



Undiscovered Gyrl

Allison Burnett

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Only on the internet can you have so many friends and be so lonely.

Beautiful, wild, funny, and lost, Katie Kampenfelt is taking a year off before college to find her passion.

Ambitious in her own way, Katie intends to do more than just smoke weed with her boyfriend, Rory, and work at the bookstore. She plans to seduce Dan, a thirty-two-year-old film professor.

Katie chronicles her adventures in an anonymous blog, telling strangers her innermost desires, shames, and thrills. But when Dan stops taking her calls, when her alcoholic father suffers a terrible fall, and when she finds herself drawn into a dangerous new relationship, Katie's fearless narrative begins to crack, and dark pieces of her past emerge.

Sexually frank, often heartbreaking, and bursting with devilish humor, *Undiscovered Gyrl* is an extraordinarily accomplished novel of identity, voyeurism, and deceit.

Undiscovered Gyrl Details

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Author : Allison Burnett

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From Reader Review Undiscovered Gyr! for online ebook

E. Anderson says

I was sucked into this voyeuristic mess from page one. Katie Kampenfelt is seventeen, and already everything our mothers warned us about. Her blog chronicles her excessive drinking and drug use, her sexcapades with her boyfriend and the older man she's sleeping with, and fantasies about her boss. The style, while gimmicky, is relevant - everyone has a blog, everyone thinks their life is newsworthy. And while Katie's blog is indeed different from the rest, what she's writing is nothing you would want for anyone close to you. Like a bad reality show, you can't stop watching. But unlike said reality show, Undiscovered girl is cleverly written, culturally important, and the perfect summer read for young fans of transgressive literature. It's like Bridget Jones, if Bridget were a mal-adjusted, alcoholic, promiscuous teenager. And while most moms of actual seventeen year olds would be horrified to find this book in their daughter's room, you can bet the daring teens will be sneaking around to trade it with their friends.

Serra Swift says

"Undiscovered Gyr!" is at times blunt and a little trashy, but it reads true of a young girl's blog and provides interesting insight into the life of the main character. We know her as "Katie," but come to realize that she is not the most trustworthy of narrators.

I was at times annoyed with the book (and its author) for its tendency to delve into cliché "edgy teenage verbiage," but I still sped through the book in about a day of reading. The language, while at times unrealistic (and at others downright disgusting) is easy to read, and soon the car-wreck scenarios surrounding "Katie" and her tragic sexual couplings drew me in and wouldn't let me go. The ending, while unsatisfying, put the book into a new perspective for me. I trusted "Katie" throughout, despite her confession that "minor" details had been changed; that trust was betrayed, but to good effect. I got chills as I read the last pages, wondering what this girl's world had really been (her romantic re-casting of a video store employee into a professor of film) and what had really happened to her.

AMASHI says

I find it very difficult to explain my opinion.

This book is good but it contains too many complications.

And I think Katie's character is enigmatic. I couldn't comprehend what she really wanted with her life. I assume her traumatic past is the reason for her perplexing behavior.

I wish Katie was a bit more strong and focused.

Kate Audsley says

Not a bad way to start off the 2019 reading year. I loved the writing, it made the story flow so seamlessly that it kept me addictively flipping pages even though I didn't always appreciate the heavy topics dealt with. And there are A LOT!

As a rule I don't usually appreciate books written in an epistolary or blog/journal type style but this one was written well enough it made me change my mind.

Emily says

First thing's first: The "gyrl" thing bugs me. In fact, there are a lot of things that stem from the blog format that bug me. I cringed at the typos. Is it too much to ask for our heroine to use Firefox?

So this book started out as a set of entertaining blog entries from a 17 year old who is fooling around with someone 15 years her senior. I might have related to that just a bit. But it didn't take long for me to lose my ability to relate to "Katie". It took a turn for the serious, as she became more and more self destructive and obsessed with finding Prince Charming, but really, how many people ever related to *Go Ask Alice*? I have to remind myself that sometimes a good book can have a character you don't relate to. Despite all this, I found myself sucked into this world with its backdrop of the election of last year and its cast of fuck-ups. And then came the last few entries. Let's just say I was *not* expecting those. They'll make you want to reread the book immediately, just to see if it doesn't take on a whole new meaning the second time around.

Lili says

Okay, for once I'm going to skip to my own little made-up synopsis. There are four specific words that sum up this story, in a nutshell: crudely honest yet deceitful. Straight-up. The fact that it's written in blog-format is just a bonus, I swear. By the time you get through the first few posts of self-knowing to self-questioning, you're hooked. I got a head-ache from reading straight from the start to page 174. ('Course, that could have been also because it was the middle of the night.) The sexual innuendo is definitely most of the main reason, everything else, random facts. You will laugh at the most saddening parts because you inevitably know what's going to happen next, yet it still manages to catch you by surprise because you sure as hell aren't psychic. Undiscovered Gyrl, I guess you could say is a discovering novel. Makes sense, right? "Kate" remains anonymous throughout, but yet how can she? She's telling a life-story, but is it really hers? You don't know who she is, so....It's riveting and quite appalling at times, a can't look away sort of thing. This might be one of the shortest reviews ever, but no doubt it is one of the best. Book, not review. ;)

(Although...)

I was initially think of making this a "crudely honest" review, to portray the fragility of the main character but also of the arrogant strength that young adults cannot survive without (that Allison so dearly states, and for that I thank him!). Hopefully, I can at least go out with a bang! How's this:

Recommended to all YAs out there deferring from their freshman year of college, (males get ready for boners and females, changing of the undies will soon be in order) for you will not stop 'til you pass out from trying stand-up when you've been in your reading position so long--has happened, beware!

Warning: Wrote review with still a third of the novel left to cherish; if I had reviewed it after finishing it all (like normal people, bleh) I would have most likely forgotten what I had read the previous day, has happened!

Trupti Dorge says

What attracted me to Undiscovered Gyrl was the premise. It's about a girl who blogs anonymously and supposedly with honesty. She is a 17 year old teenager who lives her life without really thinking of the consequences. She has a boyfriend Rory who is more or less her age and she is also having an affair with an older guy whom she calls Dan and who already has a girlfriend. She takes a year off before joining college because she feels she isn't ready.

She calls herself Katie. Although Katie lives her life recklessly she does realize from time to time that what she is doing is wrong. But she is unable to stop. As she continues to blog we come to know more about her life which mostly consists of partying, taking drugs and indulging in sexual relations. As a reader you get to know only what she projects to the world. We can see that her actions will have bad consequences. The things Katie does are disgusting and reckless. And although I never liked her I didn't hate her too. I felt really bad for her and what she was doing to her life. I was hoping for something to change.

The end was a big surprise. I was expecting something different and was wondering how it will end, but I didn't see it coming. For a moment when I turned the last page, I was stunned. I was like, 'That's it, over?'. I really wanted to know more. You know how it feels like when the power goes off just before the climax? That's exactly how I felt. I kept thinking about it for a couple of days until I could finally make some sense out of it.

So the question is did I like it? It was engrossing and un-putdownable. It got some strong reactions from me. It made me think. It was different. So in a way yes, I liked it. And considering the author is a man, he did a great job with the voice of Katie.

One thing I didn't like in the book was the constant ridiculing of other cultures. Be it Katie's father's words or her own, it was like the author was trying to create humor by making fun of others. And although I do understand it was part of Katie's and her father's character, it was just too much at times. I don't know what the exact reading range of Undiscovered Gyrl is, but I wouldn't give it to someone below 16.

First posted at <http://violetcrush.wordpress.com/2009...>

Brenda Ayala says

Kate is a shitshow, a product of unaddressed psychological issues from traumatic experiences. She's wild and unapologetic about everything she does, and she is desperate for attention.

I had a hard time rooting for her when she was so destructive, but I think that was the point. Kate is perfectly happy screwing anyone and everyone and sees it as a confident power move. That wasn't the case for me, and I definitely held no regard for the men she was after either.

Probably the most disappointing part of the book is the very end. For it all to build up and spread out and become this tangled mess and then abruptly end with no climax.....I understand what the author was going for, but it felt cheap. Like she knew there was no good way to end it so she just didn't do it.

Aerin says

From the publisher:

Beautiful, wild, funny, and lost, Katie Kampenfelt is taking a year off before college to find her passion. Ambitious in her own way, Katie intends to do more than just smoke weed with her boyfriend, Rory, and work at the bookstore. She plans to seduce Dan, a thirty-two-year-old film professor.

It seems like a great idea, an awesome book along the lines of **If I Stay** or **Wintergirls** . Just watch the trailer.

The publisher continues:

Katie chronicles her adventures in an anonymous blog, telling strangers her innermost desires, shames, and thrills. But when Dan stops taking her calls, when her alcoholic father suffers a terrible fall, and when she finds herself drawn into a dangerous new relationship, Katie's fearless narrative begins to crack, and dark pieces of her past emerge.

Sexually frank, often heartbreaking, and bursting with devilish humor, Undiscovered Gyrl is an extraordinarily accomplished novel of identity, voyeurism, and deceit.

Vintage itself has mounted a "huge, strange online campaign" fueled by social networking as its marketing strategy, complete with its own little army of grassroots publicists.

The biggest problem I have with this whole hoopla is that, while **undiscovered gyrl** is being marketed as a YA book, it's really an exercise in postmodern reflection that should only be undertaken with discussion and analysis.

In a book group or an English class or with a friend over coffee.

If you like (and understand) J.D. Salinger, this is the book for you. Allison Burnett definitely seems to be the next Salinger.

I do *not* at all care for Salinger.

Though it will not be released until August 11, **undiscovered gyrl** has already caused a buzz in entertainment news because of the alleged reports last summer that Miley Cyrus will play the protagonist - even in the nude (Cyrus denies it as an internet rumor) in the movie version (something I've difficulty conceptualizing. The movie, not Miley.)

Some bloggers (like Melissa) love **undiscovered gyrl**, some hate it (Holly is one), some find it disturbing (like Kelly does). Some aren't sure. Reviews can be submitted by site users at the original undiscovered gyrl site.

However, I can find few who have really analyzed it. I'm not ready to do so here because so few people have read it yet. But I will say that if you need a topic for a paper, the societal perceptions Burnett invokes by

using the word "gyrl" is a good place to start. And that I'm absolutely astonished at the number of people who say they can "relate to Katie."

You may remember that I questioned the validity of a white man writing a black point of view. Well, how about a middle-aged man writing as a teenage girl? Yes, that's right. Allison Burnett is a man.

So much more about the novel makes sense, knowing that. It shouldn't, I understand. An author's genitalia have nothing to do with plot and structure and style. But what I perceived as poor characterization instead is explained by **gyrl's** publicist, as intentional to a

novel [that:] keeps readers guessing as to the identity of its narrator by "putting traditional point of view on its head and playing around with the major identity issues of our age."

It's the whole point. Burnett is a precipient interpreter of postmodern life. To stop at the surface story is to miss the entire point of **undiscovered gyrl**.

Bottom line? I didn't care for this book, and I can't get it out of my head. I can't even say that about **Catcher in the Rye**, which so failed to elicit response from me that I forgot it pretty quickly. I might decide I like **undiscovered gyrl** (though I doubt it.) I need someone with whom I can marinate on it.

So here's the contest:

When I post this article on the **undiscovered gyrl** site, I'll be eligible for two additional ARCs of the book. Help me circulate this post and get chances to receive one of them. *I will pass one ARC on to the person who can generate the most traffic to my site and one to the person who submits the best reason I'd want to discuss this book with him or her.* Shameless plugging? Yes, but I also really, truly think this is a book whose true nature needs to be known. Think of it as me keeping Starbucks in business, since you'll be headed there for delicious intellectual chats over the enigma that is **undiscovered gyrl**.

CONTEST DETAILS

You're responsible for letting me know if someone sent you here, if you share this on any social network, or if you beat it out in smoke signals; and/or for convincing me you are the right discussion partner for this novel. Leave comments or email me at aerinblogs AT aol DOT com.

Jessica Shaw says

I am one of the few people out there who actually enjoys seeing the movie first and reading the book after. I stumbled upon Ask Me Anything on Netflix one late night and was completely captivated. I was instantly taken with how realistic the characters were, being in my late 20's I could completely connect with Katie's emotions and actions. Once the film was over I immediately needed more of the story and ordered the book.

As with the film I was enthralled in the story. Burnett has an uncanny ability to write the emotions and feelings of how it feels to be a young adult in today's society without a cliché demeanor. Subtle spelling mistakes, inappropriate comments or unrealistic ways of thinking capture how we all think and feel at that

time in our life. His writing is raw, heartfelt, and surreal. Even for someone like myself, who did not rebel or make harmful decisions as a teenager, I could 100% relate with sympathy and understanding to Katie and the spiraling sensation that can become painful in young adulthood. This book grasps the consequences and vividness of life seen through the eyes of many young people. A refreshing read unlike anything else you'll pick up off the shelf.

Kelsi says

This seems like a real account of someone you probably know. A real girl telling a real story about something that could really happen. But yet, it's never really boring. Burnett writes it in a way that feels like you're sharing juicy gossip with one of your best girlfriends, constantly.

Definitely a chick book. Or maybe even a very sensitive boy book. But classified by gender or not, it's a story that will actually bring up true emotions and maybe even make you remember painful anecdotes of your real life.

The end is a kicker as well. but don't skip ahead just yet, if you read the end first, the whole experience would be ruined. It's almost as if you're living a whole different life through "Katie Kampenfelt."

Danna says

Throughout most of the book, I was mostly irritated with the main character. I felt like it was the author's perverse fantasy of a teenage sexpot rather than a realistic account of a troubled 17-year-old. He also wrote the story in a way that was very predictable. It was very clear how the story would unfold with each new character. That is, predictable until the end, when it gets flipped upside down and abruptly ends with no closure. The ending left me feeling unsettled and confused, liking the book a lot less in some ways. Couple great quotes in there about loving reading, which I did appreciate, but overall, I was not a fan. In general, I would not recommend. Yes, as the other reviewers said, it was absolutely a page-turner, finished it in less than 24 hours.

Kimberly Mccune says

Have you ever wondered what a middle aged white dude thinks being a teenaged girl is like? Have you ever wanted heavy topics such as child molestation, rape, depression, suicide, and abortion to be handled in the worst way possible? Have you ever thought that we need more literary fiction that sets women back further than the Trump administration? Have you ever spent 300 pages wondering who the fuck is in charge of editing over at Random House? WELL YOU ARE IN LUCK FAM.

Shaikha says

THIS BOOK IS DEEP, CAPTIVATING AND UNDERRATED.

Alisha B says

Honestly, I was surprised by the book. It's set up as a blog-to-book, and in it you watch as the narrator (the definition of the "unreliable narrator" to be sure) grows as a blogger, and disintegrates in some ways as a person. The idea of being able to be completely open in the anonymity is, at first, a relief and exciting thing for her, later it seems to be something that pushes her to more extreme and outrageous behavior... if for no other reason than to get a reaction from her readers.

Personally, there are parts of this that scare the hell out of me. I have a 16 and 15-year-old, neither of which are really that into blogging and stuff... now. Maggie, on the other hand, is 10 and a bit extroverted. "Katie" tells about her mother and her boyfriend's fighting, her dad and his girlfriend's abusive relationship, and how she pits everyone against each other to get what she wants. She continually tells her readers that there is NOTHING sexual behind her boss's generosity, but relays stories about him in such a way as to leave it almost obvious. She degrades herself over "Dan," her college instructor on-the-side, and you can't help but feel pity for her... she so wants to be loved, she's willing to turn herself into that girl who waits desperately for his girlfriend to go away so she can devour the scraps.

With Undiscovered Gyrl, Allison Burnett reveals a very real picture of the modern teenage life. Unable to read and comprehend a book a year unless assigned by a teacher, but reads and responds to 20 emails, IMs and text messages a second. She couldn't fathom doing homework without the TV on, CD blaring and the Google open on the computer. It makes me glad I've not given any of my kids a cell phone. They don't have TVs in their bedrooms, even. We just got a second computer last June, so maybe mine will be safe...

Here's the thing: Undiscovered Gyrl is very graphic and I even learned a few sex-things from reading it. I never knew what a "box job" was before this book. But it's not porn, per se, and it all goes into the story for a purpose. It is shocking... at least for me, an over-30-parent. "Katie" isn't totally unsympathetic, yet says things at times that make me want to slap the snot out of her. She's so stupid and I just want to grab her up and say, "Wake up! You're throwing your life away!" But, if there's one thing I got out of this book it's this: The fact it came from an adult would render it meaningless all together

Click for full review: <http://thekoolaidmom.wordpress.com/20...>
