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Promposals are taking over Deacon Locke's high school and there is no place left to hide. But even with graduation looming, shy and unusually tall Deacon doesn't think he can get up the nerve to ask anyone to the dance. Especially given all the theatrics.

It isn't until Deacon confides in his witty and outgoing best friend Jean that he realizes she could be a great person to take. Only problem is Jean isn't your typical prom date. She's older. A lot older. And she's Deacon's grandmother.

But when Deacon meets Soraya—a girl unlike any other he's ever met—he fears he has totally squandered his chances of having a prom he'll never forget. Deacon couldn't be more wrong. About everything.

Deacon Locke Went to Prom Details

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Author : Brian Katcher

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From Reader Review Deacon Locke Went to Prom for online ebook

Rosemary H says

This was so cute! And set in Fayetteville, Arkansas, so I loved seeing all the Arkansas stuff mentioned.

I will admit that I was a *little* bummed when I saw the names of all the FYA girls as Internet commenters and didn't see mine - but Rosemary made her appearance there at the end and I let out a tiny fist pump!

grieshaber_reads says

I absolutely love the premise of this book for many reasons but the biggest one is that everyone can relate to Prom. If you are young, you either can't wait to go or you are dreading it. Everyone who is post-Prom age has a Prom story - either why you didn't go to Prom, what your dress looked like, how hard you partied, what went wrong, etc. Personally, I think about Prom at least 8 months out of every year because I am the Prom co-sponsor at the school where I teach. So, other than the fact that this is a Brian Katcher book so I'm definitely going to read it (I read and love all of his books), I knew I wanted to read this book because it was Prom related. Katcher had me laughing from page one where he begs the question, "Who the hell comes up with these (Prom) themes?" Well, Mr. Katcher, my committee, my co-sponsor, and I do!

Deacon Locke wants to go to Prom but he's a bit of a loner without many friends and he is certainly way too nervous to ask some random girl to go so he gets an idea. Deacon lives with his grandmother, Jean, and they are best friends and she is just a super cool lady. Jean never got to go to her Prom because her fiance (Deacon's grandfather) was fighting in Vietnam. Deacon decides he will take his grandma to Prom. After a sweet Promposal, Jean agrees to go under one condition - that they take dance lessons. Deacon finds that he is a pretty good dancer. But the best part of dance lessons is the dance instructor - the beautiful Soraya . . . Taking Jean to Prom was a huge hit. Lots of attendees take video of Deacon and his grandmother dancing and guess what happens. The videos go viral. Just like that, Deacon is a local celebrity. His life is completely turned upside down. His once very average and maybe a bit boring life is now filled with exciting opportunities and lots of stress. And not just because of the video. He's falling in love with Soraya (and the feelings just might be mutual!), he's offered a spot on a reality show which would mean giving up his first semester of college, and he now needs to start dealing with a reality that he's been ignoring for a long time - his grandmother's dementia. Deacon handles everything with humor and lots and lots of mistakes. The way most teenage boys would.

In typical Brian Katcher fashion, this book is hilarious (Deacon's friend's idea for a sandwich shop called, "Billy, Don't Be a Gyro" had me laughing out loud for a solid minute), clever ("Sometimes I wonder if I'm actually a character in a poorly performing situation comedy. I look up at the ceiling and beseech the writers for a romantic subplot"), and sweet ("But it doesn't stop me from hugging Jean and crying. I can't sit in her lap, of course, but I kind of squat on the floor and let her hug me as I sob"). As for Gateway, Deacon Locke Went to Prom is a no brainer!

Karla Mae (Reads and Thoughts) says

ARC Kindly provided by Katherine Tegen Books thru Edelweiss for review

Deacon Locke is probably one of the awkward-est but cutest characters I've ever encountered and his story is as well one of the cutest & simplest story I've read this year!

Deacon Locke Went To Prom is a story about a shy guy who decided to bring his grandma to his prom and ended up being instantly internet famous. Ohhh, yes, that quick. This is not the first insta-internet-famous story I've read. There are several YA books with the same insta-internet-famous plot line. I think, this goes to show how influential the social media is really getting right now.

Anyway, back to the story. The story flowed smoothly for me but I was just a bit left perplexed by the thought of Deacon not owning a cellphone and having no interest with social media. There might be some millennials – like Deacon – that may not be interested in social media but not owning a cellphone? Hmmmm.

The first part of the story focuses on Deacon's Prom dilemma while the second half is a bit more personal and emotional for me. I love how the story transitioned from focusing on the normal teenage dilemma such as prom then proceeding to turn the story into stuffs that I guess is more serious.

On to the characters, there's only a handful of characters introduced but they all captured my interest!

I loved Deacon and I want to hug him for the entire duration of the story. He's awkward and I really liked him. With Deacon, what you see is what you get. He's a bit of a nerd when it comes to astronomy, has a dry sense of humor but over all a very good guy.

Elijah – Deacon's friend is such a sweetheart as well and I really liked how he's pushing Deacon out of his shell. Soraya is the love interest in the story but since the story doesn't really revolve on the love story aspect of it we only get a few glimpses of Soraya here and there (but don't fret there's a HEA here *wink*). Jean – Deacon's grandmother also captured my heart. She's a great character and though her love and support for Deacon isn't really shown verbally, you can see thru the actions she's making for him that he do love our main guy.

“Like the universe, my future is limitless. And like the universe, my future is mostly uncharted and kind of scary.”

In all, Deacon's story was cute, plain and simple. More than everything, this is a coming of age book with Deacon deciding what he wants for his life and his future.

Maggie says

Such a fun read. Katcher continues to bring humor and life together in a way to keep a reader wanting to turn pages. I loved the comments at the end of chapter, putting into print what my mind was saying. That's like having a friend finish your sentence and then laugh because of the special connection. The serious side is not heavy handed. Any group wanting to use this book for shared reading or book discussion groups will find much to discuss. Recommended for all secondary school libraries. Can't wait for the next Brian Katcher

book.

Sarah says

(I received an advance copy of this book for free. Thanks to HarperCollins and Edelweiss.)

“Like the universe, my future is limitless. And like the universe, my future is mostly uncharted and kind of scary.”

This was a YA contemporary story about a boy who took his grandmother to prom.

Deacon was an okay character, he wasn't very confident when it came to girls and I understood how nervous he got when it came to asking one to prom.

The storyline in this was about Deacon taking his Grandma to prom because she missed her own senior prom, and becoming semi-famous because of it when someone posted a video online. We also got a bit of romance with a girl called Soraya who was Deacon and his grandmother's dance instructor, but I found the pace of the book quite slow, and there wasn't really enough going on to keep me interested.

The ending to this was okay, although I felt quite sorry for Deacon's Grandmother.

6.25 out of 10

Cait • A Page with a View says

The first part of this book totally gets 5 stars!! It was hilarious and adorable, but I just wasn't into the second half.

Deacon Locke is socially awkward, almost 7 feet tall, and lives with his grandma because his dad fled the country to avoid loan sharks. Deacon considers his grandma one of his closest friends, so he takes her to prom and genuinely has a good time. The first part of the book is mostly him going to dance classes with his grandma, where he meets Soraya, the girl of his dreams.

So after the first part of the story wraps up, Deacon becomes a national celebrity when someone posts a video on YouTube of him at prom with his grandma. He's also concerned about his grandma's memory loss and some scary moments with her driving or wandering off. Deacon has to choose between his relationships and all of the opportunities available to him with his new fame... not let it change him or his priorities... you know the drill.

The first part was really character-driven and I loved Deacon's adorable relationship with his grandma. So I was pretty into that, but then the book lost me shortly after prom. I didn't get a strong feel for Soraya's

character and even Deacon kind of got lost a bit in all of the events. **His narration was absolutely hilarious at the start and totally felt like a teen guy!** But the humor was sort of toned down later and had too many thoughts Deacon knew were "politically incorrect."

I ended up skimming the last 25% barely even caring what happened. And I really didn't like Deacon very much in the end. So there are some strong parts, but it didn't really work for me as a whole story.

Thank you to the publisher for sending me an ARC.

Lucy (That Book Gal) says

Before this book, I had never heard of Brian Katcher. And honestly? I feel like his book must be ridiculously underrated. This book, at first, comes across as if it will be some funny story of a teen boy going to his first prom. While it is that, it's also a lot more than that.

I really want to talk about the Muslim love interest, Soraya who I loved and is a TOTAL badass, but I've decided not to say a ton, just because of some backlash and accusations I've received on Twitter for stating opinions before (essentially I don't want to accidentally say the wrong thing) I will say however, that she is AWESOME and definitely one of the reasons you should read this book. (My fave Soraya quote below)

"It'll be a cold day in Arkansas when I give a sh** about what some yahoo with an internet connection thinks about me. I'm not some kind of damn Disney princess who needs a man to come and save her. I've been handling a**holes all my life. Yes, it bothers me. Yes, sometimes it scares me. And yes, it really helps to have friends like you and Jason to lean on. But when it comes down to it, I can live my own life. Jason and my father never really understood that, and neither do you."

She's a firecracker and honestly one of the best characters!

So. The HUMOR in this book!! I was laughing my head off whenever I wasn't fangirling over Soraya and Deacon or yelling at Deacon for being an IDIOT. (EXAMPLES BELOW!!)

"It's Kelli. I do a double take. Now that she's lost her glasses, let down her hair, and gotten a makeover, I'm suddenly struck by what a truly beautiful girl she is. Or was she always this lovely and I was too blind to see it? Just kidding. This isn't a romantic comedy."

(At 48%) "The end. Seriously. Deacon learned to come out of his shell, and he's going to go out with Soraya. Book's over. The next two hundred pages are acknowledgments."

(Character name omitted to avoid spoilers) "It's Passover, (character name omitted). Time to

taste the bitter herbs of . . . Sorry, I'm not Jewish, and it was a bad metaphor to begin with. But I really want to kick (character name omitted)'s a**."

Essentially this book is amazing and there's dancing, and prom, and romance, and overnight fame(which is a newer book trope that I'm totally becoming obsessed with), guys who love their grandmas (BLESS THEIR ADORABLE SOULS), and Muslim rep, and all in all, this book is AMAZING. (go read it)

CONTENT GUIDE -

Sexual - kissing, maybe innuendos

Cussing - mild

Imbibing - some underage drinking

Violence - fighting, mean people, and the damage it'll do to the book when you cry and throw it at the wall bc it's SO GOOD

Alissa Jones says

Brian Katcher has created a YA novel that accurately depicts the reality of social media, racism, and living with a grandparent. Throw in some humor and awkward Senior moments, and you get a clever, fun novel!

Mehsi says

I got to 35% and then I just gave up. When I started this book at 2.30 am (I couldn't sleep) it was funny, hilarious, and I really liked it. But during the day, when I read parts of it, I just couldn't understand why I had liked it. Deacon is annoying, cringey, bleh and I was just so frustrated with how he acted. I would much rather have a book about Elijah, he is interesting and fun. Or maybe about Jean, the grandma. Even she has more interesting things to talk about than Deacon does.

I just can't see myself get through 65% more. I will probably fall asleep. :(

Jennie says

You know, even when you consider an author your friend, and you both write for the same website, you just don't read a book and expect to see your name--and the names of other FYA ladies--used for exuberant internet commenters. :D

This is a cute story about an awkward high schooler who takes his grandmother to prom, gets the courage to go out with someone closer to his own age, and stumbles into accidental fame. Katcher's sense of humor is the best part about this book, especially in the form of Elijah's character.

The Improbable Theory of Ana and Zak is my favorite Brian book, still, but Deacon Locke has a lot of the same stuff I loved about Ana and Zak. Look for the full review on Forever Young Adult soon!

Debi G. says

Quintessential Katcher:

Quippy protagonist

Quirky characters and conflicts

Quality ideas

Quick, optimistic read

Quibbling reviewers

Deacon, the main character, is remarkably blasé about all sorts of social pitfalls, yet ridiculously insecure about other interactions. This level-headed attitude and anxiety-prone behavior combine to make Deacon a believable guy. I am also fond of the side characters. Each member of the supporting cast is distinct from the others, shaping and supporting the main character's trajectory in an individual and often subtle manner.

As with any story unconfined by the boundaries of convention and formula, there are elements of this novel that demand suspension of disbelief. That's a fair exchange for a book that is unlike any other. This novel's structure poses a surprising number of conflicts that unfold at varying paces and with multiple highs and lows. Such elements prove that Katcher's writing talent gains complexity with each new project.

Although I don't feel the epilogue was necessary--the final chapter ends on a pitch-perfect note-- I like it because it unfolds in a highly visual way. When this is made into a movie, the epilogue will fit well after the credits have rolled.

As far as negatives, I was alarmed by two editing misfires early in the book. On page 11, the main character reflects that "There's been a couple of close calls" (have, not has) and on page 16, Deacon asks, "Do us poor guys even stand a chance?" (It's we. Do WE stand a chance?) Since the second gaffe is part of the dialogue, I forgave and moved on. Fortunately, the story soon held me in its grip and if there were more errors, I neglected to notice.

I'll be recommending this novel to many students.

Forever Young Adult says

Graded By: Jennie

Cover Story: Puttin' On The Ritz

BFF Charm: Let Me Love You

Swoonworthy Scale: 5

Talky Talk: I Came, I Danced, I Went Viral

Bonus Factors: Kick-Ass Gram, Internet Fame

Relationship Status: Drinking Buddy

Read the full book report [here](#).

Lieblingsleseplatz says

Ich habe schon Ana und Zak von Brian Katcher so absolut gefeiert. Daher war der neueste Streich von Brian Katcher ein Muss für mich. Und dank dem dtv Verlag durfte ich dieses tolle Buch schon vor Weihnachten lesen. Aber heute erscheint endlich Ich, Jean und die Nacht meines Lebens und ich kann Euch an meiner Begeisterung teilhaben lassen!

Deacon erzählt die Geschichte aus der Ich-Perspektive. Er spricht den Leser an wie einen guten Freund und teilt uns seine oft unfreiwillig komischen Gedanken mit. Deacon lebt bei seiner Oma Jean, der er nach einer verkorksten Kindheit mit seinem Vater und ständigen Umzügen einfach alles verdankt. Sie ist sein Heim und seine Familie – und seine beste Freundin. Denn sonst hat Deacon kurz vor seinem High School Abschluß kaum Freunde – geschweige denn dass der fast 2 m große Junge schon mal eine Freundin hatte... ein Date für den bevorstehenden Abschlußball zu finden stellt sich somit für den schüchternen Jungen als eine echten Herausforderung dar... bis ihm die geniale Idee kommt, seine Großmutter zu fragen, die ihren eigenen Abschlußball verpasste, weil Deacons Grandpa damals in Vietnam war.

„Nicht, dass ich was mit meiner Großmutter anfangen will. Nicht alles, was du über Arkansas hörst, stimmt.“ (Deacon, S.51)

Jean, Deacons Grandma ist zunächst not amused. Sie kann nicht glauben, dass ihr Enkel wirklich kein Mädchen in seinem Alter findet, die gern mit ihm zu Ball gehen würde. Doch schließlich willigt sie ein, ihn zu begleiten – unter der Voraussetzung, dass Deacon mit ihr einen Tanzkurs belegt.

„Wirst du dich bemühen, häufiger abends auszugehen? Endlich mal ein Mädchen nach Hause mitbringen, die ich missbilligen kann?“ (Jean, S.16)

Den Tanzkurs leitet Soraya Shadee – für Deacon ein wahr gewordener Traum. Und sie scheint auch gar nicht so uninteressiert an ihm zu sein... doch auch sie hat ein anderes Date für den Abschlußball.

Nach 130 Seiten ist schon der Abend des Schulballs. Ich bin ganz überrascht. Deutet doch der Titel darauf hin, dass dieser der Höhepunkt der Geschichte sein soll – ähnlich wie der Besuch der Comicon bei Ana und Zak. Doch nach rund 30 Seiten ist der Ball schon vorbei. Kurz war ich enttäuscht. Doch was danach kam, konnte keiner ahnen – vor allem nicht Deacon, der in die Welt der (sozialen) Medien katapultiert wird... Für mich war es lustig das Verliebtsein mal von der Jungs-Seite zu betrachten. Brian Katcher erzählt Deacons Geschichte mit dem von ihm gewohnten Humor – aber hier kommen auch gesellschaftskritische Elemente zum Zug: Alter, Krankheit, Mobbing, Rassismus, Ehrlichkeit der Medien ...

Ich war überrascht von der Wendung, die das Buch gemacht hat – aber durchaus positiv! Ich empfehle die einfühlsam erzählte Geschichte von Deacon und Jean und die Macht der Liebe uneingeschränkt Lesern ab 12 – egal ob Männlein oder Weiblein... 5 von 5 Lieblingslesesessel für die coolste Oma aller Zeiten!!!

Michael Jensen says

Deacon Locke does go to prom in this book, but he does so much more. He comes of age, falls in love, learns to reach farther than he thought he could, and will touch your heart. At times funny, touching, and profound, Deacon Locke is one of the most appealing 18 year olds I've met in a long long time. You should definitely go to prom with Deacon.

Erin Logan says

It all started when Deacon Locke decided to bring his 60-year-old grandmother to prom. After this, Deacon's life is suddenly crazier than he could have ever imagined. I was a little worried when the prom happened less than halfway through the book - what would happen after that? Deacon's life turns upside down when he becomes a viral sensation. The book touches on aging, racism, judgement, confidence, and letting go. I rather enjoyed this high school read.
