get together, its a huge statement when they get to school and all that crap. Also Kane plays the pinao also a connection to twilight. Anywho ill move onto the details of the book; Kane Richards is the biggest manwhore there ever was, he sleeps around with

all the girls at their school.

One thing i didnt like is how Suranne called all the girls he ever had sex with slags, i thought that was a bit harsh and really thought Suranne was bitch at that moment. I like how she thinks she is different but she ends up having sex with the guy after 2 weeks :S which i think is a bit quick and is head over heels in love with him. It all moved so quickly, very unrealisitc and i dont think it is portraying a good image for girls.

The thing that annoyies me about books like these is how always the female protagonist falls for the guy so quickly, i mena she just met the guy and everyone tells her hes a manwhore and treats woman like shit but no that just makes herself more interested and she cant stop thinking about him, and after that incident when he shoved her up agaisnt the car when he got jealous, i thought he had real issues!! Thats cause he does; turns out Kane is only a heartless arsehole cause he has it shit at home; his mum is a drunk, and he has a little sis to take care of and his father died three years ago. He just does so many things that pisses me off; example after he kissed Suranne and sees her at school then doesnt want to tell her he has issues so instead he puts his arm around some random chick and walks off with her all cause he was a pussy and couldnt tell her, and then exapects her to forgive him :S Also that incident when he got drunk and was breaking the glasses and screaming at Suranne; i dont know if i could forgive a guy that did that even if you are drunk - no excuse. I would have set lose the guy ages ago, even if you loved him - you cant keep letting a guy treat you like crap just because he says he loves you. Makes me think a little about battered woman syndrome.

Another thing that was silly was the 'kiss thing' that he wouldnt kiss the girls he slept with, and Suranne identified its cause kissing is intimate and represents feelings for the person and he doesnt want that, he just wants to have sex with the girls and not for it to mean anything and after he met Suranne all he could think about was kissing her (of course *rolls eyes*). And he only liked her cause she wouldnt faulter to his charm and cause she made snide remarks about him. She wasnt like all the other girls he kissed the ground he walked on.

I did like the twist towards the end though about howt Kate was his ex girlfriend and his first proper love and them detailing what happened. But i thought that was tight how Suranne thought Kate was a bitch for breaking up with Kane because she coult handle how he treated her like garbage all the time, and would yell at her and not talk to her. She was there for him but he didnt want her, and she couldnt handle it anymore - which is totally understandable!! - and broke it off and only afterwards did he understand that it was his fault but he ended up doing the exact thing to Suranne which his behaviour - he didnt learn from his mistakes!!! But it was okay for him as Suranne stayed with him :S i would not be so forgiving.

Also the ending sucked haha with Suranne having to hop back on a plane to london to go back to living with her mum, and Kane graduating anf going to the airport to get a ticket to london to see her. The book just left me annoyed haha but i didnt mind it, finished it in one night. It was a quick and easy read, i did like that the book was written from two different view, one chapter from Kanes point of view and the next from Suranne (also i hate her name :S) but im sorry that i dont have many good things to say about the book...

Elaine says

Really couldn't take the immature-ish writing style, shallow, annoying characters and cliché storyline. Got to like halfway in the book and just couldn't continue any further.
