



Touching Freedom

Suren Hakobyan

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International Youth Meeting is organized to gather over hundred teenagers from all over the world in one place every year.

Twenty-two-year-old Isabel left for Munich for summer holidays to take a part in Youth International Meeting. She's going to be absolutely on her own for two weeks, without her bossy father around. Coming here she doesn't expect her life is going to change entirely, because she is going to meet someone *who will see through her*.

His name is David. He's definitely older than the other guests. At the first sight of him blood rushes all over Isabel's body and cold sweat covers her. She has never experienced such feeling to any guy before. Every time seeing him around her legs drag her to him as though he is her spatial drug. But to gain him, Isabel has to face the *secret* lurking behind his dark and cute eyes and she has to confront his *night life*.

For the first time in her life Isabel gets to know the real taste of *freedom*.

Touching Freedom Details

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Author : Suren Hakobyan

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From Reader Review Touching Freedom for online ebook

Oh My Bookness says

Touching Freedom by Suren Hakobyan is a novel that will take the reader on a journey through two characters on a journey of self discovery.

A young girl on her own for two weeks, away from her father, gets a taste of freedom in a whole new sense when she discovers something absolute about herself. She has wings. The taste of freedom is far greater than she could ever expected, her decisions are her own, yet this all new and becomes unsure, scared. But exhilarated by this new freedom, can one still be true ones self, accomplish what one wants, and still have be true to self. How do you survive and be true to what you want most? She will soon find out.

Absolution comes with a price, but what price? As one tries to turn away and finds himself learning about a future not expected. Should one, should he turn to a future he is not absolutely sure about? Or should he turn away....can he trust what he sees in front of him might be something good for him and stay?

A journey of self discovery for two characters. What they decide, you will have to find out. Find out how there journey ends. A good read, to check out.

Muhammad Saad Khan says

Touching the freedom is a story centered around two individuals who are seeking meaning in life. It seeks to answer questions regarding response in times of depression, loneliness and hopelessness.

Although the author tries to tackle these questions as best as he can yet he fails to grab the attention of the reader. This is because of the many dull pages that make it hard to keep reading the book. The story also seems unoriginal.

The characters are ordinary people that warrant little attention. Overall this is a dull and seemingly long read. I hope that the author tries to add more depth to his future writings and adds likable characters to it.

Thanks

I received the book for free in e-format from the author, for which I am thankful.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

Thank you to author Suren Hakobyan for the advance copy for review.

This is the second book by Suren Hakobyan I have read.

Twenty two year old spanish girl, Isabel, is in Munich for an international youth meeting - her first foray away from home without some member of her overprotective family to supervise her.

Also attending the meeting is a twenty eight year old Russian, David, older than the other attendees and who holds himself aloof and apart from the other students.

From the start Isabel feels an unsettling attraction to this man. He is at times rude and arrogant, but she feels there is more to him than meets the eye.

He has a mysterious past and a dangerous extra-curricular activity - the illegal sport of night racing.

Can David show Isabel a future far from her restrictive upbringing? And can Isabel peel back the protective layers David has built up around himself and free the man within?

I enjoyed this book. It is part romance (without being soppy) and part action (I am a petrol head!) and a quick and easy read. Suren's writing has made great advances and I look forward to reading more from him.

Sarah says

I was kindly provided with a copy of Touching the Freedom to read and review.

The story in this book is based on twenty two year old Isabel and twenty six year old David. Both at a two week summer Youth International Meeting in Germany they meet when they cross paths in the guest house that all the members are staying in. For Isabel it's lust at first sight but David is a man of little words or feelings, a man with a deeply buried past. Will he ever do more than rebuff her? Or will they find a way to heal each other and let their pasts stay behind them to be able to find a future?

Isabel was easily my favourite out of the two main characters. She has a nice flow to her character progression and although she's only twenty two and having lived her whole life under constant control of her father, she's actually very mature and wise beyond her years. Unfortunately I couldn't feel quite the same when it came to David, he had an awful habit of contradicting himself at times and his lack of emotions actually began to grate on me as the book progressed. Although Isabel does her best to try and help him become more than he is, he never really seemed to grow in to a stronger, more solid man.

Overall I enjoyed this book, the concept of the love story is good and the theme of learning from our past mistakes and misgivings is well played out but it just didn't have enough punch for me. I would have loved more time with Isabel and David alone together and just a little more action mixed into the storyline. Although this wasn't one hundred percent my cup of tea it is still a thoroughly enjoyable read if you like a heart breaking love story, a tale of learning to live again and of spreading your own wings and finding your freedom.

Spooktacular Books says

This book is well written, it is the first book I have read by Suren Hakoyban and was pleasantly surprised. Touching Freedom is about 22 year old Isabel and 26 year old David. For Isabel this is her first time away from home, away from controlling dad. David on the other hand is a mystery in himself. The two end up meeting at a Youth International Meeting in Munich, Germany. David being the oldest there, in a way introverted, he does not open up to many or anyone at the conference. Something about Isabel he opens up to though.

Without going into too much detail, Suren Hakoyban was able to take a fresh and new look on a renewal of life, starting over and moving on in life. While Isabel wants to do right she wants to be her own person. Can she break free? Does she have what it takes to be her own person or what is expected of her? A fresh look at what is freedom and how one achieves or does not achieve it...its for the reader to decide. But what's a good story but one that makes you think.

Helga Kertész says

I received an ebook version of Touching the Freedom in exchange of an honest review.

When I started reading the book I read chapter after chapter. I liked the characters, I was excited what would happen next. But then the problem was that everything happened too fast. Two or three days after Isabel and David first met they were already together as a couple. I felt no emotions, no love, everything just simply happened. And the 'everything' was not too much either, the story wasn't really action-packed, sometimes it felt boring. I understand that it is a story of self-discovery in the first place where it's not the action that is the most important but still... I liked the idea though, that two people help each other get through their fears, which brings them closer to each other. But I would have enjoyed more emotions and a bit more action.

Still, I thank the author for giving me a chance to read his book.

Gayle Noble says

I received a free copy of the ebook in exchange for an honest review.

I will say straight away that this is not the genre of book I usually read and it wasn't my cup of tea. The author is very good at painting a picture with words with regards to the setting but I didn't feel that the characters were as well developed. I really didn't get why Isabel would be fascinated with David, he seemed a bit generic to me. I think perhaps it would have worked better over a couple of books so that the story would have had more chance to develop naturally.

I have read some terrible sex scenes in my life and I am glad to say that the author of this book kept things fairly brief and didn't stray into corny territory. One criticism I do have was the repetitive mentioning of Isabel's breasts, it quickly became irritating.

Overall, if you are into this genre of books then it is worth a read as the 4 star reviews suggest, but for me it didn't quite work.

Danielle Lytwyn says

I received a free copy of the ebook in exchange for an honest review.

Overall, I enjoyed the story in the book. What should have been a quick and easy read, turned into a long

dragged out book due to the language. The language used in itself is actually quite simple, but a lot of it just didn't seem to flow right. It seemed like I had to actively read each word in order to make sense of the sentences and paragraphs. To me it reads as if the author is not completely fluent in English. If the English flowed a bit better, I would have enjoyed the book more.

The story is a bit slow at first but it really picks up about a third into the book. I would have preferred an extra chapter or two at the end that continues with the story after the guest house. However, the ending as it stands, does offer room for the series to continue.

Rose Gluck says

I really enjoyed *Touching the Freedom*. This is the second novel I've read by Suren Hakobyan. *Touching the Freedom* was a love story between David and Isabel who meet at a two-week international training program for young adults. When David and Isabel meet the intensity of their attraction is almost too much for them. Both characters had deep inner worlds and that played out as they desire to know each other intensified. Their life circumstances weigh them down with a kind of existential imperative to escape what's holding them back. This was particularly true for David who, from the first pages, was haunted by the memory of a woman whose relationship to him was unclear (until the end). However, the power of this past memory ruled his life. He was quiet, mysterious and a little intimidating, but Isabel began to see the "real" David and her strong feelings for him deepen. As their relationship grows, David must confront his past. Isabel must come to terms her family's control over her and her desire for independence.

As with his other novels, Suren Hakobyan created a psychologically austere atmosphere (in a good way). It held my attention and drew me into the character's world. This existential mood was juxtaposed against the descriptions of the jovial experiences of the typical young adult life (dorm living, dancing, parties, hooking up). While David was often haunted by secrets that unfolded as his love for Isabel deepened, he was fun, flirtatious, and clever in so many ways. This paradox made him a well-rounded, interesting character. Despite the intensity of the novel, there were also many lighter moments that brought me back to my college days.

This book held my attention from the beginning. I loved the writing and the well-crafted story. Excellent Read!

Lorine Thomas says

This book was provided to me for an honest review.

Touching the Freedom tells the story of Isabel and David who happens to cross each others path at the International Youth Meeting in Munich. Isabel is away from home for the first time and trying desperately to experience her own freedom, having been so controlled by her father. David is running from a tragic moment in his past but is at times bombarded with haunting visions.

This was a very well written book and Mr. Hakobyan does a magnificent job of transporting us into his world and vision. I loved how he took a new and fresh take on trying to branch out on one's own. For two people from opposite sides of the world to have such a deep connection so fast was something that drew me

in. I loved the journey that the two of them go on and I believe that anyone who reads this will as well. Great job, Suren!!!

Merq says

I was asked to write an honest review and, of course, I gladly accepted the task.

I must admit that this story surprised me. I did not know what to expect beforehand and noticed pretty soon that I had been given a story that was very new to me. It was a nice change to what I have been reading lately.

The story takes place in Munich, Germany, and everything in it happens in two weeks.

The real reason to bring the people of the story together is the Youth International Meeting where students all over the world gather together, working in workshops, visiting local attractions and having fun. There are two distinct main characters, David and Isabel, who differ from each other pretty much. David is older and does not really even belong to the Meeting, Isabel is a young, pretty girl. Quite innocent one too.

These two persons tell the story - but I'm not going to reveal too much of the plot. The whole fascination of the book is based on surprises and the oddly mysterious atmosphere that keeps you reading until the end.

During the whole book I felt like I was watching a movie. The visual images were that strong and the twists and highlights were just like ones that would happen at some point in the movie. There was something vivid in the book that kept me hooked and allowed me to watch (yeah, watch, not read) the story while eating popcorn and keeping the pillow at my lap.

I liked the "silent pressure" that lingered at the background and dominated the first half of the book.

Everything happened quite slowly at first.. Some student life. Getting to know each other. Having fun.

Complex feelings. Relationships. Wonders..

I shared David's longings back to the student life that can not be reached again. It is sad how life changes when you grow older, nothing seems to be the same anymore.

Sigh.

And BANG!

Then the story took a whole different turn and had suddenly an entirely different meaning.

The story is not just about student life, no, that is just an excuse for all this. It's something else, deeper. And from that moment the speed of the story just gets faster and faster.. Until you are out of your breath and notice that you have read the whole story. If the first half of the book went slowly and built the mysterious air, the rest of the book went flying.

I liked the realism of the characters. Isabel was sweet. Logical. I liked her and was thrilled when she had the courage to fight against David when she deserved to do that.

But what was the the thing with her breasts? It was like she had some sort of breast-syndrome - at first I thought that she had really big boobs because everyone seemed to notice them. Then her roommate, Veronica, happened to have bigger breasts which Isabel envied. So.. How big were they then?

And the sex scenes - very much of them. Wow. Workshops did not have a chance there, the students were busy elsewhere.

Uhh, I went a little off the track here.

David is the core of the story.

From the outside he is almost perfect - inside, not so. He has problems because of his past, some unfinished business to do.

The typical teen romances usually have their official "bad guy" who does nasty stuff, is avoided by the wise people, is underlined as a bad guy over and over again and usually also says that himself/herself until it becomes boring and the reader does not want to believe that anymore.

I liked the way David was described as a man with problems but nothing too much. He had his bad tendencies but he could also be nice - a very contradictory combination. This worked better than underlining the "bad boy"-thing. It was reader's work to decide his position in the good-bad-axel.

And he had really strong charisma. Even though I hated him at some point, I afterwards pitied him and wanted to support him - like Isabel.

These two had a quite complex relationship.

All in all, the story gave me some thoughts to ponder. I started to wonder whether I truly live in a cage or free as a bird. Hmm. I liked the ending which was left kind of open because it enables the story to live also afterwards.

The story was emotionally loaded package, enough strong to work as a short story.

During the story, David was also known as "Seko". For me, it was really fitting choice for a nickname. In Finnish "seko" means a person who is a bit crazy.

And oh boy, David really was a crazy man.

Kim Hampton says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for my honest opinion. I really liked the story line, but I felt like the ending was vague and unfinished.

Sophie Narey (Bookreview- aholic) says

Published: 28/12/2014

Author: Suren Hakobyan

Recommended for: readers who like self discovery

I received this book in return for an honest review

This book is well written by a talented author. The book takes you on a journey of self discovery with two main characters Isabel (22 years old) and David (26 years old).It takes place in Munich, Germany where the two characters meet for the first time at Youth International Meeting. For Isabel it is lust at first sight. The story itself is good and the theme of learning from past mistakes and misgiving gives the book a fresh look at life.

The only thing I would change about this book is that it had more action in it and more time with Isabel and David. But overall it is a good book and I am glad i got the opportunity to read it.

Ferenc says

The electronic copy of this book has been kindly provided by the author, who asked for a honest review.

The honest review:

The story

Love is in the air. And it's love at first sight for Isabel, who falls head first into David, the mysterious guy at a youth conference. David, on the other hand, tries to avoid the young lady, until he (obviously) realizes that he is in love. With Isabel, of course.

The story focuses on the two lovers, on how they get to know each other by sharing their past, passions, and secrets. And since David has quite the passion, it doesn't get boring at all. Which is something, considering I'm not very much into love stories.

The characters

David: The boy. He has a secret, which makes him mysterious. He's also older than the other teenagers at the youth conference, which makes him even more mysterious (and attractive). An introvert, grumpy man at first, he falls in love with Isabel, who gets to change him for the better. Haunted by a car accident and the death of his former girlfriend, Veronica, he has to leave the past behind to be able enjoy the present (and the future).

Isabel: The girl. Having been kept safe by her parents all her life, and now being all alone in the big world, she is bound to get in trouble (and in love). She does her best to understand and accept David for what he is, even though she is definitely bothered by some silly little things. (view spoiler)

The good

Kept me awake and interested. I just had to know if David and Isabel remain together or not.

At first I could really relate with David. Being around the same age as he is, and working with students just a few years younger gives me that same strange feeling, as being so much older than them... Of course, I don't race, don't have any dark secrets, and don't attract naive young girls (*sigh*).

The way the author approached the lovemaking is also appealing. For my tastes, it was perfectly balanced. There were some 18+ scenes, but not too many. They were detailed, but not too detailed. And there were no whips and chains. (Nothing wrong with those, but would have probably ruined this novel).

The bad

The clichés: The book has plenty - from the mysterious guy and the innocent young girl, up to the jealous

outsiders, who try to come between them. I'm not really bothered by clichés, but some readers might get irritated.

The language: I found it a bit chunky. Just like my English. I'm not a native English speaker, so that might explain it. (And - as I just found out - Mr. Hakobyan isn't either, so I could just take this back).

The editing: A bit more editing could have helped with the previous problem. There are also some typos out there (which probably bother me more than they should).

Conclusions

I wholeheartedly recommend it to anybody who wants to read a not overly complicated love story. There are some issues which could have been solved with more editing, but overall it is a lovely story, with enough action to keep it interesting up to the last page.

Mandy Sanchez says

"Not everyone was possessed by the ability to touch the freedom, because deep within they were scared of being set free."

I was kindly provided with this book in exchange for an honest review.

#2015ReadingChallenge. #4. A book published this year.

Touching The Freedom is a really great book, I just regret it wasn't the best moment in my life to lay my hands on it.

I feel the book could have been epic, yet I popped with a bunch of difficulties that frustrated and bored me. First, the characters. I didn't feel any type of connection with none of them. The relationship of Isabel and David happened too fast, too awkward; it felt like there was more sex than any other feeling between them. No chemistry. I had no reactions for David, and the early obsession of Isabel since the first time she sees him annoys me and makes no sense. Not to mention the storyline takes place in an International Youth Meeting, but the writer doesn't take full advantage of that fact, and he introduces a lot of people who then disappears, or gets left behind (aka Hana, Daniela, Fabio, etc), leaving only Dima and Rosy to appear to fill blank spaces.

Since english is not my native language (you can obviously appreciate it in this review, I apologize for it), the simpleness in Suren's writing helped me a lot to survive through a whole english-spoken book, thank God.

The action could have flown much better, and I believe the heavy parts of the book were the reason why it took me so long to read it. Nevertheless, at the early half of the story the author managed to get my whole attention.

I loved the message of the story, though I'm not sure I can fully understand the meaning of *freedom* until I decide to come out of my glass bubble and enjoy the real world. I don't feel in that need yet.

Though this book and I had our differences, and went through a whole *love/hate* phase, I think everyone should give it a try someday.

3.5/5.

PS. *"Run, Run, Run"* by Tokio Hotel reminds me so much of David...
