



Graffiti Moon

Cath Crowley

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Lucy is in love with Shadow, a mysterious graffiti artist.

Ed thought he was in love with Lucy, until she broke his nose.

Dylan loves Daisy, but throwing eggs at her probably wasn't the best way to show it.

Jazz and Leo are slowly encircling each other.

An intense and exhilarating 24 hours in the lives of four teenagers on the verge: of adulthood, of HSC, of finding out just who they are, and who they want to be.

A lyrical new YA novel from the award-winning author of *Chasing Charlie Duskin* and the *Gracie Faltrain* series.

Graffiti Moon Details

Date : Published August 1st 2010 by Pan Macmillan Australia

ISBN : 9780330425780

Author : Cath Crowley

Format : Paperback 264 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Contemporary, Romance, Realistic Fiction, Fiction

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From Reader Review Graffiti Moon for online ebook

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

Wonderfully written, really cute plot in a span of 24 hours, smart characters and affecting story. For me, it was love at first read with Ms. Cath Crowley and although I loved Words in Deep Blue more, I still very much enjoyed Graffiti Moon. Both books thrive in the arts. The former on books and literature while the latter on fine arts- glass art, paintings and graffiti combined with poetry.

Of course the main theme of the story is basically about love or more particularly about finding one. I really enjoyed the humor and the cute romance, three different ones at that but I loved that of the two main characters, **Lucy** and **Ed**'s, the most. Of course we read the story in their POVs and it's spot on. And well it's an Aussie YA contemporary so I guess I was bound to like it. A definitely recommended YA contemporary romance.

Nomes says

Graffiti Moon takes place over one night (although there are some flashbacks) and is told from two POV's: Lucy and Ed.

This book is genius.

It's exactly why I love reading YA.

Somehow this book perfectly captures how I felt as a teen - that big dreaming scheming place in my head, a place where night time is magical and when boys can make you tingle just by looking at them across the room.

It's funny and heart felt and the whole scenario is one of the best set-ups I've read. And I wish I could tell you the hook but I don't want to give away spoilers... so, you'll have to see for yourself.

Graffiti Moon is completely addictive with the tension building so beautifully that I just had to keep reading, wondering how it was all going to play out.

It's sprinkled with stunning prose and scenes described to masterfully that I felt I was right there. really, I have rarely read such beautiful, compelling prose - poetic and lyrical and funny and smart - words that beg to be re-read and swilled around in your mouth like a good wine.

The dialogue was brilliant. BRILLIANT. It kills me, dialogue like that. Sigh.

The characters are so completely awesome that they stand up and walk around, leaping off the page. They are also completely teenagery in the very best of ways.

The boys in this novel are charming and off-beat, wildly funny and completely crush-worthy and so nuanced

that they are unique - not carbon copied characters that you'd find between the pages of another book.

The girls are captivating, sometimes sly and always fun. They are genuine and their moments of angst have such flair that you can't help but completely love them.

It's not just me who is raving about this. Check out more reviews @ goodreads

Anyway, Graffiti Moon spoke to me and is one of my favourite reads this year and for a girl who loves contemp YA with a splash of romance - well the love story in this one is completely awesome.

5 Stars, hey? Absolutely :)

Ari says

"I was nothing inside but light and color"

Can you be in love with a book? I know that I can fall in love with a character, I had a few crushes here and there, but if I were to want to get married with a book, I would propose to this one in a heartbeat.

Dear Graffiti Moon, will you please marry me?.. For richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live, until my kindle do us part..

waiting for the answer

You want to know more about our story?

It was love at first sight, yes I am shallow like that, I fell in love with the Australian cover. It's simple, just a yellow can of spray that could paint you the whole world, that can take all the beautiful words in the world and put them together in the most perfect story I've ever read.

I've seen it a few times on a website or too, it looked a little bit shy, hiding between all those amazing Australian writings, and when it looked at me - in that perfect moment - I knew this would be the one.

I took it on a date on NetGalley's and all I can say it's that it was perfect, I couldn't wait for the next time I saw it.. We had 3 amazing dates and every time I wished I had more time to spend with it, I wished to stay there, holding it in my arms and reading it all my life.

still waiting for the answer

Ok.. so this sounds pretty awkward (I think I made a fool of myself by proposing in front of everyone - I told you it was shy) but the truth is that yes, I am in love with this book, I'm in love with the writing style, and if it wasn't awkward at all and the author would be at least a guy, I would say that I fell in love with Cath Crowley too.

No, dear Cath, you don't have to hide from me, I won't stalk you, I am just a big fan of yours and I want to thank you for all those beautiful words that sometimes almost made me tear of emotion.

Thank you! I am no good at words but I wish I could say this in a matching perfect way, as you did in this book.

I have a dream now, I want to visit Australia, I want to see Melbourne at night, I want to get lost watching beautiful graffiti art on the walls, and I pray to God that Shadow really exists, not for me to fall in love with him (if this book accepts my proposal I will be 2 times happily married by next Sunday and it will be too much already) but to have the honor to see such wonderful paintings as described in the book.

If you could spray feelings on the walls it will be exactly what this book is, if you could hold dreams in your hands it would feel exactly like reading this book, and maybe you don't understand a word of what I am saying, but I think you will after reading it. Yes, it's perfect, believe me. I've been waiting for this book for a while and I was more than happy when I got the chance to finally read it.

The story is simple and beautiful. It's about friendship, and love, and struggle. It's about decisions and moments that are lost between the words. It's about art and beauty, it's full of life and emotion, it will make you happy and sad, and at the end it will win your heart. Forever.

Dear Graffiti Moon, please say yes, please say yes!

"I took a can and my brain clicked off and my hands clicked on and I escaped onto the wall, a painted ghost trapped in a jar. I stood back to look at it and I knew the sad thing wasn't that the ghost was running out of air. The sad thing was that he had enough air in that small space to last him a lifetime. What were you thinking, little ghost? Letting yourself get trapped like that?"

"There was no skin on my voice and she heard the bones in my words like I did"

"Her words are paintings, and I'm painting them on the wall in my head as she talks"

This review can also be found at ReadingAfterMidnight.com

Book Source: ARC from HarperCollins via NetGalley

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Re-read May, 20 2013:

I am happy to say that the cuteness of this book has made my heart melt once more.

Cath Crowley paints with words over my heart, she paints emotions on my teary eyes, she makes even my soul smile but also ache for the beauty of the art described in this book. I love to see the world through her eyes, I love to fall in love with her characters, I love to get lost in her beautiful writing.. I LOVE this book!

I am usually not much of a re-reader, but lately I couldn't make myself start another book and some that I *did* read have left me quite disappointed, so I decided to re-visit some of the books I loved to pieces over the years.

Janina says

(I read the "original" Aussie edition, but now own this US hardcover edition.)

Oh book, I love you so ...

It is really hard for me to put into words how I feel about this story. I am sure I won't be able to do it justice.

It is amazing how many things can happen in just one night. And it is even more amazing how Cath Crowley manages to capture them all – in a way that is both funny and heartbreakingly sad, full of fear of an unknown future, bright with colours and brimming with feelings. Crowley brings Melbourne's night to you – the velvety black, the blinking stars, the heat, the factory smoke, and then the beginning of dawn – and it felt just like I was there with them, riding a bike through the empty streets.

We only get to spend one night with Lucy and Ed. Yet, they are complex characters, well-drawn with their hopes and fears, their strengths and weaknesses, their talents. I loved their love for art, the way they talked about it. It was in no way pretentious, it was just who they were. Ed's graffiti really came to life through Crowley's writing, and I wish it was real. I wish it was something I could look at. This way, I can only imagine his oceans, the bright birds, the ghost in the jar ...

Then, their friends. Fun people to be with (I would do everything to spend a night with this gang), but not only sidekicks just there for the sake of throwing in some good lines.

Last night, after finishing this book, I was sitting in front of my laptop, trying to put my feelings into words. It was not possible. This is when I wish I were a writer, someone who could capture this achy, bittersweet feeling that lingers even today. I can only describe it as indescribable. The writing is so beautiful it almost hurts. I could put this whole book in my favourite quotes.

Hands down, probably the best book I have read so far this year.

All (okay, some of) the things I loved: undercover good guys, psychic (not psycho) Jazz, the arse-grabbing episode (I laughed so hard), Al's chiming glass flowers, Ed's bright birds, René Magritte's "The Lovers", the pink love van, Bert, Lucy punching Malcolm in the face, The Daytime Things, talking with your eyes covered, Lucy's blue lightning helmet ...

#6 Aussie YA Challenge 2011

Arlene says

Love.love.loved it!!

What a great story! I enjoyed it from cover to cover with not a moment of downtime.

This is exactly what I needed to get me out of my book slump... an Aussie wonder that's filled with

moments of laughter and nothing but love for the characters of **Graffiti Moon**. I was an instant fan of Cath Crowley when I came across her beautiful story *A Little Wanting Song*, but now with **Graffiti Moon** I know for a definite fact that I can't pass up anything by this great Australian writer.

Lucy and Ed made a great pair as they shared their story using alternate POVs. I laughed and I sighed as Crowley packed a full adventure these two accomplished in one night.

The writing was vivid as I could clearly picture the art Shadow tagged around the town and the glass blowing projects Lucy created. I've never been a fan of graffiti and glass blowing is interesting, but this story made it come to life and bring on a whole new meaning for me. Impressed!

Definitely a book I highly recommend as it's worth the time and emotional investment. Awesome Aussie book!

Isamlq says

I swear I'm trying not to gush but you don't know how happy I am to have read this. It's a little after dawn... (and having started this at one in the morning,) that's maybe four or five hours of me sitting here unable to pull my eyes from this one. I'd been waiting for this for so long and now that I've read sped through it, I'm pumped and happy. *Graffiti Moon* is why I read YA. Once in a while I come across a story that stands out against others. Crappy past reads aren't so lackluster, don't seem all that crappy because there are books like these that simply leave me feeling happy and satisfied.

I swear I'm trying not to gush but I loved every moment of this, even when someone had screwed up, was screwing up and was just about to screw up. (side note: my favorite moments were the bike scenes... all the bike moments!) Everyone who's ever added this book to their favorites pile is absolutely right to do so and this is another addition to my growing fave list. I barely finished the third chapter and already I could tell what was going to happen, and yet... I loved it and enjoyed them. GM totally makes my week! The sentiment's probably been said time and again, but this makes me want to move to Australia!

To the book: Shadow paints and speaks through his work. And while it's his images that first draw our girl in, it's his thoughts and hers and Leo's that pulled me in. Even the shortest and simplest of exchanges were loaded. But more likely it's the characters that I loved. All of them were perfect in how flawed they were:

Again, I swear I'm trying not to gush, but good golly, I enjoyed these people! Ed is talented and smart but doesn't know it, and he's scared. Leo is brave but sometimes foolishly so. Lucy is focused, sometimes too focused that she misses out on what's right in front of her. But instead of being annoyed by these flaws, I got drawn in. While there were moments of sweet and of funny it's that *they* read possible and real that I couldn't get out of my head. They're what I look for in YA. Rather than being Kens and Barbies, they're people figuring out what their next move would be. They were all flawed but not too imperfect because they did have a sweetness to them... even stupid Dylan and his eggs!

As I felt after reading *A Little Wanting Song*, I find Cath Crowley has a way with words that she writes smart and clever stories with characters who ring truthful and with heart.

Lines I liked (for one reason or another...)

"Most times I look at Shadow and Poet's work, I see something different from what the words are telling me. I like that about art, that what you see is sometimes more about who you are than what's on the wall. I look at this painting and think about how everyone has some secret inside, something sleeping like that yellow bird."

"I get this heavy feeling when I daydream about him. I'm not awake and I'm not asleep, I'm in a soft blue corridor that runs between the two,"

"I liked that he had hair growing without a plan. A smile that came out of nowhere and left the same way"

"It's like the sun during an eclipse. I know it'll blind me but I have to look."

"You were right. Real is better. The truth is better. It makes you feel kind of stupid but it's better."

4.5/5

BIG THANKS NETGALLEY!!!

Jo says

"It's the time wasting that gets you somewhere."

Initial Final Page Thoughts.

I have five fingers pressed on my desk in reaction to this book right now. I can't get much more love for this book.

High Points.

Shadow. Lucy. Best friends. Poetry. Melbourne. A night that lasts forever. Mistaken identities. Missed connections. Graffiti. Eggs. Secrets. Arse-grabbers. Lyrical. Adventure. Insecurities. Mesmerizing. Art. Train carriages. Undercover good guys. Letting go of the breaks. Visibility. Twirls in *the place*. Cubicles of truth. In for the thrill. No guts, no glory. Moving to the extra beats. Zing.

Low Points.

I wishwishwish this book had pictures of Shadow and Poet's work. Ms Crowley described it so perfectly (I could almost smell the paint drying) but I wanted to see and experience what Lucy did. Even *my* over active imagination couldn't do those pictures justice.

Also, I always thought that New York was the city for late night adventures and mischief. Now I'm going to have to recalibrate my life plan.

Sigh.

Here I come, Melbourne.

Hope you're ready.

Heroine.

Oh Lucy. I didn't like you at first. There was something missing that stopped me falling head over heels in love with you.

It could be that I was completely jealous that you were living *my* dream in the most perfect, swoony, beautiful, gorgeous [insert gushing adjective here] way and I wanted to push you off a mountain so I could

step into your place because I have long brown hair and I once went to a glass museum and I watch a man blow glass so I could blag it and I lovelovelove graffiti so I could blag that too and no one would know the difference and me and Ed would live happily ever after on love, art and delicious, delicious sausage rolls. But... you know, it probably wasn't that.

No. Not at all.

Even though I connected with t'other one lot more than Lucy, I still think she was a spectacular character. She is intelligent, she is funny, she is a tad oblivious, she is a great friend, she's artistic, she has goals, she's feisty and, most importantly, she has a good head on her shoulders and gets mad in the right places.

Which normally wouldn't matter... but we're talking about YA heroines here who get mad over the stupid things but don't seem to get angry/stabby when they really should, like when a boy with mysterious powers and weird, unnatural coloured eyes worms his way into their life/business/undercrackers.

So it matters.

To me.

Hero.

Oh I fell for Ed. Hook, line and sinker.

I won't really go into how much I love you because ~~kiddlywinks may read this review and I couldn't trust myself to keep it PG~~ it would be a very long review.

I loved your passion, your humour, your sadness, your determination, your soul, your eloquence, your vision, your relentless quest to find the perfect shade of blue and your insecurities.

I would never mow your heart grass.

Um, OK.

That sounded more romantic and less weird in my head.

I would stick my knife in your toaster and let you electrocute me.

Not better.

You know what I mean, Ed.

Best Friends.

YES. I love it when an author realises the importance of a brilliant supporting cast. So often books have these insipid cookie cutter secondary characters that are just *there*. I loved how Jazz, Poet, Daisy and Dylan had their own fears, dreams, insecurities and they all blended together in a kaleidoscope of WONDER and hilarity.

I want to ride in a pink VW with them.

pouts

Theme Tune.

Walking on a Dream by Empire of the Sun

Thought I'd never see

The love you found in me

Now it's changing all the time

Living in a rhythm where the minutes working overtime.

These guys get a lot of airplay over here on my *marginally* rainier shores which is fantastic because they are amazing. This song is *perfect* for this book and, looking at the video, I can tell these are the kind of gentlemen that I'd want to run around an Australian city with as the night is exploding with colours and tomfoolery. We'd get up to some ~~potentially lethal~~ crazy adventures that would probably end up with me being in jail and/or in a different country.

But it's *fine*. I just wouldn't take my passport out with me.
Sorted, mate.

Strictly Savage Garden Story Song.

I Want You by Savage Garden.

This song reminds me of my best friend because we used to listen to Savage Garden on YouTube while we drank cheap wine from Aldi before heading out for a night of dancing and debauchery. That's just how we roll.

One time, we actually managed to sing the entire song, straight-faced and completely rat-arsed. That's right. Even the fast bit.

*Ooo, I want you
I don't know if I need you
But, ooo, I'd die to find out
So can we find out?*

Seriously Ed.... Can we?

Boy/Girl Angst.

Notice I'm leaving this bit out because I don't want to give anything away, because this part of the book kept me on my tippytoes and made me scream 'WHAAAAAT' and 'EEEEEEH' out loud on many occasions. I loved it and there wasn't an eye-roll in sight.

Sadness Scale.

There was a bit of sadness within the story, some on Ed's part, some on Lucy's and some on Leo's, but mostly it was on my part at the fact that I could never in a million years create something as beautiful and hopeful as Ms Crowley has with this book.

This book made my insides feel twirly and my soul swirl like the colourful bit in a glass marble.

Recommended For.

Everyone. People who are one of the good guys, but just working undercover. People who are looking for the collision. People who compare all their crushes against Atticus Finch. People who like the zing. People who wouldn't mind going to a party where the boys look like they've just walked off the set of Prison Break. People who, all things considered, wouldn't mind getting their arse grabbed on the first date. People who don't who don't mind losing their inner Jane Austen once in a while. People who like to make grabs at stars. People who appreciate the importance of eyebrow action. Artists. Dreamers. Drop-outs. Poets. Lovers.

This review is part of AUSTRALIA WEEK on my blog... you can find out more here.

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

4.5 stars.

< i>Every time he looked at me I felt like I'd touched my tongue to the tip of a battery. In art class I'd watch

him lean back and listen and I was nothing but zing and tingle. After a while the tingle turned to electricity, and when he asked me out my whole body amped to a level where technically I should have been dead. I had nothing in common with a sheddy like him, but a girl doesn't think straight when she's that close to electrocution.

Wow. My GoodReads friends are all people with excellent taste. I thought so before, but I'm sure of it now. A few of you took the time to notice what I like and recommend this book to me. Thank you! And a special thanks to Lisa O. and her lovely review for making me read this when I did. Anyway, where was I?

The strength of Crowley's novel isn't so much in the story itself as it is in the poetic writing that left a bittersweet taste in my mouth. Don't get me wrong: her writing isn't overly descriptive. She doesn't go on and on about places, events or works of art. Somehow she says more in one sentence than most people are able to say in twenty. She also has an excellent sense of humor and I found myself crying with laughter over some of her passages.

I know they still love each other, but I guess love is kind of like a marshmallow in a microwave on high. After it explodes, it's still a marshmallow. But, you know, now it's a complicated marshmallow.

Lucy doesn't date regular guys. She went out on one date in her life and ended up breaking the guy's nose. The fact that her parents spent two straight months screaming at each other isn't helping her at all. Instead, she dreams about meeting a graffiti artist called Shadow, convinced that he is the guy who could never disappoint her.

Ed left school when it became obvious that he won't be able to hide his dyslexia much longer. It also happened to be right around the time when Lucy broke his nose on their first date. Words don't mean anything to him, but he draws the most amazing graffiti all over town. He is Shadow and his best friend Leo is Poet. And he wishes Shadow was as amazing as Lucy seems to believe he is.

Jazz and Leo are both weird in their own way but they might be compatible. He only needs to find the courage to tell her that he's actually Poet, the guy whose works she's been admiring all over town. It may sound easy, but once you get tangled in your own lies, it's very hard to tell the truth.

All of them end up together in a pink van where the truth must come out - whether they like it or not.

There's something in this book for everyone: amazing writing, poetry, flawless characters, a funny story, love, glass, art, pink van and criminals. Highly recommended.

Sana says

Here is the cause of my death: B O R E D O M from this book.

Review to come, I just ugh, I can't even look at this book without wanting to fall asleep.

i was bullied into reading this.

Catie says

I can't imagine a better young adult romance to read on Valentine's Day. In fact, my advice to all of my fellow book nerds out there is to just toss out those chalky conversation hearts, forget about the rest of humanity, and hole up with this book today. If you have a significant other, tell him or her to skip the flowers and buy you this instead. If you're alone then all the better – more time to read. Who needs a date on Valentine's Day anyway? Or rather, who needs a date with a person? Books always smell nice, they're patient, undemanding, and they can say all the right things. This book is a terrific date.

This is the book that I wish today's teens would read. I wrote that last April about the Australian edition and it still stands. While many young adult romances seem to be propagandizing the all-consuming, identity swallowing, love at first glance kind of romance, this book goes so much deeper. It acknowledges the instant attraction, the lust, the electricity, and then it moves on. It moves past the romantic ideals to celebrate the more complex truth.

This story is told in alternating chapters by Lucy, Ed, and "Poet," as they celebrate the end of year twelve through the hours of one very long night. Lucy dreams of finding "Shadow" – a graffiti artist who she's convinced (based on his work) is the one she's been waiting for. She has a teenager's assumptions of what love and romance will be like, but she lets her assumptions eclipse any possibility of real romance.

"We'll meet and click and sit up all night and everything will tip out of me and into him and the other way around and while we're tipping the night will fade and the world will get pink and in that pinkness he'll kiss me. We'll keep taking bits of each other till we get to our center, then we'll do it and it won't feel scary or strange."

Lucy is a bit like a literary fangirl – she bases all of her assumptions about love and romance on her favorite books and when asked to come up with a list of guys who she would "do it" with (by Jazz), she names all fictional characters. It's very satisfying to see her journey to the realization that love is very different from what she assumes, and so much better.

"Real is better. The truth is better. It makes you feel stupid, but it's better."

This book has a few elements that I've seen in other YA novels, but here they are accomplished with so much more heart and authenticity. I loved Lucy's parents in the Australian edition and although their presence is scaled back quite a bit in this U.S. edition, they are still a wonderful example of three dimensional, quirky, loving, human parents. Lucy is very worried throughout the book because her father has moved from their home to the shed out back, which doesn't conform to her view of how love should be:

"You should feel it like a horse tumbling through you. You shouldn't be able to sleep knowing that the person you love is lying in the shed."

Even though Lucy has doubts about her parents' relationship, their love is visible in these pages. It's such a rare treat to find a complex, realistic adult romance hidden within a young adult story. Lucy's parents argue and struggle financially and have problems, and their relationship isn't perfect. And yet it works for them, which is the only thing that matters.

Cath Crowley also does such a wonderful job with Leo and Ed— two boys who manage to be sensitive and artistic without seeming whiny or pretentious. They feel like real boys, complete with awkwardness, bad decision-making, and insecurities. They never feel (as many young adult love interests do) like shallow illustrations of the author's own wish-fulfillment.

One thing that I noticed a lot more this time is that this book is not only about Lucy's awakening to reality; it's about Ed's. Lucy's view of Shadow is a rosy-hued fantasy, but Ed's view of himself is a dark and painful place. Even as Lucy is blinding herself to the possibility of real romance, she's helping Ed — to see himself in a new way, as someone amazing.

This book is excellent proof that a light read can also contain serious topics like death, poverty, parental abandonment, and divorce. It's a sweet, hilarious, romantic book that won't make you choke on saccharine sweetness.

Come by The Readventurer to see this review and a discussion of the differences between the U.S. and Australian editions, in which I get an assist from the lovely Maggie!

Vinaya says

I love graffiti. I've been a huge fan of Banksy from the day I first saw a mural on Brick Lane, and I find every one of his pieces stimulating, entertaining and empathetic. (Although the one above is my FAVOURITE!!) There's not too many artists who can manage that. And the point of street art, the reason for its existence, is to *connect*. Screw the million-dollar canvases in the galleries, street art is a montage of images designed to appeal to every man. So pretty.

So anyway, Graffiti Moon. It's a pretty standard contemporary romance, about a girl and a boy and one special night where they discover each other. Graffiti Moon's appeal lies not in its innovation, but in its ability to evoke the same emotions graffiti does- a dash of nostalgia, a splash of colour, the thrill of the illicit and a stimulation of the senses. Cath Crowley's words are vivid, painting a pretty picture of all those pictures her characters are seeing. I love the idea of Shadow and Poet, of two lost boys painting out their insecurities and their secret selves, putting it out there on a wall- showing themselves without ever really showing themselves.

The book was cute, and funny and satisfying. It was about losing illusions, exploring reality and the tender yet painful journey towards growing up. It was about friendship, and pink vans, and doing the wrong thing, but still finding redemption in the end.

I loved the dynamics between all the characters. Daisy and Dylan were outright adorable, Leo and Jazz provided just the right amount of conflict, and Lucy and Ed were the heart. I also loved the interaction between the three girls, and the boys. The strength of the bond between these very likeable set of friends came across warm and clear.

The writing, the relationships, the chemistry, the conflict- these are the things that Australian YA authors seem to excel at, and Cath Crowley upholds those standards. Whether it's the occasionally-mentioned but very real parents in the story, or the scary-funny bad guy or the slowly-developing romance between two

people who had always known each other without ever really *seeing* the other person, this book takes you on a picturesque, evocative, funny journey into the lives of a bunch of very likeable teenagers. If only more YA was written with the same heart and skill!

Limonessa says

4.5 stars.

Last week, as I was strolling with my two little ones around town for our morning *promenade*, I happened to pass in front of our neighborhood's church. In its front yard there was quite a congregation of young kids, their instruments and a lot of out of tune music, as they were preparing to rehearse for some parochial event. Of course my daughter, who's 4 and knows the whole *Aladdin* soundtrack by heart, begged me to stop and listen to whatever they were going to play.

When I said "young kids" I forgot to mention these kids were more on the 12 to 14 y.o. range than on the 16 to 18, so imagine my amazement (and my daughter's dismay) when the notes they started to strum on their instruments didn't belong to either Walt Disney, Justin Bieber or Tokio Hotel but to "Smoke on the Water"... these kids were practically born the day before yesterday, they could easily be MY kids and they were playing Deep Purple, for god's sake.

So I got to thinking that I generally tend to underestimate teenagers and think their brains work only on Wii waves, text-messaging and angst. But there are also some very talented and artistic kids out there whose sole interest in life is not limited to a remote control.

The Graffiti Moon crew, despite being a bit older, is composed by such kids. Slightly eccentric, artistic, urban teens whom author Cath Crowley still manages to depict in a very believable way, complete with teen dorkiness and false romantic ideals.

There's Lucy, the glassblower, who when asked by her best friend Jazz to compile a list of guys she would "do it with", writes down only fictional characters. Enamored with a mysterious graffiter's work called *Shadow*, she is determined to find him, convinced they can't be but twin souls.

Ed. Part Adam Wilde from *If I Stay*, part Tom MacKee from *The Piper's Son*, Ed is a high school dropout, a graffiter and thinks he's a total loser. After having lost his job at a paint shop, he embarks in an illicit adventure with his friend Leo which involves a pink getaway van, some bad men and some "travel plans" with Lucy.

Daisy and Dylan, *trait d'union* between Lucy, Jazz, Ed and Leo, are going through a relationship crisis and are, apparently, the only ones who can lead Lucy and Jazz to Shadow and his friend Poet.

I loved this book. The story, told in alternating POVs by Lucy and Ed with some of Poet's poems thrown in for effect, is brilliant. It recounts the happenings of one night (a bit à la Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist) and it is just great. I loved how the two POVs overlaps so the reader can be inside both heads for the same scene, I loved how, throughout the book, roles get reversed and misunderstood, like in a comedy of errors. I loved the dialogues, the characters' sense of humor, the banter: this book is just downright hilarious.

Dylan's words:

"If my like for you was footy crowd, you'd be deaf cos of the roar. And if my like for you were a boxer, there'd be dead guy lying on the floor. And if my like for you were sugar, you'd lose your teeth before you

were twenty. And if my like for you was money, let's just say you'd be spending plenty."

And finally, I loved the author's writing style. Another talented author which manages to give us a realistic, cute, hilarious teenage story, coupled with believable and well developed characters with great personalities, all encased in pretty words, a bit flowery but not too purpley.

I'm hacking half a star off just because I thought the ending was a bit too *Gone with the Wind* style. But this is, definitely, definitely, a book that needs your attention.

Another great Australian author, another great YA story.

Kristalia says

Final rating: 5/5 stars

"I guess love's kind of like a marshmallow in a microwave on high. After it explodes it's still a marshmallow. but, you know, now it's a complicated marshmallow."

This was such such such sweet romance!! I loved everything about it, especially the writing. Writing is done in two styles, the normal style and poetry style. Every poetry part is from Leo's point of view and i loved it very very much. The couples were sweet and loveable, the pacing was fast, there were many moments that made me chuckle and best of all - i love it to bits.

"I like that about art, that what you see is sometimes more about who you are than what's on the wall. I look at this painting and think about how everyone has some secret inside, something sleeping like that yellow bird."

And after reading this book, i fell in love with Australia...You know the feeling when you want to visit places where your favorite actors/singers/fictional characters live? Well this is how i feel about Australia now.

The story is quite simple though - A girl wants to find a mysterious guy who paints graffiti across the town. She is in love with his art, and she thinks that the person doing them must feel that way... But what she doesn't know is that the one she searches for is with her all of the time.... P.s. i loved all bike scenes ♥

"Most times I look at Shadow and Poet's work, I see something different from what the words are telling me. I like that about art, that what you see is sometimes more about who you are than what's on the wall. I look at this painting and think about how everyone has

some secret inside, something sleeping like that yellow bird."

CHARACTERS :

"Open skies painted above painted doorways and painted birds skimming across bricks trying to fly away. Little bird, what are you thinking? You come from a can."

I loved them all, i wanted to hug them all tell that everything will be alright! i am in love with them all - I loved their relationships, couples, but especially loved Ed and Leo. They were so much fun :D Even the girls,i liked them all.

But i still think, the best part of everything is that Lucy broke Ed's nose for touching her butt. LOL!!!

"I can't believe you're still mad at me," Ed says.

"You grabbed my arse."

"You broke my nose."

"You broke his nose?" Jazz asks. "You grabbed her arse?"

"It was two years ago-"

"Two years, four months, and eight days," I tell him.

"-and I was fifteen, and I slipped and she broke my nose."

"Wait a minute. How do you slip onto someone's arse?"

Jazz asks.

"I meant slipped up. I slipped up and she broke my nose."

"You're lucky that's all I broke," I say.

"You're lucky I didn't call the police."

Leo, Dylan, and Daisy slid into the booth. "Did you guys know that Lucy broke Ed's nose?"

Jazz asks.

Ed closes his eyes silently and bangs his head on the wall."

Ed is cool, seriously talented and really smart guy, but he doesn't *know* it. He painted graffiti to express his feelings.

"I spray the sky fast. Eyes ahead and behind. Looking for cops. Looking for anyone I don't want to be here. Paint sails and the things that kick in my head scream from can to brick. See this, see this. See me emptied onto a wall."

The same can be said for Leo (aka the Poet), who writes poetry to express what he thinks and what he wants.

He is also brave, sometimes even foolish, but i loved him to bits.

***“Remember
Love
Lays its fingers on your heart
And holds it
Under water
Remember that
When the next girl smiles”***

And lastly Lucy is so focused on searching what she wants that she doesn't see it - she doesn't see Ed who is the person she is looking for...

“Let me meet Poet, too, but mainly Shadow. The guy who paints in the dark. Paints birds trapped on brick walls and people lost in ghost forests. Paints guys with grass growing from their hearts and girls with buzzing lawn mowers. A guy who paints things like that is a guy I could fall for. Really fall for”

Note: The good thing is, it wasn't love triangle.

“I escaped onto the wall, a painted ghost trapped in a jar. I stood back to look at it and I knew the sad thing wasn't that the ghost was running out of air. the sad thing was that he had enough air in that small space to last him a lifetime. What were you thinking, little ghost? Letting yourself get trapped like that?”

OVERALL :

**I just loved it. The writing.
The setting. The struggles.
The plot. Crazyiness.
Recklessness. Romance.
Art. Poetry.
Love. The end.**

This review can be found on my blog: infinity-of-time.blogspot.com also known as...

may ❀ says

Full review posted

If you've ever loved me you'll read this book
Or I will cry and it'll be your fault

I just want to bring to attention that when you wanna write a contemporary, TAKE FRICKEN NOTES
FROM THIS MAGICAL PIECES OF WORK

Also

I want to bring to attention that I'm aware that this book probably has one of the ugliest covers I've ever seen
in my life

I'm just
Keeping it real

This book is basically perfection in all its forms. And before you continue on, I'd like you to envision me
screaming like this for the duration of the review ~~to keep it authentic~~

My entire emotions of this book can be summed up nicely by this picture

Onto the points:

- It's funny as hell
- The characters are flawed and do stupid, teenage things (like throwing an egg at your girlfriend on her birthday is probably not a good idea)
- A boy is infatuated with a girl until she breaks his nose :')
- IT'S SO ART SPIRITED IT MADE MY LITTLE ARTIST HEART SMILE
- Ed is a little pumpkin someone protect him
- Lucy is such a fierce, won't-take-any-crap-from-you kinda girl and basically I love her
- The girl friendship is so wonderfully perfect
- MELINA MARCHETTA RECOMMENDED IT
- I stayed up till 1 am and suffered the following day because I couldn't put this book down
- *"I've got this special way of getting the truth out of Dylan."*
"How?" i ask.
"I kick him in the balls."
"That's pretty special,"
- Jazz is the greatest best friend ever
- Shes convinced she can tell the future and shes WILD boi
- All night long adventure be still my heart
- Kids that come from troubled homes but are little balls of sunshine

- A GRAFFITI ARTIST AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
- Its all about art and expression and cuteness and perfection
- It has lots of motivational, poetic stuff like:
 - *"I guess love's kind of like a marshmallow in a microwave on high. After it explodes it's still a marshmallow. but, you know, now it's a complicated marshmallow."*
- I totally did not just spend a half hour rereading quotes from this book
- The book is REAL and it doesn't do halfhearted ish or portray teenagers weirdly
- It's so GENUINE AND REAL AND AUTHENTIC I JUST WANT TO SCREAM
- I love this book so much wowowowowowowowowowowo
- If you don't read it then ill have to resort to dire messures
- Aka
-

5 stars!!

~~~~~

YOU KNOW WHAT'S A FRICKEN JOKE???? THAT Melina Marchetta, MY QUEEN RECOMMENDED THIS BOOK AND I, BEING THE FAKE I AM, DIDN'T GET MY HANDS ON IT IMMEDIATELY

this is me trying to atone for my past

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## L A i N E Y says

*And I am but I'm not and I want to put her on pause and paint a wall where I explain everything.*

Earthy, 'crafty', gorgeously-written and awesomely funny.

Eventhough this is a contemporary read, I wanted so bad to shelf this in 'fantasy' not because it's unrealistic but because **it was bursting with magic**. The kind that made you feel so strongly, you get it and it 'got' you.

» The balance between plot and characters were insanely, *insanely* well done. From the reviews I've read, I assumed the book would be about the events of this one night. And yes it was but it was also equally about these characters: Lucy, Ed, Leo, Jazz, Daisy and Dylan. About who they were and how they'd come to be that way. About thier friendships and their lives, their fears and their hopes.

I would not hesitate at all to **recommend this** to anyone who love characters-driven contemporary YA books. It was truly one of the best ones I've come across.

» I don't know what I expect but Graffiti Moon surprised me with **its brilliant kind of humour**. You know that kind, like when you're talking to someone and you just know they're not even try to be funny but you're almost fall out of your chair laughing? Yes that kind. It was natural, real yet unexpected. And made me laugh so much!

» This story made me realized I've never seen a powerful graffiti in person before. Ever. I mean I've *seen* graffiti of course but they all were more *vandalism* than art. I mean I'm not an artsy person or anything but even to me those swear words and bragging about your school's glory and lots of middle fingers do not count as art. And I've only seen those. Which is a real bummer. I wonder if it can be that powerful? Can it move me half as much as it does Lucy?

» I appreciate those poems by Poet that peppered throughout the book. Such a neat little detail that really worked. Now if I can just get to see Shadow's works too....

» Since I didn't read the synopsis, this book had the most totally realistic and yet totally unexpected (to me) 'twist' at 14% mark that rendered me comically speechless and rendered the book itself absolutely a lot more interesting.

Ps. I've never read her works before now but I am getting as many books as I can find of Cath Crowley's.

*I liked that he had hair that was growing without a plan. A grin that came out of nowhere and left the same way. That he was tall enough so I had to look up at him in my dream sequences.*

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