



Made of Stars

Kelley York

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When eighteen-year-old Hunter Jackson and his half sister, Ashlin, return to their dad's for the first winter in years, they expect everything to be just like the warmer months they'd spent there as kids. And it is—at first. But Chance, the charismatic and adventurous boy who made their summers epic, is harboring deep secrets. Secrets that are quickly spiraling into something else entirely.

The reason they've never met Chance's parents or seen his home is becoming clearer. And what the siblings used to think of as Chance's quirks—the outrageous stories, his clinginess, his dangerous impulsiveness—are now warning signs that something is seriously off.

Then Chance's mom turns up with a bullet to the head, and all eyes shift to Chance and his dad. Hunter and Ashlin know Chance is innocent...they just have to prove it. But how can they protect the boy they both love when they can't trust a word Chance says?

Made of Stars Details

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From Reader Review Made of Stars for online ebook

Gordon Ambos says

"We're all made of stars." Und genau deshalb bekommt dieses Buch von mir auch ALLE Sterne, die es gibt. Ja, ich habe ein neues Lieblingsbuch. Und ich will nicht, dass es vorbei ist. Und jetzt werde ich weinen gehen.

UPDATE 25.04.2018 | Ich hatte einfach völlig VERGESSEN, wie dieses verdammte Buch endet. Ich fasse es nicht, dass ich nun schon wieder mit meinen Nerven am Ende bin. Ich lege euch allen dieses Buch ans Herz, es ist großartig.

Ashley says

OMG! THAT'S where it ENDS?!?!?! I am FREAKING out! I NEED MORE! I will be reviewing this on my blog, and will update this once it's been posted.

UPDATE (from my blog)

When I finished this book, I literally had to pick my jaw up from the floor! These were the words I wrote immediately after finishing: OMG! THAT'S where it ENDS?!?!?! I am FREAKING out! I NEED MORE!

So let's just say...if you don't like unknowns or cliffhangers at the end of books, you might want to stay away from this one. :) This was a fantastic read, though, and you don't want to miss out on it!

Well my friends, this is not the first LGBT book I've read, but it is the first one I've reviewed on my blog. I'm not going to lie and say that I'm not nervous about the response. If this were 5 years ago, I might have been one of those readers who had a negative response. But between real life and the many, MANY books that I've read that have changed my life and point of view (including this one), not only did I personally enjoy this book, but I want to share it with everyone else!

This book has so many things going for it! Not only does it read like a suspense, but it is also a beautiful story about friendship, family and love. And to top it all off, it is EXTREMELY well written! Kelley York does a fantastic job of approaching tough topics, including abuse and sexuality.

The Jackson family is about as nontraditional as they come...Hunter and Ashlin are half-siblings, who also happen to be the same age. Even though they live across the country from one another, they have a fantastic relationship with each other, and with their dad. They each live with their respective mothers most of the year, but when they were growing up, they spent each summer together with their dad. And another permanent fixture of their summers was Chance. Chance is sort of a mystery. He always shows up alone and on foot. And he spends TONS of time with Hunter and Ashlin. But he also disappears for a day or two at a time, and sometimes he refuses to do activities like swimming. Despite Chance's quirks, Ashlin and Hunter are both in love with him, even if Hunter hasn't figured it out yet.

Then one summer Hunter and Ashlin's dad gets shot on duty with a major injury (he's a cop), and they end up only coming for extremely short trips over the next couple years. Now, Hunter and Ashlin have graduated

from high school, and aren't sure what they want to do with their lives, so they both decide to live with their dad for the winter while they figure it out. At first, they're afraid that they won't see Chance, but once they find him, he shows up out of nowhere, just like he did when they were kids. And despite having a girlfriend, Hunter's feelings for Chance keep pushing their way into his thoughts. And even though Ashlin is also in love with Chance, she's starting to notice things about Chance and her brother that she didn't pay attention to when they were kids.

The fateful day that Chance's mom is found dead, Chance seems to disappear into thin air. Ashlin and Hunter know the truth now about what goes on in Chance's house, but now they need to prove that he's innocent, without incurring the wrath of Chance's father, or incriminating Chance or themselves...

I LOVE the development of the characters and plot! Even though Chance is strange, you can't help but fall in love with him too. And when you figure out all the bad things that have happened to him over the course of his life, you just want to wrap him up in your arms and make everything ok. And Ashlin and Hunter's dad is such an amazing secondary character. He cares so much about his kids, and Chance. He gives pretty good advice, but also allows his children to make mistakes, and discover things on their own. And he feels absolutely awful when he realizes what has been happening to Chance, and that he didn't figure it out himself. Ashlin is an amazing sister, and friend. She actually takes the time to put her own feelings aside for a little bit to figure out what is going on with her brother, and to try to help save Chance. And it is so amazing watching Hunter sort through his experiences and emotions. It isn't about whether or not he's gay. This story is truly about love, and the different kinds of love we have for the people in our lives.

I really, REALLY hope there is a sequel!!! Pretty please?

Giselle says

I didn't love this as much as *Hushed* - which was more my genre being a horror and all - but it does have an overall dark theme with a constant flow of mystery regarding a certain character. It's a story told under a looming grey cloud where you know a disaster is forthcoming, giving it a suspenseful tone throughout. The narrative voices are where I wasn't fully sold and ultimately stopped me from giving it my all.

Made of Stars is told through a dual perspective of a brother and a sister who have met Chance during summer break at their dad's place. Every year they meet up and have a memorable summer, then have no contact with him until next time. This year, however, things have changed. They're now a bit older and are realizing that Chance's life is not what he made it out to be. While I didn't dislike the characters- they're actually pretty likeable with their great group dynamic and unwavering bond - I found both narratives hard to distinguish. I regularly had to make a conscious effort to remind myself which perspective I was currently reading. The ebook format on my reader didn't help, surely, as twice I completely missed that the POV had changed.

With Ashlin and Hunter narrating this book, one would assume it is telling their stories, however *Made of Stars* is not Hunter or Ashlin's story at all. This is Chance's story. Chance is definitely my favorite of the 3. I found his character arc incredibly engaging and complex. He's broken, obviously lying about, and running from, his home life. Being a master of hiding behind a tough facade, I feel like I didn't get to know the real Chance; him to the core. Though I believe this is how Kelley intended it. We do learn just how broken he really is, as well as what's behind it, which is often the most we can hope for with tragic stories like these. However, being kept at arm's length from Chance together with the lack of distinctive voices made it

impossible for me to emotionally immerse myself in these characters. I didn't feel all the feels with this one. I also was not a fan of the way it ended, it offers no closure at all. I can't say it wasn't realistic, or maybe even perfect for what this story was meant to be, but nevertheless...

I do appreciate the non-stereotypical approach Kelley takes with her books. Especially how she implements LGBT themes which, frankly, I find refreshing for a YA romance. It involves characters that lack any stereotypes in and of themselves. The realism is also a strong factor where we see Hunter beginning to realize his feelings for Chance and the internal conflict this elicits.

There is an honest, raw quality to Kelley's writing that I truly love. It's what made me a fan of hers in the first place. I think Chance's story, which is twisted and somewhat bittersweet, deserves to be read and despite my problems with the narratives I'm glad that I did.

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An advance copy was provided by the publisher for review.

For more of my reviews, visit my blog at [Xpresso Reads](#)

Leeanna says

This review originally appeared on my blog, [Leeanna.me](#).

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MADE OF STARS is a book that chewed me up, spit me out, and left me **reeling**. In the BEST way possible. This is not a YA book where there are happy endings and star-filled, easy love affairs. If you like twisty, dark, heart-breaking stories, this is the book for you.

All I can really say is READ THIS BOOK. NOW. I was lucky enough to read it in one sitting, which I think is the best way to do it, and was consumed by the emotional experience of it. I've spent a few days trying to write a better review, but really, I just want to flail about and type gibberish, because I liked this book so much it's hard to put it into words.

MADE OF STARS is told from the alternating viewpoints of Hunter and Ashlin, half-siblings who spend every summer with their dad. They've got a complicated family story, but the most important thing is that they love each other and have a very strong sibling bond. They love their dad, too, because even though he made mistakes with their mothers, he always did the best he could do for them.

They met Chance when they were eight; he was fishing for Barbies out of the creek behind their dad's house. Even at that first meeting, both knew there was something about Chance, and summers with their dad also mean summers with Chance. Together, they make the sort of memories that stick in your mind forever, having fun doing the craziest and most mundane of things, and reliving the joy of childhood.

This year, things are different. Together after a few years apart, Hunter, Ash, and Chance start off with their usual epic adventures. But soon Hunter and Ash start to figure out some of the secrets of Chance's past.

MADE OF STARS is in Hunter and Ash's voices, but it's really the tragic story of Chance. Poor Chance.

I'm not always sympathetic to male characters, but here I wanted so badly for him to have good things in his

life. I really felt for him, even though he sometimes frustrated me with the secrets he kept. I get why he kept those secrets, but that's something I'll let you discover for yourself.

There wasn't too much distinctiveness between Hunter and Ash, but the benefit of having both of their perspectives showed me how each of them felt about Chance, as well as how others saw those feelings. Ash has a crush on Chance, Hunter thinks Chance is the best friend ever, and Chance loves Hunter. Add in Hunter's girlfriend, one he's not too sure about, and you have a tangle of relationships. A messy, realistic, intricate tangle. I couldn't get enough!

One of my favorite things about **MADE OF STARS** is that there's not a big emphasis on sexuality. Hunter and Chase are just two boys who happen to love each other.

When I finished the book, I screamed "THAT'S IT?" at my phone. Seriously. The ending... that ending, yo. I wanted a more complete ending (I'm a greedy reader, I usually do want more from an ending). But after I processed and thought about the book as a whole, I don't think there can be any other ending. Which makes me sad, but it's the right fit for the book. I'm happy Kelley York ended **MADE OF STARS** the way she did, instead of adding on some fairy-tale happily ever after.

I know **MADE OF STARS** is a book I'm going to reread, and even though I know what happens, it's still going to sucker punch me. For me, that's the mark of good writing and incredible storytelling.

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Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

See more of my reviews:

SueC says

3.5 Stars.

What did I like most about Made of Stars? The writing; I found a certain warmth (despite the constant melancholy) in the writing all along. Careful, loving storytelling without pretense; it felt like there were no extravagant props (bells and whistles) needed to carry the story along.

Here's an excerpt that I adored which will hopefully give you a taste of what I loved:

"We sprint through the mall, the thumping of my pulse and Chance's breathless laughter a duet in my ears.... Suddenly, it's summer and we're fifteen again. Chance is all ungainly limbs and freckles with a shirt too big on him and sneakers that are falling apart. It's one of those moments where everything else in the world fades to a dull hum in the background because all that exists is Chance and me, and I want to take his bright-eyed, exhilarated face and bottle it up for safe keeping."

Isn't that gorgeous? Hang on, let me give you one more taste:

"... Chance and Hunter were the inseparable ones. Chance, who always wanted to go everywhere Hunter

did. Chance, who always showed off the most when he knew Hunter was watching... Chance orbits Hunter like the planets orbit the sun, aching to be closer but never daring. Until now, I suppose.”.

Swoons

The three MCs are well developed so you get to understand each of them thoroughly. I enjoyed experiencing their story from alternating POVs with names at the start of each chapter to make the transition between each POV easy to decipher.

It's a sweet Gay For You story with a storyline which remains pretty close to the blurb. Had it given me a little bit more “will they, won't they” or a few more twists and turns I would have happily rated it higher. Oh, and the ending... It's um... Abrupt (my Kindle was at 88 per cent and then SLAP!, it was all over). But it also makes sense for Chance, which leaves an even bigger ache in my heart for his tormented and brave soul.

I will read more of Kelly York's work. End of story.

Will says

CANT REVIEW PROPERLY BECAUSE I AM UNABLE TO SEE THROUGH MY TEARZZZZ
:'''((((

Chance why did you do that??!

WHY
WHY

MLE says

I received this book as an ARC through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

A really well written story of friendship and love. I really liked all the characters, and the depth of their bonds with each other. I loved how Ashlin, even though she didn't get what she thought she wanted, was never made out to be the bitchy, jealous female, and how her love for both her brother and her friend never wavered. I really liked Hunter, and his need to appear to be strong, and protect those he cared about. It never came off as overbearing, or possessive, just very loving. I liked Chance as well, and even though I felt like I had a hard time getting a grasp on him, his purity of heart shined through. I liked their father as well. Their family connections were not the usual, but that didn't make Ashlin and Hunter any less brother and sister, nor their father any less loving. It was nice to see some strong adults amongst the rest.

The plot was well developed, and I was quickly drawn in by the story and the style of the writing. I liked that

things took a little while to develop before the main thrust of the action began. It gave me a much better feel for the characters, and only deepened my concern for them when things started to go wrong. That ending (view spoiler) was the only honest way to end this story. After I finished I was still wondering, and worrying a little about what would happen to the characters now, and isn't that the mark of a great story.

Cassandra {semi-hiatus} says

"We're all made of stars," he agrees. "We burn bright, then we flicker away".

It's no secret I'm addicted to Kelley York's writing and all her lovely broken boys. Last December I read both Hushed and Suicide Watch and I absolutely loved them. They were without a doubt two of my favorite books of 2015. Now Made of Stars is one of my favs of 2016.

As always, there's just this eerie feeling that comes with her novels and I'm addicted to it. They're dark and twisted stories that make you question your personal ethics and what actually makes someone a villain. Even though I would love to go into details on how this one pushed those limits, just as Hushed and Suicide Watch, I am determined to keep this spoiler-free. So instead, I'll discuss the beauty of her characters.

Ashlin was great. This is the first Kelley York novel I've read with a main character who's female, so I was a bit skeptical going in, but I was pleasantly surprised. I loved her determination, and the adorable way she protected Chance and Hunter. She's definitely one of my favorite female MCs I've read this year.

Chance, one of the quirkiest main men I've ever read, captured my heart the moment he rescued Barbies from the river. His love for adventure, and horrible home life, made me want to wrap him in a blanket and drive him far away from that small town in Maine. Some may find his oddities off-putting, but I found them hopelessly endearing. And that tattoo. *swoons*

Hunter, however, was my favorite. He reminded me a bit of Evan from Hushed, in the way that he loved Chance unconditionally. Most people read a line like that, roll their eyes, and murmur something about sappy teenage romantics. I feel you, and usually, I'm one of the first to cast a judgmental look. In Kelley York novels though, unconditional love isn't something to gawk at. It's admirable. Because she doesn't take the term "broken" lightly.

This is such a solid read. It's eerie, romantic, unique, and perfect for those who like stories that speed up your pulse (accounting to both violence or romance). Perfect for individuals seeking a darker, deeper contemporary read that still has little moments to make you happy.

Tanja (Tanychy) St. Delphi/James says

Review also posed at Ja ?itam, a ti?

If I needed to describe this book using only few words it'd be full of surprises. Mostly because I had no idea what's this book about, but I have heard great things about Kelly York's writing so I wanted to get a full experience. I did accomplish that.

For one reason or another I thought that this was actually a paranormal read when I got to read the book I understood that this was actually a contemporary story in it's finest. It's not a typical boy meets girl story where everything is great, it's more than that. Hunter and Ashlin are back to their dad's and they cannot wait to meet a boy who was a big part of their childhood. Chance was a boy with whom they had great adventures as kids. Only growing up they realized that many things about Chance were mystery. They didn't know his parents nor where he lives.

This story can basically be divided into two parts. The start when you get to meet the characters and try to connect all the details about Chance and after the accident when Chance's mother is dead and everything gets much darker. It was a huge change from one world to another and at moments I felt like some things later are happening too fast. I felt that there was more to the ending. I wish there was more.

Besides that all other elements of this story were really good. You could feel Hunter's doubts and his insecurity, while at the same time you admired Ashlin for being strong and probably the best sister Hunter could wish for. Chance was a bit unusual at the start but later when you get to meet his life your heart starts to ache for him.

I'm really glad that one important part of this story isn't revealed in the blurb. It really took me by surprise and made me understand this story better. It's a story about discovering yourself and finding your true self.

J.S. says

I really want to write an amazing review for this, it deserves one. It's such an astoundingly beautiful story that will stay with me for a long, long time. Forever, even (I took these characters to heart and, damnit, they're staying there!). Thing is, though, the words to describe the soul deep impact this had on me...I simply don't have em.

Ashlin:

"It breaks my heart a little in the same way that it makes me smile. We're so close to a happy ending."

Sigh

I got rather, um, *expressive* while reading this -much to my bloke's amusement (he doesn't understand). There also may have been some harsh words thrown at my Kindle when I turned that last page, slammed with the traumatising realisation it was all over. Even now, hours from finishing, I'm still reeling. Still feeling kinda raw. And teary, too.

It's quite some feat to break my heart and make me thankful for the painful experience, but Made of Stars pulled it off spectacularly.

Jenn says

I don't think I can put into proper words my feelings about Kelley York's writing. Thus far, she's always written LGBT young adult fiction with broken boys. But really, that's putting her prose far too simply. She always writes with an authentic voice that somehow manages to come across childlike, but adult. A voice that manages to sound innocent, but jaded. A story that shows humans can easily be both good and bad. She writes stories that make me think, make my heart break in tiny pieces, and make me look at things surrounding me in new ways. She inspires me simply put.

Made of Stars is a complex story of three teenagers on the precipice of discovering who they are, what they want in life, what they are willing to sacrifice and give up, and what they are willing to fight for at all cost. Hunter Jackson and his half-sister Ashlin meet the boy they will grow to love, as they mature, by the water one summer. Chance, the boy the author describes perfectly as "*strangeness and whimsy in human form.*" I don't think I can tell other readers how large my love for Chance was throughout this book. He's both truth and lies, strength and vulnerability; he's a boy who loves animals and sad movies, that never stops dreaming because it's the only thing keeping him going, other than a love deep in his heart for boy he considers his haven. And for Hunter and Ashlin, Chance was their summer. He's adventure, spontaneity, and sunshine. He's an escape from their normal lives, and something they look forward to during those cold months away from their summers visiting their dad.

The real start of this novel begins in November. Ashlin and Hunter have graduated from high school and have decided to take a year off before deciding whether or not to attend college. Ashlin lives in California normally with her mom, and Hunter lives in Maine with his mom and her boyfriend, Bob, about four hours away from their dad, in Otter's Rest, Maine. When Ashlin and Hunter arrive for their first winter, they don't immediately see Chance, and it's nerve-wracking because they haven't been home to see their dad (or Chance) in two years due to an injury their father suffered. However, as soon as they see Chance everything goes right back as if they were all kids again. Except things aren't quite what they seem. Ashlin still holds out for Chance's attention, but he only has eyes and room in his heart, in that way, for Hunter. When Hunter's girlfriend comes for a visit in Christmas, all of the relationships change. Things that have been buried come to the surface and teenagers have to face some harsh truths about themselves, the people they love, and what makes up the idea of a family. Feelings of guilt, shame, envy, awakening, and joy take over their young bodies throughout these months.

This book is slow at times, but it's an enjoyable pace. The writing is quite sparse, yet it says so very much. It's poetic, but at the same time, I can clearly see a real person speaking these words, having these internal monologues within themselves. There is that joy of snow, the adventure of an island, tall tales and scary truths, and the sense of family and what you make of it.

Kelley York shines, as always, in her character studies. Whenever I finish one of her books, I feel as if a part of me was torn away when I put the book down, as if leaving her characters rips them from my life. I worry about them, I love them, and I just want the best for them. To me, that's what books are about and what brings me joy. What I most appreciate, though, is she will make you work to love each one of them or emote understanding for individuals you'd otherwise never would.

Ashlin is such a wonderful, selfless, brave young woman. A caring daughter, a giving sister, a devoted friend. She, also, recognizes emotions and feelings of other characters in such simple, understanding ways. I loved when she understood *why* she wanted Chance, and it correlated so perfectly of what she *thought* Hunter and Rachel's relationship held, and even more when she saw the truth between Hunter and Chance. Hunter is that all-American boy whose story should be so simple, if this was just any fairy-tale story. And Chance...Chance is best left for the reader to discover on their own, but I heart him so very, very much.

Jolene Perry says

This is one of those books that you finish and then sit in that bubble of amazing things and wish that it wasn't over.

Yes, It's that good.

These characters will stick with me for a long time.

Jess at Such a Novel Idea says

For this review & more, visit Such a Novel Idea.

Well, that wrecked my heart, in all the ways that books should.

My Thoughts

"When I kiss him, Chance sets a hand in my shirt to hold me right where I am. His lips are dry, but his mouth is warm, and I think... this is how life should be. Chance and me. Kissing him whenever I want."

The more Entangled Teen books I read, the more I fall in love with this publishing house. They just keep getting it right!

Made of Stars is no exception. It is haunting, gritty, passionate, and raw. The dynamics of the three teens: Chance, Hunter, and Ashlin are complicated. Nothing in this book was simple or followed the YA "pattern". You were kept guessing, and though some things could be figured out, the way it was written kept you guessing until the very end. I've never read a book that is a contemporary romance and a mystery/thriller quite like this one. Somehow, Kelley York meshed the two into this amazing piece of work.

"Chance has the ability to shatter me into the minuscule fragments and base elements of the star I supposedly came from."

I loved that I was able to root for Hunter and Chance from the beginning. I could see the two point of views: Ashlin and Hunter and their loves for Chance. It was wholly apparent that Hunter and Chance's souls were inexplicably linked -- even if the two took a bit longer to come around. At first Ashlin and Hunter sounded very similar; it was hard to distinguish between the two point of views. But as Hunter explored his feelings for his friend, the two characters became very different. The one thing I really wish would have been a part of the story was Chance's voice -- although I understand why it wasn't there. The book is full of mystery and not knowing what is going through Chance's mind -- having to glean the facts from the other characters only adds to the story.

Chance twists around, a sad smile on his face as his eyes meet mine. "We're all made of stars," he agrees. "We burn bright, then we flicker away."

Chance & Hunter were beautiful. They made my heart fill with emotion and the two dug their way into my soul. The imagery and language Kelley uses to show them fall into each other is just breathtaking. I am a

lover of books that compare our lives to stars (These Broken Stars, The Fault in Our Stars, The Little Prince, etc...) and this one earned a place among the greats.

Overall, this is a coming-of-age story at its finest. It is a powerful composition on love, family, and growing up. I gave this book a 5, rather than a 4 for how it ended. I won't say more, because it really is something you have to experience for yourself, but I will say that it was executed perfectly. The book is well-written (that's an understatement!), captivating, mysterious, thrilling, and beautiful. It will break your heart, but you won't be able to put it down for one minute.

I received this e-book in exchange for an honest review.

Rating: 5/5 stars

Nyrae Dawn says

I am a huge fan of Kelley York's writing. She makes me fall in love with these broken, flawed characters who I don't expect to love. Made of Stars is an incredible book. It blew me away.

Tina says

Hunter and Ashlin are half siblings, who love each other no matter what. While Hunter is a quiet and thoughtful guy, Ashlin is more expressive. They decide to live with their dad after graduation to help help him out and to meet their childhood friend, Chance.

But something is wrong with Chance. He lies about his parents, never lets Hunter and Ash see his house and has mysterious injuries. When the secrets come to light, reality hits hard...

Made of Stars is a book that is part mystery, part coming of age romance. It's written in two different POVs, in the perspective of Hunter and Ashlin. It's too bad that Chance's voice is missing. He's such a complex and awesome written character that I just fell in love with him. He is beautiful and so broken - all wrapped up in one.

“Do you want to know why I got a dragon?”

I open my mouth to ask him what the fuck is wrong with him. He’s been missing for days and shows up on my back porch, bruised, barely dressed in the snow, and he wants to tell me about dragons? But Chance’s eyes are dark and distant, his lips slightly parted. His expression is so still and calm, but I can see his fingers trembling, twitching slightly at his sides....

“I got the dragon because it reminded me of you. A reminder that the guy I loved would always come home to me, and he’d always have my back.”

Watching Chance and Hunter open up to each other is incredible written. There are no gay stereotypes in sight. Chance and Hunter are never labeled as gay at all. They're just two boys in love.

Chance twists around, a sad smile on his face as his eyes meet mine. “We’re all made of stars,” he agrees. “We burn bright, then we flicker away.”

Made of stars is a fantastic written book and kept me on the edge of my seat until it suddenly ends... without really ending. It left me wondering if my ebook was missing a few pages, nothing was resolved, everything was left hanging... as if the book had more story to tell...
