



## **This is Not a Love Story**

*Suki Fleet*

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When fifteen-year-old Romeo's mother leaves one day and doesn't return, he finds himself homeless and trying to survive on the streets. Mute and terrified, his silence makes him vulnerable, and one night he is beaten by a gang of other kids, only to be rescued by a boy who pledges to take care of him.

Julian is barely two years older than Romeo. A runaway from an abusive home, he has had to make some difficult choices and sells himself on the street to survive. Taking care of Romeo changes him, gives him a purpose in life, gives him hope, and he tries to be strong and keep his troubles with drugs behind him. But living as they do is slowly destroying him, and he begins to doubt he can be strong enough.

This is the story of their struggle to find a way off the streets and stay together at all costs. But when events threaten to tear them apart, it is Romeo who must find the strength within himself to help Julian (and not let their love story turn into a Shakespearean tragedy).

## **This is Not a Love Story Details**

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Author : Suki Fleet

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## From Reader Review This is Not a Love Story for online ebook

### Sheziss says

Why do I have the feeling that only other authors are reading this book?

Sometimes "LOVE" is too small a word.

Maybe this review doesn't make much sense.

Once I heard that a whole life is necessary to make a man but only takes one war to end him.

War is not always a bunch of battles that destroy the world, sometimes someone has lived too much for his years. Reme and Julian have lived too much. Scars run too deep.

I seriously think Suki Fleet is a liar. This is not a love story? Trust no author. Oh my, if this is not love, I don't know what love is. This book is another dimension of the feeling. I love intimist style in a book. I can't help it, they hold me captive every time I read one. It's the style I find the closest to the heart, I find exploring all the hidden corners in the psyche and soul fascinating and spellbinding. I love exploring the details, the colors, the sounds. It makes me feel part of their lives in a way I can't compare with other stories. With just two lines, I knew this novel would be for me. Tailor-made like the best leather gloves. Hypnotic but angsty, sad but beautiful, desperate but powerful. The kind of book where I see devotion in all its glory. Veneration for one human being at its best. Love could almost be tasted like the sixth flavor after umami. The most alike book I can find is Split. I wish there were more.

And I don't even understand homeless people. Much less teenagers living on the streets. I don't care if I don't agree with the characters, I just need to feel them authentic and consistent and understand them. Here I don't understand, at least in the beginning, but I didn't care about that. It's strange because I agreed with them in all their tormented existence. Ironic, how things change with the right words and perspective.

I'm a sucker for YA books but sometimes I feel there is something missing. Like those teens are in their own bubbles, as they should be. But that bubble is the same environment once and again. School, family, friends, bullying. It's like there were metaphorical blinkers that only allow them to see certain things, like the tip of the ice-berg in a real life. It's not that we should see the whole ice-berg, because nobody achieves that. But I'm watching the same part of that ice-berg again and again and it never occurred to me there could be more pieces. I feel a little like Plato leaving the cave and being blinded by the sun for the first time. No, this book is not philosophical, but makes me so.

I don't like beginning a book with an already stable relationship. We don't see how Remeë and Julian meet and we are introduced to them as friends, not lovers. But the feeling is there since forever. Normally I need some pages and several scenes till I am linked with the main character and when the author decides to cut that chance it's risky and even useless. Those who do try to make up for it with flashbacks, which annoys me as the result is not the same at all, since it fades and reaches that vacuous state and sometimes that pretentious streak. It seems like the author is arrogant enough to think you will fall for it and love the story anyway. But when the author does it well, she does it well. Period. She made me care for the characters' lives since the first page, she made me suffer with them and she made me wish their connection to last forever. She made it.

For a story with youth in it, there is too much suffering and too much anguish to consider them just two hardened people with empty stomachs and leathery skin. The sadness drowns everything but Remeë and Julian find in each other a little hope, a hope that they are not ended yet, that they still have a chance, a negligible possibility to have a better life because they already have each other, which means their souls are not wasted yet.

The raw reality sucks everything out like a black hole. But strangely it was all full of warmth and then eroticism unexpectedly appears in the perfect moments. Those instants were so intimate and touching I stopped feeling like an spectator of the show to become the protagonist. I could sense my mouth was dry and my lungs had problems breathing in. If I could have come out of my body in that exact second, I'm sure my pupils would have expanded hiding the whole color of my eye. I can count with the fingers of one hand the number of times I felt my own blood pounding in my ears, and that scene is one of those.

As a proper love story, it revolves around Remeë and Julian. But people are not islands, so lots of characters' paths cross with their own, showing miseries and sadness in a way or another, but also true beauty and generosity. Some of them were despicable, but mostly they gave away a piece of goodness in a city that doesn't welcome outcasts. I can't shake it that we have a concept of poverty that is far away from us. We westernized people think hungry and cold and scarcity don't happen that close, but this reality exists.

Some of those secondary characters are worth being mentioned. I liked Crash a lot. He's deaf and a believable one (I have a long story with deaf characters in books, I'm not going to dwell on it right now). It was funny because Remeë is mute, so when they are together Remeë hears, translates to Crash, and Crash speaks. It sounds like a bad joke, to the point that I even expected the blind person to appear, but he didn't. It just shows that although the dramatic flair rules, you can find amusing situations to keep you above water. And then we have Pasha, the selfless Russian kid, and that enigmatic person who keeps posting Remeë's photo in the streets. We can't forget Gem and even less, Cassey. I was angry at Cassey sometimes, as she helps Remeë and Julian but not enough for me. Still, she does more than anybody else does for them, so I'm not being fair with her. There is kindness out there.

The ending is perfect. I feared during the whole story there would be no HEA, and I was going to be content with anything that wouldn't end up in separate ways or a death. I didn't expect such beauty. There is an epilogue, and I really hate those, as they spoil the whole story with a super sappy scene I regret reading. But here that only page was so amazing and so special I'm at a loss for words. Julian and Reme, I'm at a loss for words.

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## Susan says

Wow.

Ok...I found this book to be overwhelmingly depressing. And it's not because of your typical angst or plot twists. It's just...I have a bit of a soft heart when it comes to homeless teenagers. There's a helplessness there that I can't get past. And it's really really hard reading the realities of what life, and survival, on the streets amounts to for these young people. Not to mention, most of them are in these predicaments because of failures by the adults in their lives. And...now I'm sobbing...

Now the book.

This book was, as you can predict for me, really hard to read. I had deep anxiety EVERY. SINGLE. PAGE. This is not an exaggeration. I was so worried and scared about what these boys would face next. And I didn't want to put it down because I just wanted it all to be read and done with in one sitting...so I wouldn't have to come back to it.

That is NOT to say that this book isn't outstanding and that Suki Fleet, my goodness, isn't really a talented author. Because geez...**the writing in this is SO strong.** I typically do NOT like 1st person present POV's at all. But I was so engrossed in Romeo's head and heart. The words were real, unapologetic, and relentless.

And the title...well, I disagree. Because it is actually, a love story. It's about a deep love and loyalty and at-all-costs connection between Romeo and Julian, two homeless boys on the streets of London. It's about commitment, care-giving, understanding, protection. It's about fear, hopelessness, hopefulness, and moments of joy whenever they can be found. And it's about fighting for just a sliver of a HEA...and that's about all you're gonna get with this book...maybe a paragraph or two of happy...ish.

If you've read Sara Alva's Silent, the book has a similar feel and story. Though I'd say this one is even harder to read...the content much grittier and in-your-face.

Ultimately, if your heart can handle the STORY, then you're gonna want to read this for the really good WRITING. If you're a sensitive soul, you may need to pass.

Also...for those that always wonder w/ YA/NA books, no explicit on page sex. But a TON of adult content.

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## **MaDoReader says**

Aún se siente la bofetada... Maravillosamente doloroso.

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## **Renaë Kaye says**

Well, Suki Fleet certainly knows how to tear someone's heart out.

This Is Not A Love Story is certainly not a love story – it is a story of survival, with the two main characters so in love with each other, that they will fight with all they have to stay together. Two boys (I'd like to call them men, but they are not really), homeless and hopeless on the streets where being alone means you don't survive long. The author has certainly explored the range of emotions a young boy feels when his survival depends on what happens to him hour to hour, and we, the reader, are along for the painful ride.

Told from Romeo's (Remeë) POV, the author is unapologetically honest about what goes on when you live on the street – prostitution, drug use, violence, police, hunger, it all. The story is dark and gut-wrenching, nothing hidden or glossed over. In fact, when I had to leave these two boys on the cold street at about 55% last night so that I could get to sleep, I was heartbroken. I didn't want to leave them out there in the cold.

We follow Remeë's story and his struggle to stay alive, as well as stay with Julian. Julian, the older of the two, takes the bigger burden of them trying to find their way and make it through the night, selling himself and struggling with the pain afterwards. We meet a range of characters on the street too – those who are barely surviving, those who are about to succumb to its dank depths, and those who seem to enjoy the violence. Romeo and Julian find kindness along the way, but not enough to crawl out from where they are.

This is a story I enjoyed reading. I'm not saying I laughed or even smiled, but I couldn't put the book down. I was taken on a rollercoaster of despair that was so vivid, I couldn't find my way out.

I do however have a reserve about how it ended – and be assured there are no OMG moments at the end. This IS a love story, no matter what the title says, but (view spoiler)

But it is a story I recommend to you. I give this author 5 stars and applaud her for writing this novel. It is not a usual romance, and that is a good thing.

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## **Jan says**

\*\*\*\* 4 Stars \*\*\*\*

Available on Kindle Unlimited.

So, here I was, craving a story to rip my heart out.

Oh man, this was hard. Overwhelming and full of heavy emotional content.

I am not really sure, but I believe this story is fiction?? Anyone who knows the answer, please feel free to butt in. With that in mind, I am a bit stunned of how the author managed to bring so much realism into this story. The author was ruthless. No mercy was spared for us.

The way she built the whole scenario of a person who lives in the street was scary real. I felt the cold in my own skin.

There were loose ends though:

.) Julian was a runaway from an abusive home and I get that. But why did Romeo opt to live in the streets? I didn't get it. Did I miss something? Why didn't he give a chance to the system? I understood him not wanting to be away from Julian, the power of love and all... But what about before Julian? I felt this bit of the story a bit murky.

.) Also, I didn't get why Romeo decided to go back to London after finally reaching Cornwall, the place that inspired and gave him motivation for a new start.

I couldn't, for the life of me, get in Romeo's head to make some sense of his attitude. Was he just trying to find a safe place for Julian? A place where he knew if he returned he would find him?

.) Go to a coffee shop, bleeding, and order an English Breakfast after being stabbed. No. Nope. Never. Is that because I am a girl?

All that said, who really care about those loose ends? Not me, I just needed to register them. I feel that my niggles seem too shallow and small when I think of what this story really represents. I am conscious that in many aspects I am a lucky person, but sometimes, as life goes by, I forget that and complain about little things.

This story pokes you right in a sore place and I, for one, stopped to think about all things I take for granted in life. Things that I don't even notice I should be thankful and appreciative for on a daily basis, like a roof over my head, food and a bed.

I need to mention the epilogue. The author smashed! There was no way I could hold my tears.

A solid 4 Stars.

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## Dani says

Ok, I don't even know how to start. **This is a freaking rollercoaster of emotions.** I've been sitting in front of my computer with a blank page for almost 10 minutes trying to figure out the perfect way to pour all my feelings about this book without rambling but I guess that'll pretty difficult.

(I promise I'll try to make this spoiler free and If I make spoiler I'll hide them)

This book pulls very specific strings of my heart. I have a soft spot for kids/teenagers especially those who are homeless. It wasn't an easy read at all; it was overwhelmingly depressing for me. **I had a lump in my throat from the beginning until the end.** It makes me so sad and so angry seeing that kids have to endure these conditions.

Romeo (aka "Reme") and Julian are boys who hadn't had an easy life, they are both **young** and **homeless**. Their condition makes my heart ache. The story is told by Romeo's POV, and Suki does a great job engrossing you in Reme's head and heart.

**There isn't a moment without angst or anxiety,** every page will have you on the edge of your seat. At least that was the case for me.

**I was constantly terrified of what was going to happen next.** Trust me when I say these boys didn't have a moment of peace. I couldn't put it down until I was near to the end because OMG, (view spoiler) Really, I was going CRAZY.

They were living in hell and I really wanted them to be happy. **I was in pure agony and I had to put it down until I knew I could continue without falling apart** because man \*breathes deeply\*, this ain't easy. Right now you have no idea how thankful I am for that epilog.

It's not easy to read about the reality of what it's like to live on the streets. **The difficulties that both Reme and Julian had to go through to survived were strenuous.** My heart bleeds for those boys.

I don't want to completely explain what this book holds and stands because **I went through this completely blind and I think that improved my experience with it.** So, I'll go directly to my rating.

Ok, even though I really like this book, I can't find myself giving it 5 stars for the following reasons:

**\*\*Bear in mind this is a personal preference.\*\***

**The writing.** I found it a bit *excessive*. I realized that Suki tends to give too many details and it kinda pulls me out of the story a bit because it distracted me too much. And here's the funny thing: she did this almost the whole book and I say "**almost**" because when you really needed those extra details she just won't give it to you. **Those in-depth description will disappear as if by magic.** Specifically on the steamy moments.

Speaking of details, **Julian is one of those things that Suki purposely forgot to deeply develop.** I needed to know more about him, (view spoiler)



**I'd have loved to have Jules POV.** It might've added even more angst to the story because we can tell that **he was undoubtedly in pain.** Those who have read may say to me: "pff, Daniela, no please, there's lots of suffering as it is right now, don't ask for more." And yeah, you're right. The story is outstanding just the way it is, but asking for more makes no harm :). (Well, yeah it may destroy our hearts a bit more, but whatever, at this point it doesn't matter anymore)

(view spoiler)

Overall, it's a good book. **There's a lot of unfairness, tension and unpredictable moments that'll leave on the edge.** More than once I thought "What the hell did I get myself into?" but I don't regret reading this book, not even for a second. I'll give it a solid **4 stars** albeit is sad and difficult to read is beautiful and touching.

Don't be fooled by the title. This is not a **TYPICAL** love story, but it definitely **is** a love story.

I recommend this to anyone who has a heart that can handle the story. **Let the journey of angst and tears begin y'all.**

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### **Ryan Santle says**

I. CAN. READ. THIS! I WILL NOT BACK DOWN! MY HEART CAN HANDLE THIS!

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### **wesley says**

I've read a lot of books throughout the years. Hundreds. Probably thousands more for the rest of my life. And although I'd like to remember each story like they're my very own memory -- like glimpses of my childhood; it's just impossible. But there comes a story every once in a while in which no matter how much time has passed, or how many more characters I've met, I will still be able to remember the littlest of details; not everything though, but enough to let me feel the pinch of the things I felt while reading it. A story so powerful, it endures and persists even after reaching the end. This is one of those books.

I don't know where to start really because I'm afraid by trying to describe and explain everything the book holds and stands, I would diminish its beauty to a few words. But I also can't bear to bottle up these feelings which have been ignited by this tale. In its simplicity, it is beautiful. But not in a way where everything is painted in sunshine and butterflies. It is haunting, painful, and heartbreaking. It is a story of survival, longing, and hope.

*"I think about what Cassey said, about needing hope, needing something to hold on to, and I begin to question deeply what I really want. When each day is a struggle to survive, you don't think too much about the future. It's no sure thing. Everyone wants to get off the streets, get a job, be one of them, cross the divide. We just don't know how to do it. That life is separated*

*from us by a wall of glass we're not strong enough to break through and we can't get a purchase on to climb over.*

*But maybe that isn't the answer anyway. Maybe there is another way for us. Maybe we just have to step back, ignore the glass wall completely."*

My heart just bleeds for all of these boys. All throughout the book, I wanted to hug them and shield them from the harshness of the world. How dare life be unfair to them and take away their innocence at such a young age. I felt tormented and helpless to see them so anguished. And yet despite everything, they're still hopeful and iridescent. I am completely at awe as to how *Suki Fleet* comes up with all these beautiful characters that feel so real. As if wanting you to understand and feel their pain. Reaching to you and baring their soul. And written in a way where words are very tender yet they stab you bit by bit.

It is a difficult book to read, I admit, but you can't really put it down. It contains so much angst and sadness, and yet it's very poignant and beautiful. So much unfairness and unpredictability, but so, so worth it.

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## **Justin says**

### **4+ stars**

BRUTAL! If I had to describe this book using just one word, that would be it. I loved it but it was extremely hard to read.

The writing is fantastic but the story itself is so heartbreaking, I had to take breaks from reading it. I can handle major angst in a story because it's usually mixed in with the good times. This book had no good times until the very end.

I loved the characters. The author created these amazing young men and brought them to life on the page. They were so real to me I physically hurt for them throughout the book.

The story is here is no doubt real. Not in the true sense of the word but real none-the-less. Unfortunately even in modern, wealthy countries like the U.S. and the U.K., homelessness is a reality for a lot of people. And it seems LGBT youth are at an increased risk of being kicked out of their homes and becoming part of the homeless population. This blows my mind and breaks my heart. Thank you Suki Fleet for reminding me how fortunate I am. I vow to do more to support charities that help kids like Romeo & Julian.

This story is not for everyone. When Lori recommended it I knew it would be tough, but I still wasn't prepared for just how tough it would be. I think it's a story everyone *should* read but the hopelessness throughout the book may not be for some. The only reason I was get through it was because I was promised it had a happy ending. Otherwise, I think I would have given up early on.

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## **Lena♥Ribka says**

**DNF at 45%**

WOW.

I mean not the same as Susan.

I mean WOW for all readers who managed to finish it.

BUT. I. JUST. CAN'T.

I rushed through the first half of the book not because I ENJOYED it, but because I wanted BADLY this torture to end. On the next page.

But with every page I turned, it was getting worse and worse. AND WORSE. And it was WHY I did something I had never done before- I went to the end of the book and read the last chapter.

HOPELESS.

Then I read the Epilogue. It was kinda HEA(or was it rather HFN?). If someone CAN talk about a HEA considering the subject. It's just a faint light at the end of the tunnel.

(view spoiler)

I don't know if I can say that this book is good written, but for sure it's very powerful in its depressive feeling.

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## **Sheri says**

Do you have favorite authors? I imagine you do, I know I have a list of special, auto-buy, favorite authors. Early in my reading career (yes, I consider myself a professional part-time reader!) I had tunnel vision and only cared about the words on the pages. This works for many and I have no judgment if that's the type of reader you are. However, as I have become a more seasoned reader, I've broadened my focus and I pay attention to the person behind the story in addition to the story itself. I wish to surround myself with honest and genuinely good people, and that includes my literary world. There are valid reasons why I consider myself a Suki Fleet groupie and her ability to proficiently pen a powerful story is only one of them. I think she is a magnificent human and I wish her all the success in the world...and I pray she never stops telling her stories! Now that I've had my fangirl moment, let's move along to this love (#notlove) story.

Did you have a chance to read the blurb? It's extremely informative and expresses the core of this story. If your first impression is a somber tone, you would be correct. The voice is solemn because Romeo's situation is grim. The details are sobering but accurate. If you expect to sail through this story unscathed, you would be sadly mistaken. It's harsh. It's jarring. It's gloomy. But it's true what they say, the clouds eventually dry up and the darkness will fade. There was a thin thread of hope and I held on with all my might. Was it worth it? Absolutely.

**What's to like:** Most of the time I want to escape reality when I read, but every once in a while I crave a dose of an eye-opening tangible tale. Suki is my go-to when I want a heart tugging young adult story. I felt a slow burn develop in my tummy as I journeyed with these two young men and by the time I finished the final pages, I was eager to...do something. I wish I had a staggering bank account I could dip into. I wish I had more time to donate. But rather than wish in one hand all day, I want to use my spark to make a difference, even if it's small. Homeless youth, especially homeless LGBT youth, need all the help and love they can get. This drive I feel is not new, but this story is a stark reminder why the children in our world need our love. Thank you, Suki, for allowing us this intimate peek into Reme and Julian's life, to help us remember those forgotten souls.

**What's to love:** Suki's characters always astound me, so it's no grand surprise that Romeo and Julian are what make this story so spectacular for me. Romeo is vulnerable because of his tender age and his lack of speech but Julian swoops in and gives him something new. Julian loves him. Romeo is uncertain at first. He can't stop his own feelings from burning bright but hasn't concluded if Julian feels the same. He thinks he does, but it's so foreign to him, and honestly, he's not sure he could survive if it's not reciprocated. Many things try to break him but this would certainly do him in. It's hard to focus on the love in this, *not a love story*, because of their staggering daily struggle to survive. But believe me, it's there. They have a connection and a devotion that will take your breath away. I promise it's worth it in the end.

**Beware of:** An overwhelming and oppressive flood of feelings. These teenagers have suffered and suffered and suffered more. It includes all of the nightmares homeless teens battle on a daily basis. This is not a horror *but* it depicts horrific events. It's rare that I make an exception to my rule of balanced angst, but this story gets a free pass. It's not balanced yet it's so poignant I couldn't help but appreciate it. There are possible triggers for some; they all coincide with life on the streets.

**This book is for:** This is not for the tender-hearted reader. It's for those readers who crave an impacting story that will touch you deeply and forever stay in your heart.

Book UNfunk

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## Elsa Bravante says

### THIS IS A LOVE STORY

Y ese sería en realidad el resumen del libro, una historia de amor maravillosa.

Julian y Romeo viven en las calles de Londres haciendo todo lo necesario para sobrevivir, es unas condiciones que hace que te duela el corazón al leerlo porque lo peor de todo es que esa es la vida real de algunas personas. Cuando todo se vuelve muy negro, cuando parece que no hay salida, cuando no hay nada que te motive para seguir viviendo, es lo que sienten el uno por el otro lo que les permite no rendirse y seguir luchando. Y es que lo que sienten Romeo y Julian no es amor, va más allá de eso, se pertenecen absolutamente en una relación libre de egoísmo con unos sentimientos que no pueden ser más puros en un escenario que no puede ser más hostil. Pero, igual que es una historia de amor, es también una historia

sobre lo bajo que puede caer el ser humano en su relación con el próximo, cómo nos aprovechamos, cómo miramos a otro lado, una historia sobre cómo otros nos permiten mantener la esperanza, y sobre todo una historia sobre no rendirse a pesar de todo lo que te pueda deparar la vida.

Hace dos o tres meses no sabía quién era Suki Fleet, o sabía quién era pero leía los blurb de los libros y nunca me decidía a intentarlo, lo primero que me venía a la cabeza es ¿qué deprimente, no? Y *This is a love story* tiene momentos tristes, muy tristes, momentos que me han hecho cerrar el libro hasta el día siguiente y llorar como una niña pequeña. Pero, no es deprimente, y no lo es porque a lo largo de las páginas Suki te ofrece un rayo de esperanza que es común en todos sus libros, un rayo de esperanza materializado en el amor de Julian y Romeo, en la fuerza que te da el pensar en la persona amada y el deseo de, si no salvarte tú, salvarla a ella. Lees y lees y quieres dejar el libro, pero de repente Julian hace algo, o Romeo te hace sentir cómo se siente él cuando mira o toca a Julian, y entonces sigues leyendo hasta que eres recompensada y cierras el libro abrazándolo. Con seguridad no será un libro que vaya a releer, demasiados sentimientos, pero, también con seguridad, volveré mil veces a los pasajes que tengo subrayados.

Una de las grandes virtudes de la autora es hacerte sentir verdadera desesperación con las palabras sin caer en lo morboso, para después hacerte sentir una ternura casi insoportable. Le doy cinco estrellas, pero si hubiera 500 se las daría también. Nadie escribe sobre los sentimientos como Suki.

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### **Amy says**

This book destroyed me. It ripped my heart out, page by page. Slowly. Painfully. Completely. I don't think a book has ever affected me as much as this one. I don't think I've ever cared as much about two characters as I did Romeo and Julian.

This Is Not a Love Story? I disagree.

I think it's very much a love story. It's not a \*pretty\* love story. No rainbows and puppy dogs, just an overwhelming amount of heartbreak and angst. But it's still a love story. It's a forever kind of love that you feel in your soul. It's the kind of love you feel with every fiber of your being. It's the kind of love you can show without saying a word.

Reme and Julian have stolen a piece of my heart. And definitely deserve a spot on my "Favorites" shelf.

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### **Rosalinda \*KRASNORADA\* says**

#### **THIS BOOK!!! THIS BLOODY BOOK!!!**

I don't even know what to say. I gave this one 4 stars when I finished but I feel like I want to give it a million stars because I swear I can't stop thinking about this story and about their characters.

This year has sucked a little bit book wise. I have only read a few great books and most of them are just meh

so it's great to read something so good from time to time.

First of all, let me tell you the author is a liar. Yes, plain and simple. This is a love story, one of the most beautiful ones I've read in my entire life.

We are meant to be ephemeral, like the brilliant sparks from a fire shooting up into the dark, we are not meant to last, nothing lasts, one moment always follows another... the good, the bad, the awfully, fantastically ordinary... and in the looping darkness there's only one thing left to hold on to

I am not going to lie, this book is not for everyone, but if you think you can deal with homeless teens living a complete nightmare EVERY. SINGLE. DAY pls give this one a try because you won't regret the incredible ride.

And because I don't want to spoil anything for you I'd recommend you to read the blurb only and avoid reviews until you give it a try. I only read a couple reviews from buddies I was sure were not spoiling anything and I am really happy I didn't check any spoilers because it made everything so f@cking real. I swear I wanted to adopt them every single page.

One of the things I loved the most about this book is that is like a reality slap. When you are not in the streets and you have a job and food every day you have no freaking idea of what it means being homeless and the author did an amazing job.

I'll never be able to waste the food in front of me. [...] I know there will always be a part of me that doesn't trust the next meal won't be my last

That sentence made me want to go back in time and kick my teens arse every time I said 'I don't like this meal'

And even though I didn't want to talk about their story I have to say something. I loved the proximity between Romeo and Julian even before they got together. The author has a gift to describe every time they brushed against each other, every time Julian hugged Romeo from behind making Romeo feel his breath. Seriously, I got the chills and butterflies in my stomach every single time.

When you've got nowhere else to go, most people just don't want to know. They'd rather you disappeared so they can pretend yo don't exist

Thanks for the ride, Romeo and Julian. You will ALWAYS have a piece of my heart <3

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## ? Todd says

I must admit that **I liked this story quite a bit**, as I found it to be **both interesting and engaging**.

However, as a rule, when I read one of Suki Fleet's stories, I do tend to **find myself at odds with her intensely-descriptive writing style**.

And it's not even that her books are chock full of lesser-used, **\$5 words**, no. She more often than not will use common, twenty-five cent words, but **\$47.00 worth of them**, which I find **completely pulls me out of the story**.

As with this book, **I had to put it down *\*twice\****, which rarely happens to me, before I was finally able to push through and ultimately finish.

Is her prose **poetic and beautiful? Undoubtedly**.

Do I find those extra in-depth descriptions **utterly distracting and frustrating? Most definitely**.

Yes, I do realize this is just **my own personal preference**, as nearly all of my friends get lost in the words as they **wax lyrical about sunsets, cityscapes and the depth of the cold**.

**For me, not so much**. To the point that I really *must stop reading* for the sake of my own sanity. At least for a while.

Instead, in this story, my very strong preference would have been to use those (*many*) additional pages to **learn more about Julian's backstory**, which I found extremely lacking. Plus, more of his history with **Gem and Joel** would have been amazing.

But **the story between Romeo (aka 'Remee') and Julian was stellar** and, as the lengthy descriptions tapered off a bit, I was able to focus on the actual events.

Their story was **as touching as it was tragic**, but I never found it hopeless. Once feelings were divulged, **I never doubted their love for one another**. Not once.

The one thing that I found a bit odd, however, was that **whenever Remee and Julian's feelings turned carnal, all of the tendency to be overly-descriptive simply vanished**. *\*Poof\**, like so much smoke, as those scenes were **either extremely abbreviated or fade to black**.

Regarding **the angst**, that was never a problem for me with this story. I found it, along with the **separations and reunitions**, to be necessary for the believability of their truly dire situation.

I do have to admit, though, that when there was **yet *\*another\** separation at 99%** in the book, **I would have seriously throat-punched someone, if it hadn't been for the epilogue**, which shows Remee and

Julian still together one year later, happier and more complete than ever, living an honest-to-God life together, on their own terms.

Overall, after a few false-starts, I found the story to be **a solid 4.25 star winner**, with the only drawback being the wordiness that was more frequent toward the beginning.

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*This is a \*FREE\* read with Kindle Unlimited membership.*

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