



## Dream Me

*Kathryn Berla*

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## Dream Me Kathryn Berla

Zat is a dreamer from the distant future—a time when humans no longer dream and Earth is a desolate wasteland. He dreams of the beautiful Earth of the past, and a fiery-haired beauty named Babe. Against the wisdom of his peers, Zat decides to risk everything to travel back in time and live in Babe's dreams...

Babe is the perpetual new girl in town. Her father's job frequently moves the family around the country, and Babe just longs for a place to call home. As she settles into the sleepy town of Sugar Dunes, Florida, Babe begins to have strange dreams of a green-eyed boy named Zat. Night after night, Babe shows Zat her world. But the dreams come at the cost of nearly crippling migraines every morning. Babe's life outside of her dreams pales in comparison to her growing love for Zat and their time spent together.

But the more time Babe and Zat spend together in her dreams, the more Babe's pain increases, and Zat begins to question the reality of his existence. How can he live a life with Babe, when all they have is her dreams?

Can a dream become a reality?

## Dream Me Details

Date : Published July 11th 2017 by Amberjack Publishing

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Author : Kathryn Berla

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## From Reader Review Dream Me for online ebook

### Tanya Tate says

\*Makes an observation on the cover\*

Update 2

\*Author of the book sees your observation and ask you to message them\*

\* Author of the book sends you an sign arc copy of the book along with two of their other books\*

This is my first physical arc!!!! I feel so official now! lol

Thank you Ms. Kathryn Berla for the gift!!!!

Update 1: Umm Why does it have the same cover as Making Faces by Amy Harmon??? Which all they did was put an filter on it?

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### Caron says

★||Actual Rating: 2.5 Stars||★

*I received this book from the publisher on NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

Dream Me is a book that is a love story of sorts told through a science fiction point of view.

I'll start right off by saying that most of this book was confusing to me. I don't know what message was trying to be told and it irked me that I couldn't tell because I felt like I was missing out on some joke.

Here's what I did get. Zat was from a future Earth where the world and humans had evolved so much that even their appearance was changed. He was often referred to as a dreamer because even though people stopped dreaming ages ago, he was fascinated and obsessed with it, so much so that he was willing to live in and through someone else's dreams.

As much as Babe spoke throughout the book, I didn't much get the feel of her as a person. She was kind of the main character but I understood her through Zat's eyes. The way he spoke about her and expressed his feelings about and towards her helped me know her better.

Even though this book threw me for a loop, I can't deny that the author's writing is amazing. Maybe there wasn't much world building and certain points did seem either slightly forced or rushed but I wouldn't write her off as yet.

## Dianne says

The only way he could be with her was in her dreams. Zat was from a dark, distant future Earth and in the desolation of his world, people no longer dream, yet Zat does and his dreams are filled with a long ago Earth of beauty and a girl named Babe.

Babe's dreams star a boy named Zat and every night they are together, but those dreams bring her migraines of excruciating pain. Babe finds she would rather be with Zat in a dream world than to live in reality without him. Must they choose between their special dreams and life without each other? Is there any way to bring their dreams to life?

**DREAM ME** by Kathryn Berla is a completely different take on young adult fantasy, a future where Earth is destroyed, yet the technology of that time allows a person's consciousness to travel through time. What a fascinating concept that could fill pages of details and background, fleshing out this quick read with more depth.

Was the author's intent to keep Zat less defined than Babe? If so, in a unique way, it fits the story, a boy of her dreams, a love that seems impossible and a girl who is forced to live in a real world that is constantly changing for her.

Great reading for young adults who don't need the depth older readers will seek. Short chapters, and a good presentation that reads well and just may prove that dreams can come true.

I received an ARC edition from Amberjack Publishing in exchange for my honest review.

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

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## Erin says

**Thanks to NetGalley for an uncorrected digital galley in exchange for an honest review.**

Oh my goodness! I am not sure what to say about this book. How about the positives? Eye catching cover, I requested this YA sci-fi/new age book without really paying attention to the synopsis. **I had absolutely no preconceived notions.** The writing was beautiful, there were even some lovely sentences that I could see myself using to teach figurative language in the classroom. The two main protagonists Zat and Babe held names that I have never come across in fiction before. Although I do know a woman from my parents church that is named Babe (nickname for Bea).

But the storyline was all over the place for me and I didn't really "get" what it was all about. The world building wasn't really executed that well and I just couldn't care about the teen romance angst and the dream

sequences began to get really boring.

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## **Tuba Sayed says**

Life is but a dream.

This is one of those of books you just want to keep on reading because it's so delightful, and the characters feel like they are your friends. But let me tell you beforehand, if you are a die-hard sci-fi lover than this might disappoint you. The core aspect this story revolves around is not delineated enough. You might come out this world, frustrated, deprived of answers, but if you like to weave your own theories, and become satisfied with your imagination, then should give this a try. Whatever little information was provided, it didn't bother me because I am not that into this genre. I had nothing to lose or win. Also, if you're about to dive into this expecting a cheese fest, than I am sure your hopelessly romantic heart would be dissatisfied.

Now, I really love the format (Babe's blog post! How cool).

Babe is a charming, and likable protagonist. I felt our male protagonist lacked an air of gravitas, that didn't allow me to attach myself to him.

While reading, I was way too concerned about the friendship element, and I can happily say it was well executed.

And oh, I give this one star more for the writing style, I love the way she strings words together, and I can read this book again for the delicious style alone. I would also recommend you check out her '12 hours in paradise' that's my personal favourite Kathryn Berla book.

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## **Dani - Perspective of a Writer says**

Babe is yet again the new girl, her dad and mom moving her to Florida as the newest golf pro at the Sugar Dunes country club. It's nothing new and at least she gets to be by the beach for her last year of school. Zat is the mysterious boy that invades her dreams from the distant future. Risking his life on the uncertain technology that projects his consciousness through time to past earth, he chooses Babe's dreams to occupy. As the summer comes to a close Babe finds her life taking some left turns...will Zat survive all the changes?

I love stories about dreams and post-apocalyptic earth so it was a no brainer to request this fusion love story. And I totally loved it! To be fair if you are not looking for romance this book is not for you. While Babe goes through all sorts of changes in her life she is unwaveringly bound to Zat. Okay warning is over, you have been forewarned!

Some might claim there is a startlingly strong insta-love between Babe and Zat. While I admit it appears like that I don't agree... Zat has vetted dreamers to choose who he wants to occupy and he chose Babe after falling for her through her dreams. To some it may seem creepy like a stalker (and in a way it is) but it's not about the physical it's totally what he knows about Babe's mind and dreams. In essence he got to know her intimately more than most couples know and feel about one another. Since he came from an earth so at odds with our own I can see how this intimacy bridges differences that may be too extreme without it. From Babe's side of it she does say (very early on) she feels love while not understanding it. I believe this was to signify that her unconscious (basically her mind) had been aware of Zat and fallen for him too. This is probably a stretch for some readers. I however bought it and felt that the story followed this line of thought

very well.

As for Zat's distant earth, there were enough details that I bought his world. The body's adaptations to the environment, their reliance on insects to eat and cactus to drink, the community society working together and pairing up due to practical matters were all touched on well enough that I could see his world. I loved meeting his uncle briefly and his talk about the other family members choosing the only other options besides the dream technology and death on earth - space travel with no known location in mind. In a way this background caused Zat to be a more accepting and loving human being for Babe.

While I felt this sci-fi aspect to Babe's very regular life was intriguing and a great element that worked well it wasn't the entire story and I liked that fusion nature to the book! We also have Mai, a Vietnamese girl Babe befriends at her family's fish market and LeGrand, the rich boy, golden child that lounges at the country club his father is on the board of directors for. These two add such a richness to her day to day life. She is able to talk to Mai as a best friend and LeGrand is able to confide about his own struggles to Babe. They both add a tiny bit of diversity. (I didn't mind the part about Mai's name, she called her Nuggins due to the conversation she and Mai had to show they were friends. I've actually heard from my Asian friends that this happens particularly to the more difficult names.) The book covers the summer before her senior year and the ups and downs of her new sleepy town plus the addicting meetings with Zat that she feels she must rush back to each night.

The plot is not the be all to end all. If you HATE books with really light plot I still think you should give this book a chance but be aware that it is not about the plot even though there is some real life stuff that constitutes plot and acts as markers for the passing of time. I liked this about the book! I liked the difficulties that she had to tackle. The other minor characters weren't there to add drama for drama's sake but made you wonder (Alonso, Maddy Lynn, Bing, Kay and Clyde). I really appreciated the secret island, the sexual harassment and the Friends Across the Bay tennis class.

Babe has such a natural and engaging narrative style that I was willing to just go along for the ride as her life totally changes due to her move to Sugar Dunes.

"So much for Skyping with Perry if I couldn't fix it myself. I would've texted him but I'd already tried my cell phone and we were out of the service area. Just great. In the middle of a pine forest on a street named after a fish and I couldn't even send a text."

Zat's POV while more limited was a nice compliment to Babe even though it dropped off at the end abruptly. I loved Babe's blog journal posts and the comments at the end. The formatting of the book worked well and kept us from dwelling on potentially more boring parts of Babe's life.

The ending was fantastical but it was a satisfying conclusion to the entire dream experience. The real life drama was a nice balance to the romance climax. I liked how Babe realized what had happened, I thought it was executed well and her reactions were spot on. And her moment with Mai saying what needed to be said even if it was hard... now that is friendship. Really this book was all about the details. If I listed all of them then there wouldn't be incredible little nuggets of gold for you to run across... while the book had light plot in places this was a really creative melding of genres that I really enjoyed.

**BOTTOM LINE:** A fantastical sci-fi contemporary romance, slice of life fusion.

*Thanks to Netgalley and the publisher for providing me with an ARC in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **Maya says**

*ARC received in exchange for an honest review.*

### **2,5 STARS**

I remember getting this book a long while ago and was really looking forward to it. The blurb sounded exciting and intriguing, so I thought why not give it a go. So now I finally read it and I hate to say it but I'm actually quite disappointed by the weak plot.

The way this story started left me totally confused since the author doesn't tell us exactly what's happening. You get a teenager in the present time that moved to a new town because of her father's job. And then you have a boy that still lives on Earth but not really, since the Earth that we know is dying and the people have mutated to some sort of lizard like creatures. Which btw. I loved, a great spin on the main character. But what bothered me is that we get this information almost near the end of the story. So all this time I was practically wondering what Zat is and what the actual plot is. And, yes, the plot is super weak. It's starts of fine but then you read and read, nothing really happens. She lives her normal life, makes friends, gets a job and only meets up with Zet in her dreams and that only for a short period of time. So we actually almost don't get to see him in the real world. (view spoiler) And then all of a sudden, the story comes to it's end. And you're left even more confused, like that was it? Huh? I expected more.

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## **Sophie (Blame Chocolate) says**

Find the full review at Blame Chocolate.

**I received a copy courtesy of the publisher for an honest review. Thank you to Amberjack Publishing for the opportunity.**

Being a "sci-fi" kind of romance, I expected way more from this. Sure, there wasn't a lot to pack up in 175 pages but when you waste 50% of the book talking about Babe and her friends eating grilled fish or playing tennis, you get no excuse.

There were some really interesting concepts in this, but they were a) not explored enough and b) all pretty jumbled and not making much sense when put together. There was also a lot left to the imagination, which is usually fine but didn't actually work here.

I was thoroughly bored and very simply put, uninterested in this story. It was so short yet it took me nearly a month to finish it just because I didn't feel like picking it up. And when I did, it felt syrupy sluggish.

I really wanted to like Dream Me. It sounded so interesting and had such a pretty cover. But overall, I just can't recommend it.

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### Ash †Reviews of a FearStreetZombie† says

*I received this book in return for a honest review.*

The ending alone is worth a extra star on it's own.  
It's what saved it from being two stars for me.

I liked this book, I really did. It has a ton of potential. But I just felt like their was a lot of things missing. What really got me was this was suppose to be a sci-fi book (not really a fan of those but I admit, the blurb really drew me in to this book) but there really wasn't anything sci-fi about it.... It was more like paranormal/supernatural.

Babe is new to town and starts dreaming of Zeb(?) Zed? Something like that ... they are both from earth yet... not? It's weird and confusing to me. I could go more into it but I don't want to ruin the book for anyone. Because it would be loaded with spoilers.

I had a lot of issues with this book though, sadly. I get she is new to the south, but for the 2 examples I am about to provide, you can understand why I rolled my eyes so hard

*"Fire ant? What kind of strange creature was that?"* Page 24

*"It occurred to me that maybe women didn't shake hands in this part of the world. "* Page 77

How does a person not know what a fire ant is or that women shake hands? "In this part of the world" Are. You. Serious.

We talk different, we are not from another freaking world. Also was not a fan of how the southerners were made to talk like they were ignorant. We would most likely say "y'all" before "yew". Just saying. I get most people may think "Well that is how Cajuns talk." ..... no, baby. No. They don't.

Loved how the main character was a vegetarian and started shoveling in meat. (That was sarcasm) Sorry. That is not how it works. She reminded me of those hipsters that say they are something just to "fit in" .... Guess I can understand that since she just came from Cali? I don't know.

I think the deal breaker for me was the sexual assault. Because it happened more than once, and when she took her anger (I saw it as anger, but whatever) out - she was told to leave work for a week. Then assault happens and finally they tell the guy to leave, but again- no one presses charges. Are you kidding me?! The next girl may not be so lucky of it being a forced kiss and ass grab. (No, I don't mean she was lucky that happened to her, I am just saying, the next time - **BECAUSE THERE IS ALWAYS A NEXT TIME** the next girl won't have that happen, she will most likely be raped.) what about previous victims. You know there have to be. She can't be his first.

Ugh! It just turns my freaking stomach and pisses me off!

Also, how she claims Mia as her best friend but makes fun if her last name every chance she gets. Yeah no. That got old quick.

I know I said I liked this book, I did. Those were just some issues I had with it. The story line was a good

idea. I think it would make a great story. But I felt like we only saw the middle of the book. We weren't given much to work with and what we had didn't really matter.... if that makes sense.

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### **Alice Rachel says**

What a beautiful book!

As always, Kathryn Berla's writing is so good. Beautifully written and flowing so well. But no, I'm not jealous at all... (Totally am).

Her style is so unique and all of her own. You can tell someone is a good writer when you recognize their work based on their writing style alone.

There were many things I liked in this book, most of them subtle.

For example, I loved the criticism of misogyny flowing through the book. Babe is faced with a plight all girls/women have to deal with at least once in their lives: the unwanted and uncalled-for harassment from a member of the male gender.

Her situation is made worse by the fact that the man has power.

I just loved how this was presented in such a way one might even miss the criticism.

I also loved the questions raised about immigration. I loved that the book talked about important matters such as the Vietnam war.

So many important subjects just seeping through the pages in subtle ways.

I loved the diversity of the characters and how deep they were. Zat and Babe are strong and lovable.

This is a unique love story like nothing else I've ever read! Read it now! : )

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### **Kathryn Berla says**

#### **KIRKUS REVIEW**

In this YA novel, a young man from Earth's far future visits a present-day teen in her dreams, but soon their connection is threatened.

In a future era in which the Earth is dying, Zat plans a dangerous trip, time traveling to our present by projecting himself into the mind of a teenage girl while she sleeps. That girl, Babe, who's 17 (roughly Zat's age), is an adaptable, resourceful person thanks to her father's job as golf pro, which has caused them to move from state to state—most recently, from California to the Florida Panhandle. Over the summer, Babe learns about another new town, makes some friends, and works in the country club's tennis shop, and she also begins having recurring dreams of a boy with thick, wavy brown hair and green eyes, who eventually introduces himself as Zat. He seems strangely familiar, and they share a strong bond, making Zat a "dream guy" in every way—except for the crushing headaches Babe has the following day. To herself and on her blog, Babe wonders how Zat can feel "more real and more interesting than anyone...in real life." But can he

achieve corporeality after time travel? And will he have to abandon the trip—and his life—to save Babe from unbearable pain? Berla (12 Hours in Paradise, 2016, etc.) delivers a very entertaining romance with well-thought-out sci-fi elements—one that's delightfully free of the clichés that so often haunt YA fiction. Both the story's rich-kid and queen-bee characters defy convention; Babe's friends have intriguing back stories, and the country-club setting gives the protagonist a chance to make perceptive comments about people and society. For example, while touring a palatial yacht, she remarks, "I knew money didn't buy happiness, but it was unbelievable what it did buy." Babe's blog opens up the story via the sometimes-silly, sometimes-mysterious comments of her readers: one of them wishes she would focus on Florida sightseeing; another, called "DreamMe," seems strangely knowledgeable about Babe's situation. The final twist isn't easy to see coming, and it gives the novel a satisfying, well-earned ending.

A thoughtful, engaging novel that combines genres well.

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### **Kaylin (The Re-Read Queen) says**

#### **DNF @ 15%**

I'm not assigning a rating to this, as I didn't get very far-- and as such, this review focuses more on why I decided not to continue, instead of an overview of the entire work.

The premise for this is really interesting, focusing on a girl and boy separated by past/future, who connect through dreams. But the writing style is very cluttered and filled with info-dumps.

Instead of giving any perception of the characters, the first few chapters are just *stuffed* with information. Both Babe's world and Zat's are just revealed in long rambling paragraphs. There are no sensory details, just historical facts, ramblings about Babe's many moves or Zat explaining the intricacies of his society.

There's also something really gimmicky about most of Babe's backstory being revealed through blog posts and playing it off as "well my blog is just more like a diary I'm sharing."

My main issue was the *run-on-sentences*. These paragraphs were incredibly long, broken up by parenthesis with useless information and multiple hyphens. It was just way too cluttered, and completely pulled me out of the story.

I received an ARC of this through Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review. Thanks to Amberjack Publishing for the opportunity!

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### **Manon says**

#### **\*2.5 Stars\***

*I was provided an ARC via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

Babe is always moving. The story starts when she's 17 and is moving to Florida. Her father is a pro golfer and got a job in a country club. She also works there in the Tennis shop.

Everything is going ok despite being far from her boyfriend until she starts having vivid dreams that leaves her with terrible headaches.

The writing style was ok, but the plot was super messy. It was like the two storylines had no relation to each other even though they concerned the same character. There was the dream plot and the reality plot...

We had no depth in the dream world... We only knew about it from her blog updates and it was always brushed over. We didn't get to see how they fell for each other, how they connected and it made me not care. At all. I was mostly bored through it all and the only storyline I was interested in was resolved in a way that infuriated me.....

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### **Lucy Banks says**

#### **Dream Me - Quite literally dreamy, highly imaginative and intriguing!**

I was fascinated by the whole concept behind Kathryn Berla's *Dream Me*; a girl moves to a sleepy Florida town, then falls in love with the guy who keeps appearing in her dreams...most mysterious!

And I wasn't disappointed. In fact, in terms of writing style, it reminded me a lot of Christopher Pike (my YA fave!), with a similar haunting, drifting prose that was both down-to-earth and lyrical - a hard thing to pull off.

The setting was perhaps the strongest element of the book; the author managed to capture the stillness and the heat of Sugar Dunes, which complemented the dreamy feel of the book to perfection. There were also some stand-out characters there (loved Mai - she was wonderfully feisty), and the ending was not one I saw coming at all.

I'll be keeping my eyes out for other books from this author.

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### **? jamieson ? says**

I received this book from the publisher in exchange for my review

Dream Me had an interesting premise - humans in the distant future have developed the ability to travel back in time and live in the past through the dreams of people living at that time.

Zat is one of those people from the future, abandoned by his entire family and unable to live with his uncle anymore, he decides to travel back in time to live in the dreams of the main character, Babe. The story it told partly in writing, and partly through Babe's blog posts.

**I pretty much had an issue with every aspect of this book that wasn't the premise** First off, the

worldbuilding around the sci-fi elements was so underdeveloped. The character literally says "I could explain this but it's complicated so I won't" what a cop out !! Worldbuilding is so important, especially when you're having a plot that's so completely outlandish and needs to be backed up by some kind of explanation.

The characters were really underdeveloped, Zat literally had no personality and didn't even feel like a real person and Babe had no complexity or depth so I just found them boring. Mai, Babe's best friend was also underdeveloped. I liked that she was Vietnamese but like with Zat and Babe - there was no complexity and depth.

I did like two things about the characters - I liked Mai and Babe's friendship, and I liked that Babe played tennis because diversity in hobbies is also I think I need to see more of in YA.

I was a little irritated by the judgement the characters cast upon other women - especially one instance in particular. Babe works at a tennis court where famous tennis players come to practice. She notices a female tennis champ entering, immediately she judges her outfit and makes an assumption on the woman

"Don't all the beautiful girls in the movies turn out to be evil? Yeah, that must be it. She was probably despicable.

I found this pretty awful - one because actual women in tennis have been pretty outspoken about how much it annoys them people overlook their skill and prowess and focus on their outfits. And two, because it's such a poor women hating statement absolutely based on nothing and I'm sick of books vilifying women for NO REASON.

## THE ROMANCE

So this is insta-love ... my least favourite. Zat is already in love with Babe when he chooses to enter her dreams, which is honestly kind of creepy anyway. Then upon meeting Zat one time (in a dream), Babe decides he's the one for her and *breaks up with her boyfriend*

"And yet the boy, Zat. His mystique is so seductive. I'm pretty sure I'll follow him wherever he wants to go."

**GIRL. YOU JUST MET HIM. AND IN A DREAM !! CALM DOWN !!**

So I just found them ridiculously annoying and urgh. Plus, Zat is there all the time just lurking and I find it so weird. I find it so weird that he literally staked out where she'd be and tried to make her fall in love with him and I JUST DIDN'T LIKE THE ROMANCE IT WAS WEIRD

## Other nonsense

There is a bit where the MC literally makes fun of Mai's last name because of it being Vietnamese and A PUBLISHER APPROVED OF THAT SCENE ?!

There is a creepy and unnecessary subplot of an old guy hitting on Babe at work but then **don't worry** because her dream boyfriend saves her from him and STOP THE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS and stop teaching people that a man will only back off if he's threatened by another man and not the GIRL HERSELF.

I just found it really boring and literally nothing happened except the characters whining over how mysterious Zat was and how she wanted to sleep and live in dream bliss with him.

**I just flat out didn't like it okay** luckily it was short but honestly even 185 pages seemed like too much.

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