



## **Sun & Moon**

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She has a past. He has a secret.

Katja's a risk-taking singer-songwriter hoping to make it in the indie music scene in Dresden, Germany. Micah's a brooding uptown banker on a quest.

There's an undeniable attraction between them, a gravitational pull they both struggle to resist. Katja knows she mustn't fall in love with this handsome enigma. There's something dark lurking beneath the surface. He could be dangerous.

And even if her life isn't on the line, her heart most definitely is.

## **Sun & Moon Details**

Date : Published January 10th 2014 by ESB Publishing (first published January 1st 2014)

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Author : Lee Strauss , Elle Strauss

Format : Kindle Edition 306 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, New Adult

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## From Reader Review Sun & Moon for online ebook

### Destiny Rose READS says

I really felt that this story could have happened. It was extremely well written with good storyline flow. My only wish was to hear Micah's POV in a few places. When I read, I like to fall in love with the characters and feel like I'm reading about a dear friend. It was easy to become emotionally attached to Katja, but Micah was too aloof with no explanation for his behavior until the middle of the book. One or two scenes told from his eyes would have endeared him more to my heart. But when the end came and he behaved so badly, that compassion as a reader wasn't there and I actually hoped Katja would find another man to love.

I was DEEPLY impressed with Micah's belief that sleeping with someone is a soul-binding experience, that sleeping with too many people leaves a ton of emotional baggage for people to carry around. His respect for Katja was incredible.

In the end, it worked out very well and I was happy for Katja. The girl who thought she found the whole world... really did. The struggles she faced through poverty and in making her music into a career were very realistic. No magic moment of instant stardom here. I respect a woman who follows her heart and works hard to make her dreams come true.

I would highly recommend this book.

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### Katrina Passick Lumsden says

Now I know that Lee Strauss is apparently a proponent of abstinence until marriage. And sadly, without any good sex scenes to carry this story, it turned out to be rather boring and unrealistic. The actual writing itself isn't terrible, but some aspects simply don't make sense. Like the fact that several of the peripheral characters could have gone to prison for failing to report a missing person found....

I had hope for this, though, and I think that's what irritates me more than anything. I can deal with the heavy-handed moral platitudes, but I really thought the hero was going to be...interesting. Turns out he was just kind of a pathetic tool. And the heroine. I don't know what to say about the heroine because she seemed like kind of a douche. So I suppose they deserved each other.

It wasn't terrible, but I won't be reading anything else from Strauss.

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### Dawn Parker says

A heart wrenching and warming book. This book will put you on a roller coaster of emotions!

Katja is a 20 yr old artist and musician that has left her family in Berlin. She does odds and ends to pay rent when she runs into Micah. Micah notices something about her that draws her in to him but co incidentally they start to build a connection.

Katja notices a couple odd things about Micah that stems from his past however she knows she can't judge because she hasn't opened up about hers and he has been kind to her. Once they are able to open up, things grow between them until Micah's past comes back.

Micah now has to prove himself to Katja as her family is needing her more than ever.

\*This is a great romance book for someone looking for a book with no sexual scenes or references.

\*\*\*\*I also applaud Lee Strauss for referencing God as one the characters spoke and the way God works. :)

++My honest review based on ARC.

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### **Laura Pauling says**

I really enjoyed this sweet, realistic love story between Indie musician Katja and high end banker, Micah. In true Pretty Woman fashion, Micah had his secrets and needed saving in the same way Katja did. I loved watching her struggles to follow her dreams, her passion in caring for her family, and her up and down relationship with Micah.

I felt like this could have happened. This had been someone's life. The beatiful writing leads from one paragraph to another.

If you enjoy a nice love story with a moving ending, you'll enjoy this one!

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### **Jessica Adkins-Charles {Bottles & Books Reviews} says**

Katja Stoltz, a down on her luck singer, is looking for a way to keep herself a float without giving up the thing she loves most: her music.

Micha Sturm has secrets to hide but behind what sometimes comes off as a hard exterior is a man who made mistakes and is dealing with the past as best as he can.

Katja, the sun - is the light - whereas Micha, the moon, is dark. Katja is beautiful, talented, and passionate. Micha is strong, wise, and handsome. Together they bring out the best in one another. One is running to find something more and the other is in search of redemption.

Sun and Moon, book one of the Minstrel series, is a lovely read. The plot is similar to a foreign Pretty Woman, the setting is beautiful, and the characters are so well defined and thought out you would think you know them.

Sun and Moon is relaxing beach read, so if you haven't added it to your summer reads list yet, I definitely recommend that you do!

The music for Sun and Moon can be found here (Such great talent!):  
<http://songsfromtheminstrel.bandcamp....>

Sun and Moon is a five star worthy book. Another great series from Lee Strauss!

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### **Amy H says**

I got this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review...

**WARNING!!!! THIS BOOK IS A MUSHY CHEESY ROMANCE....**

I have to say that this book started off really really slow!!!!

then it got excited and i couldn't put it down...

this book is about a girl named Katja. She left home because of her abusive step father. she left behind her pill induced mother and her sister. she was going to follow her dream and become an artist. She started to play music on the side of the road and started to make money. she lived horribly by living on a couch shared by two other girls. she never had enough money to pay rent. One night her roommates where having a party and someone stole her wallet. she now didn't have her part of the rent, so her roommates kicked her out. desperate and hungry she did the one thing that she never wanted to do. She was going to sell herself for money. well, just like pretty woman a hot sexy rich man saw her standing on the street and picked her up. his name was Micah. he took her to his apartment and fed her, and told her to sleep on the couch with no strings attached. He told her he would still pay her.

the next morning she was still there. Micah told Katja that he wanted her to live with him because he like the company. After staying a few days she felt a little weird, and that is when she found out that Micah had a secret. he had a room that he kept locked, and she wondered what was in there.

Katja started to hit it off big when she got a gig at a bar. she finally got herself a job, and she was started to fall for Micah. things were going great UNTIL....MICAHS LITTLE DARK SECRET CAME OUT and her sister called with an SOS ...and i was like...

really! after all she has been through you do this!

Katja did the one thing she knew how... what is it you ask?! well read the book.

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### **Tina Larsen says**

I was gifted a copy of this book by NetGalley for an honest review ...

Katja Stoltz is a lost soul. She has left home due to extreme circumstances and is trying to make it on her own with little success. When push comes to shove - Katja must make a decision - and this is how she ends up meeting Micha Sturm. He is a quiet man with a secret - he keeps a bedroom door locked in his home, but the bigger question is what's behind it. It's hard to move forward when you won't let go of the past and they both struggle with this. Will they find it worth it to let the past lie where it is or will they end up running back to it? This was a great read.

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### **Melanie says**

Katja is a singer/songwriter and she starts out down on her luck. She needs rent money by tomorrow and one of her roommates told her if she didn't want to be out on the streets, she better put her shapely legs and the rest of her youthful body to work. We learn what's happened to her in the past three days to bring her to the point she's at now and some of her background with her family to show why she moved. While she's flashing her legs, she keeps reminding herself why she needs to do this, even though she's also arguing hard against it.

A car stops for her, so she gets in and is pleased to see he's young and good-looking. She had the impression this was his first time picking someone like her up. She introduces herself and learns that his name is Micah and he's half-American, half-German. Micah takes Katja back to his place and feeds her dinner. He then pulls out his sofa bed, tells her he'll still pay her but wants her to sleep there. She's relieved but still a little wary.

She finds herself drawn to Micah, but leaves and then ends up back at his place. They're attracted to each other but he keeps her at arm's length. One of the bedrooms in his apartment is always locked and Katja really wants to learn what's on the other side of that door. Will his secret tear them apart or bring them closer together?

When I first started reading, I had to check to make sure this wasn't going to go down a road I didn't want to travel. I was relieved when Katja met Micah and he was a gentleman. I LOVED their story! There was just enough revealed to keep me guessing and Micah's secret was a surprise to me. Katja and Micah's relationship grew over time which I liked and made me fall in love with them as a couple. I enjoyed their conversations and I totally fell in love with Micah. There were definitely obstacles for them to overcome and my heart broke for them at one point.

There are some great side characters that add a lot to the story as well. This book is billed as an HEA (happily ever after) so the ending didn't come as a surprise, but I enjoyed the journey to get to that point. I recommend this to anyone that would enjoy romance between two unlikely people--an indie singer/songwriter and a banker. This book was hard for me to put down. I look forward to reading more in this series and hope there's more Katja and Micah to come!

Content: Passionate kissing; they do live in the same apartment but sleep in different rooms. There might be mild swearing, but I honestly don't remember.

Mel's Shelves

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### **Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says**

I was really looking forward to reading Sun and Moon. I think it's a cool idea- blending Indie music with books and giving me something fresh and new. I really, really liked it. It's like combining my favorite things.

Katja and Micah's story is a good one. I loved the pull between them. Micah is an enigma and I found myself as confused and frustrated as Katja that I didn't know what was going on with him. One of the things I like

best in books is when characters grow up and change for the better because of hard things that happen. That happened in this book. Both Micah and Katja have to let go of secrets and let each other in.

The path of love is never easy. When you love someone, it's easy to get hurt because you are vulnerable. It's the classic love story. I think it's awesome that the author tells us right up front that there is no cliff hangers (THANK YOU) and always a HEA. (THANK YOU AGAIN). I think I can handle a series like that.

This was a good book with characters that I felt drawn to. It left me feeling happy. Oh, and I loved the setting too. Germany is a beautiful place and I'd love to visit there one day. This book made it sound magical.

As far as content, there is no sex or course language as mentioned above by the author. There is talk about sex and the main character does start out the book with the intention of selling herself on the street for money. It doesn't happen, but it is talked about. There is drinking and some mentioned drug use.

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### **Lauren says**

I have never read any books from this author before so when I saw this was a free eBook I thought I would give it a chance. To be honest I wished I had not.

I do not know if it was the author's intention to make Katja annoying and very irritating but that is how it came across. With many actions Katja did just made me think why would you do that?. For example, why would you sleep in a stranger's house with lack of clothing and two why would you return back that strangers house the next day when you do not know anything about them? Everything she did just irritated me all the way through.

I would have also liked some more characters development with some of the secondary characters. They seemed to just appear when our two main characters got a bit lonely or the book needed someone else to keep the story going.

3/10

<http://behindthebookwithinthepages.bl...>

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### **Mandy (I Read Indie) Anderson says**

As with all of Franke's books I really enjoyed this one. I enjoyed the characters and the story they told. You could almost say this was a modern day, foreign version of PRETTY WOMAN. Even the main character of the story compared herself to Julia Roberts at one point. And I just loved this girl. She has been through so much and still manages to find a way to make her dreams come true. Even if it is not the success seen in the eyes of others...it is a success to her. She is living her dream.

One part I wasn't absolutely fond of was the way some of the story and feelings seemed rushed. It was like the story was going at a great pace...then it felt fast forward at times...then back to a slower pace. I don't want to be rushed when I am getting to know characters and watching their feelings grow for one another. It's just not real life to me.

But even so, I still liked where the author took the characters and the story. This author took a great idea and made it into a beautiful story full of romance and suspense. You have no idea what Micah is going through but even so, you see him becoming a better person right before your eyes. And when we do learn his secret it is easy to see that he was becoming a better person all thanks to Katja. I rooted for these characters hard and needed them to find their happiness....together! Now whether or not they do, well, that is something you will have to find out for yourself. But the story is great and the romance is there. Yes, a sweet must read! 4 Beautiful stars!

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### **Amber Stokes says**

A creative approach to NA (New Adult) contemporary romance, *Sun and Moon* is an interesting read. I enjoy Strauss's writing style, and I appreciate that she offers such a wide variety of stories with the romance I love and minus the explicit content I'd prefer to avoid. (Note that this book does contain a little bit of language, some innuendos, references to drinking, and some heavier kissing scenes, though - definitely for the NA crowd and above.)

This book starts out with such intrigue that I found myself transported to Germany and unwilling to leave through the first quarter of the story. Micah is the kind of guy you'd hope to meet if you were ever in a rough spot or a dangerous place. But that locked door in his apartment... Yeah, I loved the *Jane Eyre/Bluebeard* vibes! A unique and artsy setting + a handsome and kind stranger + a mystery = a great beginning.

The mystery was solved a little earlier than I expected, and I did miss the promising plot, as it sort of fizzled into a day-to-day romance. Very sweet, certainly, but the main tension revolved around how far they were

willing to go physically and will they/won't they stay together. I hoped for a little more excitement, a little more challenge - just...a little more something.

The ending did take a different sort of turn, and what I appreciated the most was Katja's character growth. I would have loved more depth to Micah's character (maybe some of his POV), and I would have appreciated a less superficial look at their beliefs. Even still, the decisions Katja made and the way her attitude started to change were satisfying.

The especially neat thing about this book is the peek at the indie music scene and the songs included to enhance the reading experience. I checked out the Bandcamp page and enjoyed getting to hear "Katja" (songs actually performed by Kim McMechan) and the lyrics sprinkled throughout the story. Strauss has pulled off a really clever idea, and I'm curious to hear more about (and hear more music from) the Minstrel Series!

\*With thanks to the author and NetGalley for providing me with an e-copy of the book in exchange for my honest opinion.\*

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## Deniz says

2,5 Stars

A sweet story about love, overcoming the past and finding your place in life.

Principally I liked the idea behind this, but my main issue with it: the **writing style**. To be frank I don't like it, it's too simplistic in a way. Then I had issues with the whole germane phrases and words in the middle of it and while at other times Strauss decided to use english phrases that not used in german, so made no sense. I never like the use of foreign language phrases packed into a novel. Either we pretend this is set there or we don't. If they supposedly speak in German, and it's written in English just write the whole thing in English. Well at least that's my view on it. I got to admit I'm probably the worst kinda critic in this scenario, I was brought up in Switzerland, so am German speaking, but lived for more than a decade in English speaking countries. Hence I know both languages and cultures really well. In fact I wondered if Strauss had written this in German first... but apparently she hasn't.

The **character building** was alright. I would have preferred if Strauss would have dug deeper. Like about the whole writing process. I guess it's always way harder to make a connection if it's written in the third person- but I couldn't connect very well with the characters in general.

The biggest issue I had with the character building is that they were all so polarized. They all felt black and white- no grey zone. To be frank in my opinion there are only grey zones in life. Most people aren't just good or bad.

But I did like Katja and I really liked Micah. In fact Micah was my favorite, right from the start. He was definitely mysterious and interesting, but in some ways I feel I know very little about him. He stayed an enigma. Which is a shame.

Katja struck me as childish at times and even more often as selfish and self involved. Then again so are most people at her age. I found her need to run- or her threat of it- totally annoying, then I remembered that I was kinda the same at her age. In many ways Strauss captured her age and her state very well. But I wish that I could have connected with her more. I did feel her pain, her happiness to a degree, but it was like I was watching it from afar, rather than living it, like one does in a really really good book. I am not sure if this is due to the fact that I didn't like the writing style. After reading this, I just felt kinda sad, because I felt like

the character building had lots of potential and lots of thought was put in, but it didn't come through. Katja did do plenty of growing up through the novel and I love how she took on responsibility and how she found a way to pursue her passion.

**The story line** was my favorite part of the novel. Definitely a fun and unique idea. I didn't see the first twist, well I knew it was coming but hadn't guessed right. I did however see all the other ones from a mile ahead. They were an obvious must for this genre, but I really enjoyed it non the less.

I love how Strauss brought in the indie music scene. A scene that has been close to my heart since my teens, which is the reason I was interested in the book in the first place. The idea of adding soundtracks at the end is fabulous and I loved the songs. I can imagine being a big fan of Katja myself. (In my head she sounds fabulous similar to Julia Stone actually)

A book that has huge potential but fell a bit short in the execution.

*ARC was provided by Publishers through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Christine Fonseca says**

Really enjoyed everything about this book - my FAV Lee Strauss book to date! Great storyline, great characters, sweet romance!

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