

Where the Carnies Are

Kayla Curry

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Olive is having a very bad day. She caught her boyfriend cheating on her, she lost her job, and she stumbled into a portal leading to a secret carnival kingdom which she can't escape. The good news is she meets an eccentric, but stunningly handsome knife thrower. The bad news is she can't go home for another two months. The world she lands in is full of sideshow characters, terrifying amusement rides and her biological parents' past. She was born a carny, but raised as a normal human. Magic lives in her blood, but it hasn't reached her heart. To find out who she really is, and why carnies are disappearing, Olive must deceive the king with the help of Alex the knife thrower. Olive and Alex play a dangerous game with their emotions when they decide to have a fling during Olive's stay. They both lead very different lives and being together would mean one of them giving up the life they've always known. Tricks and traps are around every corner in this kingdom. Few can be trusted and Olive will need all the help she can get to make it through unscathed.

Where the Carnies Are Details


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Author : Kayla Curry

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From Reader Review Where the Carnies Are for online ebook

Kate says

Where The Carnies Are, written by Kayla Curry is a fantasy novel. If you've ever dreamed of joining the circus, this is definitely a must read book. The author makes you feel that you are part of this special world. Once I started reading, I could not wait to find out what would happen next. Pick up a copy and try it!

Darlene says

This book came to me as part of a giveaway from another author, Becca Campbell. Thank you!

Different. That is my favorite type of fantasy. It can't be like all the others. This one fills the bill. The best part is that it is a book about a young woman who isn't a teen, who grows to be a very strong person very quickly. Wow, I just had to delete a bunch of sentences that became big spoilers. Needless to say, this story is about Olive who stumbles into a life of carnies. But this isn't Water for Elephants. This is more ... well, see there? I can't compare it to anything else I've read.

I would have loved to have read this as a young adult or even new adult. There are no gratuitous sex scenes. There is a lot of adventure and growing characters. It is a fast read and I couldn't pull away. I wanted to see what happens next.

I think there may be a sequel, I hope so. I like the world and the characters Kayla Curry invented. But no cliffhanger here. Nice ending, just sad to see the story end.

Samantha LaFantasie says

Poor Olive is having a rotten day. Then she gets stuck inside the kingdom of carnies and pulled into their world of mystery and intrigue. Not to mention a hot knife thrower.

I loved this story from the first word to the last. It's unique and creative, which pulled me in even more. I love stories that take everyday (or maybe not so everyday) things and make them spectacular. I had never read a story with this style and theme before, so I was thrilled to be able to do so. This story unfolded naturally to me. And the characters were well thought out. Each one had their own strengths that coincided with their "talent". Though I suspected on certain things in the story, I wasn't entirely sure until Olive found out and that (the way she discovers things) made it all the more interesting. It was nice to see things through the character's eyes as everything unfolded.

The romance was very nice. Not too much, not too little. And the complication kept me wanting them to find a way to stay together.

All in all, this is a very nice paranormal fantasy. There is mystery, intrigue, suspense, love, great fight scenes. The author did very well with this book. I think this story will appeal to readers who like things a little different and enjoy paranormal romances.

*NOTE: I'm involved with the editing of this manuscript. Having said that, my opinion is in no way influenced by having worked on this MS. This review will also appear on my site and Amazon.

The Author Visits says

Note - the author provided a copy of the book for an unbiased review in return.

Review provided by Kristin Lundgren on behalf of The Author Visits.

The Magical Land of the Carnival Kingdom. This is a short, sweet paranormal fantasy that is really a fairytale in disguise. Olive Sear is having a REALLY bad day - she caught her boyfriend in bed with another woman, she lost her job, her car stopped working on her way to going back to live with her parents, and it was raining....so when she suddenly finds herself in a bouncy house after taking off across the muddy fields to find a phone, she doesn't flinch, being already numb from the days events. She continues on into the strange carnival-like place. The first person she meets, Alex, a sword thrower, becomes her guide into this new and fascinating place where she feels strangely at home. A closed, magical kingdom where carnies spend their off-season and retirement lives.

Pros: The characters are likable. A must for me. And plenty of side characters to liven up the place. At the end of the book we are promised "Sideshow," a collection of 26 flash fiction stories about these side characters, which is what I wanted, although the link didn't go anywhere at this time. Hopefully they are coming. They interested me, and I wanted more. This world she created was imaginative, and fascinating, and I wanted to step right into it. The author shows great promise, obviously loves a charming story, and a good, solid editor could fix some of the issues mentioned below, and help flesh out some of the people, and the in-between action scenes. I wanted more carny life. Her tone though is perfect for the story, and she obviously knows her knife-throwing stuff. She creates a world you hunger for more of. Who are these carnie folk, how did they come to be there, are they are born carnies, or are there any "new blood" ones?

Cons: First person voice, which jumps in tense in some places. But it works for me, seeing everything through her eyes, even though it isn't usually what I like. The characters are simplistic, slightly cardboard, and each has a place in the resolution of the story, and sometimes that is all they seem to be there for. There are some inconsistencies in the story, actions left out or skipped over where a page break or something would be appropriate, and places where it was confusing. She asks why her parents didn't want her to know about carnie life, after just saying that she never knew them (her birth parents). She doesn't seem to feel alarmed or freaked out as she casually absorbs the workings and people in the carnival kingdom. A normal response for a young woman, who just had a horrendous day, only to be confronted by a wondrous magical place, would either be to break down in tears, or dig in her heels and demand to see someone in charge. But instead, she allows herself to be cared for by the first person she meets, and towed round like a doll.

It doesn't hurt of course that he is dressed like a pirate for his knife throwing act, and is handsome to boot. She hasn't been there more than a few hours before she is agreeing to be his assistant until the gates open again in 2 months. Again, no break-down over that either. She is going to be there for two months, and she just accepts it. She takes the attitude that she must have carnie birth parents and so goes right for it. And although there is mention that an "advancer" - someone who can get out of the kingdom when the gates are closed - could get a message to her parents, she doesn't do so in the month that goes by. Under the guise of "building trust," she is blindfolded and led around the kingdom. Not sure most young women would go for that, with someone they just met the day before, under very strange circumstances. Her absolute trust in him, so soon, doesn't read "real." By the first few days they are in romance mode, and by the week's end, in love. Too quick to be believable, but not if it's a fairy tale. But when she finds out something special about him,

instant change - she must be dreaming. Tends to go back and forth. Told she's in a bubble, not on any planet, and the stars and sun aren't real, are merely an illusion, and all she says is "Wow. That's an interesting fact."

But there is plenty of carny action, and in true fairy tale fashion, the bad are vanquished or rehabilitated, and everyone goes home happy and taken care of.

I think that's why this became a fairy tale for me. While it can be classified as a paranormal fantasy, it's slight nature, the somewhat two-dimensional characters, and the neat way everything got tidied up and resolved felt like one of the hundreds of fairy tales I read growing up. But in spite of this, I happen to love fairy tales, and when I had to stop reading in the middle and wait for the next day to finish, I was anxious to get back to the story, and kept thinking about it, always a great sign. The story was clean, love scenes were few and "fade-to-black," so it's suitable for the YA crowd. And I loved it's cheerful, hopeful nature. So, judging it as a YA fairy tale,

My Rating: 4 1/2 pixie dusted stars

Valentina Morgana la fata says

I'm really sad, because this book had so much potential!

I really loved the carnival setting, it's mysterious and fun and even a little creepy, that's actually what made me buy the book, but in the end the story was boring and predictable.

Also the two main characters aren't deep at all, they are just outlined and they actually are a couple of Mary Sue and Gary Stu, they are beautiful, lovely, wise and they both have great powers.

In closing, in my opinion, the author should have used the setting in a more original way.

Gea says

What an amazing story about carnies!

Never read anything like it.

When in doubt to read this book: definitely read it cause you won't regret it!

Rebecca McNutt says

Where the Carnies Are is a surreal and very creative fantasy novel, but I'm not a big fan of romance. Nonetheless, it's still a really great book.

Kristin Lundgren says

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Cons: First person voice, which jumps in tense in some places. But it works for me, seeing everything through her eyes, even though it isn't usually what I like. The characters are simplistic, slightly cardboard, and each has a place in the resolution of the story, and sometimes that is all they seem to be there for. There are some inconsistencies in the story, actions left out or skipped over where a page break or something would be appropriate, and places where it was confusing. She asks why her parents didn't want her to know about carnie life, after just saying that she never knew them (her birth parents). She doesn't seem to feel alarmed or freaked out as she casually absorbs the workings and people in the carnival kingdom. A normal response for a young woman, who just had a horrendous day, only to be confronted by a wondrous magical place, would either be to break down in tears, or dig in her heels and demand to see someone in charge. But instead, she allows herself to be cared for by the first person she meets, and towed round like a doll.

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Becca Campbell says

I enjoyed this light-hearted story mostly for all of it's unique magical abilities. The setting was vibrant and the romance was sweet. It was a great, easy read if you need to escape reality for a while.

Linda says

What an unusual novel that captivated me! I felt sorry for Olive Sears at first as she had a triple BAD life experience, first she lost her job when she had to return home to get something. then she caught in the act, boyfriend , then her car broke down as she tried to go home to her parents. She saw a light over the a wide field where she hoped to get help. I was intrigued with Alex Preston when he helped Olive and I was astonished when he told Olive that he would never age! Now, I can't wait to read the next book.

Booksniffer Tours says

5 Sniffs - There is NO WAY you will ever get our nose out of this book!

Check out my review at Booksniffer Book Reviews! <http://booksnifferbookreviews.blogspot...>

Nancie says

This was more a 2.5 star book for me. I absolutely loved the concept of the book, but it felt really unpolished and written in a very young voice. I have no clue what the target age group for this book is. I thought maybe young adult, but then there is some very adult subject matter. It didn't really flow well for me because of sentence structure and lots of changing between verb tenses. And last, I wanted way more character development. The characters all felt a bit flat which in turn made the story flat. I felt this book could have been great if it was a bit longer and slower paced' leaving more room for more details and time with all the characters, their talents and the kingdom. Again, great concept though.

Allison says

Loved this! A fun tale involving a bad King, a carnival, carnival folk and magic powers. There's romance as well. Pretty much got it all in an easy, flowing read.

