

Diary of a Rocker's Kid

Haley Allison

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Madison Daley's father has concealed the truth from her for seventeen years...

Raised on a Kentucky farm, Madison is stunned when a conversational slip reveals her father Michael is a famous '90s rock star known as the Grim Weeper. Michael left the spotlight and his mansion behind when Madison was dropped off on his doorstep by a woman in a black mask. A dark past is revealed, and the only thing Madison isn't allowed to know is her mother's name.

The answers Madison needs can only be found in Beverly Hills...

Though she does hope to persuade her dad to return to the stage, Madison's real mission is to discover the identity of her mother.

But she is slightly distracted—literally—by the boy next door. Giovanni Abate's father is an action film star, his stepdad is a major designer, and Gio has his own claim to fame. Madison catches the handsome, young Italian actor's eye, and their mutual attraction makes for a hotter summer than she ever could have imagined.

Madison hasn't set foot in California since infancy, but a lot of people are certain she has...

After Madison has a makeover, people are sure they've seen her somewhere before, and she is extremely curious about the identity of her supposed doppelganger. As she looks into this strange situation, she's unaware that Gio is hiding a potentially devastating secret.

Could finding the answers she seeks change Madison's life forever?

Or will it just lead to more questions to fill the...

Diary of a Rocker's Kid

"What if who you've always been isn't who you truly are..."

Diary of a Rocker's Kid Details

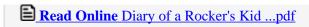
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From Reader Review Diary of a Rocker's Kid for online ebook

Kelsey says

I was not expecting this novel to be as great as it was! Haley Despard really out did herself with this novel, and that's saying a lot as I typically do not like rock romances. Madison Daley thought she was living a normal life for the past seventeen and a half years. When it comes to light that her life isn't exactly what she thought it was, she devises a plan to bring her father, the Grim Weeper out of hiding once and for all from their small Kentucky farm where she's been home-school for seventeen years.

Her whole world changes in an instant when Cass, long time, mysterious friend that appears over the summer to escape L.A at times, things take a twist for potentially the better in Madison's life. The decision to move back to the mansion in L.A is made, and the Daley's jet off to L.A to make it known that they are out of hiding. Once in L.A things change for Mike Daley, Cassidy Knox, and Madison Daley. For once, Madison can interact with people of her own age, and has had virtually everything given to her.

But Madison soon learns that not everything is as it seems when she steps onto the proverbial red carpet of the world of glamour and glitz. Being mistaken for another young woman has Madison reeling. Being abandoned by your famous mother, with no contact for seventeen years makes her the notorious Basket Baby in the Los Angles scene, and she cannot live it down. With a plan in mind to find out who "Mother Dearest" is, and to stay in L.A, does Madison have her work cut out for her?

I loved the entire character line-up for this novel. From Madison Daley, who is sweet, innocent, and untouched from any sort of drama that swarms the L.A area, to Cass who has her own secrets, to Mike Daley who has a LOT of sucking up to Madison to do after his secret is out, to the mysterious woman that is Madison's mother, and so many more! This was a great introduction to the series; angst, with some innocent love, mixed in with a hot Italian actor who shows Madison the ropes of the L.A. scene, I would recommend this book to really anyone who wants a sweeter, more innocent romance novel.

Job well done to Haley Despard on this novel! I am definitely looking forward to the next book!!!

Harmony Kent says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

You're sixteen. You've been homeschooled like forever. You live on a remote farm in Kentucky. And then ... you discover your dad is a famous rock star who owns a mansion in LA. What a great story premise ... I so looked forward to reading this book, especially as I also love YA.

Unfortunately, I didn't connect with it the way I thought I would. Partly because the characters could have been more rounded out than they are, and also due to the fact that major events happen in Madison's life and she just seems to get over it all a little too quickly and smoothly. The book contains some great plot points that could be explored a lot more than they are, but the narrative seems to move on at speed with not even a passing glance in the rearview mirror.

A lot of telling instead of showing goes on, including telling what has already been shown in dialogue.

Delaying the action with 'began to' and 'started to' peppers the text, as do filter words that all put something between the reader, the character, and the story. Some words are way overused, especially 'excitedly'.

Overall, I would say that this is an okay read, and if you like YA and aren't looking for anything too indepth, then you may want to give this book a look. Given that it contains sexual references and events, I would say that this is aimed at the older YA as well as adults. Great story premise and an author with potential.

Ani says

I received this arc for an honest review. So I really enjoyed this book. Great debut novel!! I don't even know where to begin, because I don't want to give anything away. Basically, Madison is kept pretty isolated her entire life. She doesn't know who her mom is, just that she left her with her dad when she was a baby. Mads lives on a farm in Kentucky and is homeschooled by her grandma her whole life. There were a few things that were a little unrealistic, like not questioning your father about certain things that he did that were a little odd. They are pretty strict with Mads about not being allowed to use the internet for a certain amount of time each night, but I suppose it has to do with the huge secret that she finds out about her father being famous. It's a little unrealistic that something so huge could be hidden for so long without townfolk not knowing about the famous rocker, but it didn't deter me from loving this book.

Anywho, so once word is out, she convinces her dad to tell her almost everything. He won't tell her who her mom is, which frustrated the hell out of me, but in a good way! haha! She convinces her dad to go back to his home in LA and from there she meets her hottie famous neighbor Gio, and they seem to hit it off. She's thrown into the spotlight pretty quickly, and not in the best way, but bounces back from things. People keep telling Mads she looks like someone and you think ok, they're going to spill the beans, but they don't. Ahhhh!! So she continues her hunt for her mom. When she finds out who it is, it's kind of crazy and she also learns of a secret from Gio that could tear them apart. There were a couple other things that were a little unbelievable with the whole finding out who her mother is, but I won't go into detail as it would be a spoiler.

As I was reading this, I was dying because I was at the 90 something % range when she finds out some life altering things. So I knew I was going to have to suffer and wait for the next book! I can't wait to read the second book, because I feel like there is going to be so much drama and maybe a little scandal here and there. Really great start to a series and great debut novel!

Philomena Callan Cheekypee says

This was a really great well written story. I thought the author did a wonderful job with her debut novel.

Madison's life is turned upside down when she finds out that her father was a famous rocker years ago. I really liked Madison's father. I was hoping his love for his daughter would get them through it all.

This was a really good young adult read. I ended up reading it in one sitting. Loved the twists and turns. Looking forward to reading more from this author.

Rae Sontheyon says

Rock On! . . And On!

Such an emotional book without being too teary. The author made several great points concerning family, abandonment, relationships and growing up. I loved the book format of both character narrative as well as a blog diary form from the character, which helped bring you closer to the main character in her times of happiness and distress.

For 17 years Madison Daley has lived on a Kentucky Farm with her dad and grandma, having only her best friend Ana and her dad's best friend Cass from California as their family source of outside contact. Madison is itching for a life outside of the farm and to be understood since she is all about Rock 'N' Roll, something her grandma certainly can live without. However, one slip up changes everything for Madison when secrets are reluctantly revealed by her father. Truth is her dad was a huge rockstar and retired when she was dropped off on his doorstep by her mother. Madison realizes her life is a lie and wants answers, but to get them she needs to get to California. In L.A. Madison begins to find the life she could have had including one perk, being a neighbor to a hot Italian boy next door named Gio Abate, who is everything she's dreamed of. While on a mission to find her mother, Madison is constantly mistaken as someone else and she needs to find out why? But the more she digs the more and more Madison begins to question if it's all worth it.

Overall, Loved how many social issues this YA book touched on. Though the author didn't press on any too in depth, a reader would still be able to grasp the purpose behind each moment. Madison's journey into the "IT" life in L.A. is something many dream of but it's definitely something that will drain you emotionally and physically. So seeing an almost adult begin to realize what she walking into is great as too many times tweens idolize the people in the industry without realizing what happens behind the red curtain of fame. The plot of the story was also very unique until near the end when the author initiated a twist that was a bit soap opera for me. However, I can see why she would put that twist in, so there could be more to the series, which I'm actually looking forward to. Why? because Madison is a strong YA character, though she finds her life a lie constructed by those she trusted and loves, Madison regains control of her self and formulates a plan. That pressing on attitude is very hard to do when your world has crashed down around you, and should be admired. So if you are looking to read a book about a girl who is looking to make a name for herself in the rock world but has so much baggage she didn't even know about until she does and then she just finds out more and more and more surprise about her life and family all set in the celebrity world of L.A., then this book would be good to read.

I received a free copy in return for an honest review

-----Read more of my reviews at: http://heyitwasfree.blogspot.com/-----

Carissa Lynch says

First of all, this book has such a unique premise and storyline! I was excited to read it just based on the cover and title alone! Even better news: the book did not disappoint! This is an exciting, emotive young adult read and I devoured the entire book in one sitting which doesn't happen often.

Madison Daley lives a pretty dull life, spending her days on a Kentucky farm and getting home schooled.

She's sheltered, innocent. And then something happens that (literally) rocks her entire world.

Madison's not as "normal" as she appears.

Her father has a huge secret: he's a rock star. A very famous rock star. Not only does she have her father's reputation to deal with, but also her mother's. Essentially known as the "Basket Baby", Madison steps out of her sheltered lifestyle in Kentucky out onto the proverbial red carpet of L.A.

There's love. There's drama. There's even some heart wrenching scenes. The dialogue and characters were so genuine, and I immediately felt connected to Madison.

Great writing, believable characters, and a storyline that will rock your world!

I'm so excited now to read more by this author.

Rebecca Barber says

Madison had issues and deservedly so - after all she was lied to for the first 17 years of her life by the only family she knew existed. Going from small town Kentucky, living with and being home-schooled by her grandmother to discovering your father was once a rock god with a LA mansion and lifestyle to match must be a shock.

After convincing her father to move to LA, Madison is thrust into the world of celebrity which she doesn't really understand at first. Making all the mistakes you'd expect, including an unfortunate social media incident, Madison starts to settle in and make friends - especially with the sexy next door neighbor Gio!

But just when things seem to be settling down and Madison starts to find her way, another bombshell drops

Haley does a brilliant job of putting you in Madison's shoes - from the language, to the heart ache all the way to the need to belong, you feel like you're there.

I can't wait for D.O.R.K Book 2 to find out what twists and turns Ms Despard has install for us next!

Lauren Lolies says

I really enjoyed Diary of a Rocker's Kid! I think the author did a wonderful job of telling a fun story and giving the characters depth.

I stopped reading YA awhile back because a lot of the characters were whiney and immature and the literature itself felt so underdeveloped! When I started D.O.R.K. I had high hopes, but my introduction to the book's star, Mads, left me worried. Mads initially came across as ungrateful and annoying. Fortunatly, the real star of D.O.R.K is the author! Haley Despard did a fantastic job of showing Mad's development as a teenager faced with huge, life-changing events. I grew to love Mads and her perspective. Guess I forgot what being a teen was like. ;)

Things I love about this book:

The characters are well-rounded, have depth and make intelligent\sense-worthy decisions.

The relationships between the characters are well established. I instantly felt a connect with Madison's family members because of how she introduced them to the reader.

The story moves quickly and holds your attention. I feel this is really important for YA Lit.

The story was fairly realistic. As a story taking place in the modern world in real time, I was so glad to find that the major events in Madison's life were not so far out of left field that I'd never believe it happened. I could even relate to her situations somewhat.

Great emotion from all of the characters, especially the adults when you consider some of the things they dealt with before the story begins.

Things I didn't quite love about this book:

The diary portions were a bit repetitive from what first-person Mads already said. I started scanning over her entries.

The male heartthrob was a little too perfect and I felt he lacked the depth that the other characters held. I wanted to know more about him, but as the story moved, I lost interest in him. This could be a set-up for the next book in the series though, maybe I wasn't supposed to grow attached?

The plot twists were unpredictable up until the middle of the story. Too many clues were given letting the reader know what the twist was, so there was little surprise when the twist was revealed. I was still excited and enjoyed the plot twists, I just felt like I experienced them before I was supposed to.

Also, I practically speed-read the last two chapters because I was so certain that some super epic twist was going to happen at the end and shatter my world. It didn't. There's great indication that a ton of crazy stuff will go down in the next book, so I wasn't too disappointed. However, the ending did not give me an urgency to know what happens to Madison. I really feel that I will feel that way in the next book though, so I can't wait.

I would absolutely recommend this book! Such a fun read with humor, emotion and lovable characters. Some language and mild\tame sexual content, so depending on the YA audience, it may be slightly mature, but not by much. I cannot wait to see what Madison does next, read this book TODAY!

Lindsay Detwiler says

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review*

The Diary of a Rocker's Kid is an edgy story about a girl discovering her identity and trying to come to terms with who she is. It follows the story of Madison when she learns about her father's secret identity as a rock star. She has to abandon her Kentucky life and is thrown into the rocker's lifestyle, to both her stress and happiness. Along the way, she meets one of her favorite celebrities, Gio, and a romance ensues.

Overall, I thought Ms. Despard did a great job at capturing Madison's character realistically. I truly felt like I was reading about a "real" teenager. All of her hangups on small details and her obsessions over her love life felt genuine. I also thought the dialogue was very realistic. The conversations flowed smoothly and helped drive the plot. I liked Madison's character and found things I could connect with her about, despite our age difference. Overall, I thought the plot was interesting. I would describe it as an edgy Princess Diaries kind of feel, which was neat. Madison lives out many of our dreams--she becomes a wealthy celebrity overnight.

However, she also shows us the price of fame, which was interesting to think about.

The only thing I did not like in this book was the character of Gio. He had some redeeming moments throughout the book, but overall, I found him to be a bit smug. I just felt like Madison could do better. I felt like Gio was sort of a disaster waiting to happen for her...but perhaps that was part of the point. I also wasn't crazy about the ending because I felt like it was way too abrupt.

Overall, this book is a great young adult read. Ms. Despard does not shy away from the sometimes harsh realities of teenage life and celebrity life, which I applaud her for. Her book speaks to contemporary youth, famous or not, and highlights identity issues everyone faces at some point. Ms. Despard forces the reader to explore the idea that sometimes our lives aren't what they seem.

Paula Phillips says

Madison Daley had lived in seclusion all her life and been homeschooled by her Nana on their family ranch along with her Dad, she has always loved music but her Nana frowns upon it and according to her best friend's family - Madison is a bad influence on their daughter. What will happen though when her Dad's friend Cass comes to visits and accidentally spills a secret in front of Madison? This leads to Madison's whole life unravelling as she discovers that her Dad was a former Rock Star who disappeared from the scene never to be heard from again known as The Grim Weeper and it also turns out that Madison was known as The Basket Baby as she was left on the doorstep of her Dad's mansion when she was a few days old. With Cass's help, Madison and her Dad along with Madison's friend head to the LA Mansion but when they arrive it seems Madison is in for some bigger shocks from finding out about her Mother and who she is to finding out that she has a sister and not just any sister but an identical twin called Raven.

Diary of A Rocker's Kid by Hayley Despard was a fun read and if you loved the movie The Parent Trap and It Takes Two like I did, then you will find yourself loving this book and you won't be able to put it down. I am now looking forward to reading more of this series as was hoping for a bit more interaction between Madison and Raven.

Jasmyn says

This was a very fun story! The author does a great job telling the story from Madison's point of view, and I love the look even deeper into her thoughts as she writes her blog/diary posts. She's a suprising down to earth, yet crazy character that just has tons of personality.

Her whirlwind beginning of finding out who her family really is, was written very nicely. I love a good melt down scene when the circumstances call for it. And these definitely did - and one was very nicely provided. It helps keep the character real by showing that even she can become overwhelmed.

There are a lot of typical teen problems in the story - boys, looks, fashion, gossip, friends - but because they are typical I believed them. I did figure out the bug mystery before Madison did, but I think that was mostly

a lucky guess. I'm very curious to see what is in store next for her.

- See more at: http://www.hotofftheshelves.com/2016/...

Movies, Shows, says

I received a free copy for an honest review

Note: This review contains NO spoilers

What a fun read! With well developed characters and descriptive settings, Madison's story grabbed me from the start. Written in a diary-esque style, I got the feel of all the emotions that Madison goes through as the truth about who she is revealed. This story clearly emphasizes the life of a teenager trying to figure out where she belongs in society...be it in the countryside of Kentucky or the glitz and glamour of Los Angeles. This seems to be Madison's dilemma.

After finding out her true identity, she takes to writing to decipher what everything means and what it means to her. Haley Despard has easily conveyed that dramatic teenage feel in this first book in the D.O.R.K. series! Filled with teenage angst and Hollywood drama, the setting does not take away from the characters' stories. I definitely found myself absorbed in Madison's journey to finding the truth about her identity and the family she found out she has. Teens, as well as adults, can relate to these characters, in one aspect in life or another. Because of the complexity and narrative of each character, readers may relate to them and their situation.

Of course, we can't deny that fact with teens, there is always some budding romance. But...what is a teen romance without the complications of a teen drama...haha! This book definitely has that!

This teen drama definitely reads with fun and angst with a touch of substance and drama that is worth reading.

Taylor Henderson says

You can read this review and others on my website. www(.)taylormhenderson(.)com

All readers get to a point in a good book where they can't even fathom putting the novel down for a second. I experienced that multiple times while reading D.O.R.K. This novel had me dreaming about the characters whenever I wasn't reading it, it was just that good. It was like a rock and roll version of The Parent Trap! It took me a few chapters to like Madison's character, as I felt her emotions at the beginning of the novel were extreme, but as the novel progressed they became more understandable.

I loved every character in this novel. Even the ones that we were suppossed to hate! They were just all so real. Despard does a fabulous job of creating loveable characters, and evoking emotion in her readers. She really captured the young adult voice well, which is often hard to do. I wish the second novel was out already, as I am dying to read the rest of Mads' story. Mads is hilarious and like a breath of fresh air. I found myself giggling like a freak a little too often while reading! The only thing that bothered me was that the

underage characters were so easily able to get alcohol with hardly any repercussions. The only time that this actually made me stop and wonder how they got it was when they were out at a club and they ordered a round of shots. This just seemed unrealistic, and I'd have liked to have had some mention of them having fake ID's or something. Other than that, that was the only thing in this novel that I didn't like.

Another thing that caught my attention was how well the editing in this story was done. I didn't find any errors, and that just added to make me love this book even more. I really loved Despard's writing style. She uses the perfect amount of description, and throws in humor and teen angst as well. This novel has been one of the top three novels I have read so far this year. If this books becomes a movie, I will be the first in line to see it. I swear the book was paying in my head as I read! Sometimes I would put my kindle down to go eat, and return thinking that I had been watching something on Netflix! Praise to Haley Despard for throwing a bit of her soul into this novel. I am so grateful that I got to read and review it. I will definitely be reading more from this author, and spreading the word about this fantastic start to the D.O.R.K series!

Chrissy Kagel says

Wow!

A friend if mine told me that I needed to read this book, now I am not a big fan of YA books BUT I was completely hooked. I find it hard to believe that this is the first book written by this author. The story was great! I couldn't put it down and when I had too I was mad. Congrats to this first time author for such an amazing book

Darlene Avery says

ARC Review:

Diary of a Rocker's Kid (D.O.R.K Book 1) by Haley Despard

Diary of a Rocker's Kid focuses on Madison Daley who has lived a 'normal' life for the past 17 years on a Kentucky farm. Madison has no idea that her dad Michael is a famous '90s rock star or that her whole world is about to change.

Madison loves to play guitar and has started writing a daily diary at the encouragement of her grandmother. However, when her world gets turned upside down, she finds that the diary, her best friend Ana, her dad and his friend Cass are the ones who will help protect her and keep her grounded.

Finding out your dads famous and meeting a hot young Italian actor named Giovanni Abate is not all it's cracked up to be. Add to that living in a completely different world compared to Kentucky, and it can all be overwhelming.

Madison is blessed with an amazing dad who loves her dearly, but will his love and protection be enough to protect her from what's ahead?

Fun and angsty first book in the series. The characters were interesting and complex, and the storyline

flowed fast. Be prepared for a major cliffy!

3.75 Fun and Exciting Stars