



# **Fame, Fate, and the First Kiss**

*Kasie West*

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## **Fame, Fate, and the First Kiss** Kasie West

Lacey Barnes has dreamt of being in a movie for as long as she can remember. However, while her dream did include working alongside the hottest actor in Hollywood, it didn't involve having to finish up her senior year of high school at the same time she was getting her big break. Although that is nothing compared to Donovan, the straight-laced student her father hires to tutor her, who is a full-on nightmare.

As Lacey struggles to juggle her burgeoning career, some on-set sabotage, and an off-screen romance with the unlikeliest of leading men, she quickly learns that sometimes the best stories happen when you go off script.

## **Fame, Fate, and the First Kiss Details**

Date : Published February 5th 2019 by HarperTeen

ISBN : 9780062675804

Author : Kasie West

Format : ebook 384 pages

Genre : Contemporary, Young Adult, Romance

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# From Reader Review Fame, Fate, and the First Kiss for online ebook

**Natalie says**

YASSS KASIE, GIVE US MORE BOOKS PLS THNX

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**Kristin Hackett (SuperSpaceChick) says**

Sadly, this was not my favorite Kasie West book.

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**Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says**

Such a cute story! Full review to come closer to release date.

\*EDITED TO ADD REVIEW\*

Is there anything better than an adorable read in front of the fire place on a cool winter-y afternoon?

Nope, I believe not.

Fame, Fate, and the First Kiss, like most West books, was just so much fun. So cute and sweet and just the right thing to escape for a couple of hours and be left, by the very last page, with a smile on my face and a warm feeling in my heart.

Classic West with all the feels, friendships, and storyline that we've all come to know, count on, and love.

\*ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.\*

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**Stacee says**

I will always read a Kasie book. I don't even read the synopsis.

I liked Lacey and Donovan. They're both driven and maybe a little stubborn. Their banter was playful and fun. The on set characters were interesting and I especially enjoyed seeing Abby and Cooper again.

Plot wise, it was okay. It was slow and quick moving at the same time. Because Lacey's day is nearly the same every day, it felt a bit repetitive at parts. The sabotage thread didn't really work for me. I did like the idea of it and was second guessing everyone's intentions, but the reveal and reasoning fell flat.

Overall, it was another cute and fluffy book. I would have liked a little more from the epilogue, but I might

be greedy.

**\*\*Huge thanks to Harper Teen for providing the arc free of charge\*\***

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## **Anatea Oroz says**

I feel like with every new book that I read from Kasie West, I like them less and less. I'm not sure what changed, if it is my reading preference that's changed or the writing is not as good as it has been. Not to say that I didn't enjoy the book - I did, I just wasn't as amazed by this one as I was with my first couple of Kasie's books, like *On the Fence* and *The Distance between us*. And I sooo wanted to finally love a book by Kasie again.

What bothered me the most with this book is that it is not rememberable. Yes, it's a cute book with a cute storyline and I breezed through it, but in a month I probably won't even remember the names of the characters. Hell, even now I don't know them by heart. I didn't feel anything particular for the male leads, I liked Lacey's spunk though.

With all of that being said, I will still be waiting for next Kasie's book, and hoping it's an amazing one.

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## **Camila Roy •RoyIsReading• says**

RATING: 4/5

**e-ARC provided by Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review**

Lacey Barnes has dreamed of being an actress for as long as she can remember. So, when she gets the opportunity to star in a movie alongside one of Hollywood's hottest actors, she doesn't hesitate to accept the part. Lacey quickly learns that life in the spotlight isn't as picture-perfect as she imagined. With her entire future riding on this movie, Lacey knows she can't afford to get sidetracked by anything. Specially not a crush...

Kasie West does it again! For those who have read (and enjoyed) her previous novels, you know what to expect: fun plot, likeable characters and a cute, swoon-worthy romance.

Lacey's personality really appealed to me. She was funny and charming, yet a little bit strange. Donovan (aka the love interest), on the other hand, was more serious and collected. As we know, opposites attract.

The plot went down the road of predictability towards the end, but I wasn't bothered by it. It didn't ruin my reading experience. Most people like to be surprised by the resolution of a mystery. I don't need an ending to be very shocking, as long as the events prior to it are entertaining.

This isn't Kasie's best book but it's memorable enough. I love the concepts she's been coming up with lately

and I'm beyond excited to see what she does next.

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## ? sofia ? says

a new kasie west book? sign the fuck up.

<https://attachedtobooks.blogspot.com/...>

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## Tiffany Chiang says

FULL REVIEW: <https://readbytiffany.wordpress.com/2...>

Kasie West is definitely one of my favorite authors, and **her books are always super feel-good, soft, and fluffy**. As much as I love her books, this one wasn't up to par to her other releases like *The Fill-In Boyfriend* or *P.S. I Like You*. It was definitely still an enjoyable read, and I really grew to love the main characters. However, **the writing and development of the story felt a bit muddled and messy**. I wouldn't say that this is her best book, but it does satisfy my need for a cutesy contemporary.

*Fame, Fate, and the First Kiss* follows Lacey Barnes, a 17-year-old actress and high school student, who has been cast for her first big-screen movie alongside Hollywood big shot, Grant James. **? Lacey's determined to prove herself as an actress**, but her plans start to fall short when the director thinks Lacey and Grant have no chemistry on screen, which really can't be helped considering Lacey is playing a zombie and monster make-up doesn't really inspire butterflies.

Not only that, Lacey's helicopter father is requiring her to improve her math grade and has hired a tutor, Donovan, to make sure of it. With all that's going on, Lacey doesn't need another tutor let alone another boy added to the mix, but maybe, **there's more for Donovan to help with other than just math homework. ?**

Although this book followed the classic Kasie West rom-com formula, **the writing of this story felt underdeveloped** which flowed into other aspects of the book. Lacey was an easy character to love—she was ambitious, sympathetic, and a fun POV to read from. On the other hand, the other side characters felt more one-dimensional and could have been explored a bit further. There were also a couple scenes that felt like filler and didn't help move the story along.

The climax of the book involves a mystery which added more suspense and excitement; however, the end result was underwhelming. We're left clues throughout the story about who the potential suspect could be, but I was disappointed when the real suspect was revealed because it just opened more plot holes and left me more confused.

Still, the romance was a fun slow-burn to watch unfold, and I loved every interaction the two had together because **my heart skipped a beat in classic Kasie West contemporary fashion. ?** Another aspect of the

story that I think was done very well was the development of Lacey and her father's relationship. He plays a major part in the story, and I enjoyed seeing him slowly becoming more supportive of her career.

Overall, this book was an enjoyable read, but **I expected more from one of my favorite contemporary-writing queens.** Hopefully, her next book will be more reminiscent of her classic love stories, so I'm excited to see what she writes next!

*Thank you to Edelweiss+ and HarperTeen for an ARC in exchange for an honest review!*

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**mahana** ☆ says

**2.5 stars** ✧ **review also on my blog**

ARC kindly provided by Harper Teen in exchange for an honest review.

*Fame, Fate, and the First Kiss* follows Lacey, a new, seventeen-year-old actress, as she stars in a zombie film opposite a renowned actor, named Grant. Since signing onto this film, she's had a rift with her father, who wants her to focus on school and not get caught up in show business. Her father ends up hiring a tutor from the local school, who happens to be an entertainment (a.k.a. film) reviewer for his school paper. The book follows Lacey navigating her first time on a relatively large movie set while negative things begin to surface about her online.

My main issue with this book was that nothing really happens. Despite taking place on a movie set-which should be exciting in itself-nothing of substance happens at the beginning of the book. I understand that this is a contemporary novel and there isn't much room for action, but we can't stay inside the main character's head the entire time. After finishing this, I could probably summarise everything that happened in 5 minutes since nothing of note occurred. The main complication of the entire novel revolved around negative press that Lacey was beginning to get online – something that is the norm for young actresses with a social media presence anyway.

I've said this before, but I think I'm too old for West's books. Sometimes I wish she wouldn't add certain conflicts to her books without making it extremely obvious. I know these aren't intended for someone my age in the first place, but it seems so blatant that I'm sure a 12-year-old could figure it out. Not that a contemporary book needs to be shocking, but it's frustrating when something is right in front of your eyes and the main character doesn't acknowledge it. When the reveal of who was sabotaging Lacey occurred, it left more questions than answers. It's obvious the author tried to transfer the suspicion to other characters, but these were never properly answered and left more plot holes than solutions. Also, a lot of her dilemmas could easily be fixed if she just changed the passcode to her phone.

The romance was also lacking, which is surprising for a West novel. I wasn't entirely convinced on Lacey's chemistry with Donovan and there weren't any sparks when they finally got together. In fact, it felt rushed since it didn't happen until towards the ending, and then the question of what's in store for them isn't answered properly (even in the epilogue). Donovan also didn't have any qualities that stood out as different

from any male character in the Young Adult genre. He's got dark, brown hair, he's broody, he has daddy issues, and he has a specific type of girl he likes to date. I know most of the female main characters in West's books have distinct interests and personalities, but I'd like to see her branch out from the same old love story that she recycles in every novel.

Overall, I'm going to surmise that West books aren't written for my demographic anymore. I like reading her novels for a quick, short reprieve between some other books that require a lot of thought, so I'll probably still pick up her books, I just won't be expecting anything of substance. I'd recommend this if you're a fan of her previous books because it definitely has that atmosphere, but I wouldn't expect anything outstandingly different to other contemporary novels on the market.

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### **Jasmine from How Useful It Is says**

I started reading *Fame, Fate, and the First Kiss* on 9/28/2018 and finished it on 10/4/2018. This book is a fantastic read! I like the main character's easy going personality. The conversations between the characters are full of humor and just happy. It's interesting to read about an actress' life, especially the underage ones. I didn't know fans could follow a movie while they act. I have never run into one. I like reading about another fellow reviewer. I like Lacey's card games of getting to know someone new. Having someone trying to sabotage Lacey makes the read a bit more thrilling.

This book is told in the first person point of view following Lacey Barnes, 17, high school senior and an actress, currently playing a role for a zombie movie, her first big starring role. She has to keep up with her homework while on set for her acting but she doesn't keep up with her studies very well. Her overprotective dad hires tutors for her and the last one just quit. Her dad comes to inform her that her new tutor will be a boy from her sponsor school. Lacey doesn't date. She doesn't want a boy to get in the way of her acting and so another boy and another tutor doesn't excite her because she wants to focus on her big role. She's having a rough patch on her role because she and her hot co-star lacks chemistry. She's spending time with him to get to know him better to improve their chemistry situation. Beginning of each chapter there will be a scene from the movie Lacey's in.

*Fame, Fate, and the First Kiss* is very well written and fun to read. I like that this book has the slow burning romance where the characters move on from disliking each other to liking each other. I like the comparison between overprotective dad and dad who never showed up. I like the romance in this story because it stays on the surface and not go far beyond kisses. I like Lacey's quick come back to argument with her dad about being happy on the job everyday. This book is not one to help me fall back to sleep when I wake up in the middle of the night, which is a good thing. A good book is worth sacrificing sleep over. I highly recommend everyone to read this book!

Pro: fast paced, page turner, living on set, humor, romance, easy to read, dad issues

Con: none

I rate it 5 stars!

\*\*\*Disclaimer: Many thanks to the author Kasie West, publisher HarperTeen, and Edelweiss for the opportunity to read and review. Please be assured that my opinions are honest.

XOXO,

Jasmine at [www.howusefulitis.wordpress.com](http://www.howusefulitis.wordpress.com) for more details

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## **Tucker (TuckerTheReader) says**

What a novel! Can you believe this is my first Kasie West book? I know, crazy! Anyway, I thoroughly enjoyed this novel. The writing was descriptive and flowed perfectly from sentence to sentence. I especially enjoyed the sections of the movie.

Thanks to HarperTeen for sending me an eGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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## **destiny ??? [howling libraries] says**

*All Lacey has ever wanted is to become a successful actress, and she's done everything she can to get there—working hard, neglecting her social life, and even swearing off love altogether. It seems like her work has paid off when she lands a leading role in a horror film alongside a superstar, until her father's over-abundance of concern forces her to work with a tutor, Donovan Lake. It seems like Donovan's presence will only drag her down, until someone begins to sabotage her on set, and the tutor is the only one who will help her track down the culprit—and, worse yet, he's making her question all of her own rules about love and business.*

I'm pretty new to the world of Kasie West fans, admittedly; I read the first novel in this little 'universe' last year (*Love, Life, and the List*) and thought it was cute, but I wasn't "wowed" until one of Kasie's short stories this past Christmas became my favorite romance short of all time and put her solidly on my radar. With that track record, I went into this novel feeling like it would be the dealbreaker. Thankfully, *Fame* went above and beyond to convert me, and I feel pretty comfortable saying now that **I'm adding Kasie West to my "auto-read" list.**

→ **L I K E S :**

**I'd never had to win anyone over like this and I had to admit, it made the small victories more satisfying.**

First of all, her narrative voice itself is wonderful; like I feel every sweet romantic contemporary should be, it's **quick-paced, light, and fun** without being shallow. She gets a lovely and nuanced story across without any extras or unnecessary add-ons, which makes books like *Fame* **perfect for busting a reading slump or binge reading in one day.**

**Happiness was not the right word to describe how I felt. Maybe euphoric or alive. Like everything I had worked for my entire life had led me to this.**



On top of that, **her characters? You gotta love ‘em.** They’re fun, witty, complex, and interesting. Lacey is such an enjoyable protagonist; she’s arrogant and spoiled in a tongue-in-cheek sort of way—**she knows she’s a pain, but she rolls with it, and it works for her character so well.** Donovan is a grouchy little fluff and I loved watching him slowly open up; plus, it was nice to see a budding romance where they communicated fairly easily instead of it being a book full of back-and-forth miscommunication.

**Next to his own name he added, ‘Revenge for all the math Lacey makes him explain.’ I smirked. “I’d want revenge for that, too.”**

Of course, *Fame* isn’t just a romance; **it’s also a mystery story**, and a pretty good one at that. The book flies by because you’re kept in solid suspense for who the saboteur is, and when the big reveal happens, it wasn’t the character *or* motive I assumed it would be, so that was a nice surprise.

#### → **FINAL THOUGHTS :**

Overall, *Fame, Fate, and the First Kiss* was a knockout YA romance for me—it was cute, fun, a quick read, had enjoyable characters, didn’t rely on overusage of tropes, and the main character is ***acting in a horror movie***, which was such a fun detail to the story.

#### → **RECOMMENDING TO... :**

Anyone who enjoys fluffy, cutesy romances without problematic content or overusage of tropes, as well as anyone who’s already a fan of Kasie West or similar authors.

*All quotes come from an advance copy and may not match the final release. Thank you so much to HarperTeen for providing me with this ARC in exchange for an honest review!*

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### **Jennifer says**

This book was super cute. I really enjoyed it!

*Fame, Fate, and the First Kiss* is a Young Adult contemporary romance. It is the second book in a set of three standalone books with crossover characters. The first book was Abby's story in *Love, Life, and the List*.

This book can 100% be read as a standalone. Abby has a small part in this book. But you don't need to know anything about *Love, Life, and the List* to enjoy this book. I actually have read *Love, Life, and the List*, but had no idea while reading this book that it was the same Abby.

The narrator of this book is 17 year old actress Lacey Barnes (1st person POV). She is starring in her first movie. But she is still a senior in high school. So she has to juggle both things at the same time.

This book was a quick read. It was charming and I really enjoyed it.

The story is about a girl who is living her dream of becoming an actress. She gets a big break by being cast in a zombie movie. Her leading man is already a big star.

Lacey's overbearing father is a major part of this book. As is the high school component of the story. Both parts were very interesting.

There is also a mystery in the book. I thought that this added a lot to the overall story. However, I was disappointed with the guilty party. It made some sense, yet I really wish that the author had chosen someone different to be the bad guy.

I really liked everything to do with the movie. I wish that we had gotten to see even more behind the scenes stuff. I also really enjoyed her two co-stars. They added so much to the story. And I loved her tutor.

Is this book sort of predictable? Yes. But if you are looking for a cute, light read then this book is perfect.

Thanks to edelweiss and HarperTeen for allowing me to read this book.

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### **Jaime Arkin says**

I adore Kasie West... seriously. FRTC

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### **Melanie says**

*ARC provided by the publisher via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.*

***“I have to convince audiences everywhere that a zombie loves a zombie hunter. So far, it’s not happening. So far, the only thing future viewers care about is that I’m not someone else.”***

Okay, the only other thing I’ve ever read by Kasie West was the short story of hers in Snow in Love, but I think it is safe to say that I am officially just going to preorder everything she writes from now on, because this story was also such a damn delight. And she is now 2/2 for writing the sweetest and softest boys in YA literature. I honestly just had a smile on my face while reading the majority of this book. If I’m ever in need of a feelgood book, I’m just going to turn to Kasie West’s backlist from now on.

So, basically, *Fame, Fate, and the First Kiss* stars a girl named Lacey who just landed a breakout role in an indie zombie film which she will co-star in with the extremely famous, Grant James! Lacey has only ever done minor acting roles in the past, but she is willing to give up her senior year of high school to move to Hollywood and to give this role all she has. Meanwhile, her father has agreed to move with her, to help give her structure. Yet, he also gives her a tutor named Donovan, who is supposed to keep her on track with the schoolwork that she is already neglecting.

But while filming, it becomes apparent that maybe Grant and Lacey don't have the best onscreen chemistry with one another. Yet, Lacey is finding it easier and easier to find chemistry with the tutor who is supposed to be teaching her chemistry. *\*winky face\** Donovan is the sweetest boy and I just loved him completely from page one. No spoilers, but the jumping on the trampoline scene? Added five years to my life.

But on top of Lacey trying to put everything she has into this zombie role, it becomes more and more apparent that someone is trying to sabotage her chances of making it big. I won't lie, this does have a bit of a *Scooby-Doo* feeling mystery around the movie set, because the someone that is trying to sabotage Lacey before her career even gets started is kind of doing innocent things. Yet, I still loved that it kept me guessing for far longer than it probably should have. Towards the end it became kind of obvious who it was, but right up until that ending point, I was honestly thinking that the sabotage was someone else.

I also didn't love the inclusion of bits of the movie script in-between chapters. I feel like we got a good enough feel of the plot of the film without those, and it pulled me out of the story (ironical enough) each time I read them. I think this book would have been stronger without them entirely, honestly. Also, there was a scene with them finding a drug dealer's lair that I thought would come back into play and just never did and it was a little wild.

But my only real complaint was that I kind of hated both of Lacey's parents. I totally get that she's only seventeen, but they both just felt like crappy parental figures throughout the book. From her mom, boxing up her stuff and giving her room to an animal that Lacey wouldn't like, even though she thought she would be coming back to finish her senior year! To her dad who decided he wanted to play a major role in her life seventeen years too late, and then force her to over exhaust and over work herself to try to have a semblance of a "normal" teenage life, after agreeing to letting her act in the movie. I don't know, they just both rubbed me the wrong way, and not even the ending of this book justified their actions to me. But at least she got a cute and sweet tutor out of the deal.

Overall, I just loved this. It was the perfect sweet and heartwarming contemporary that I needed. I actually think this would be a perfect read for the spooky season. I mean, I wouldn't say it is "spooky" per se, but it surrounds the making of a horror film all about zombies! And some of the moments in this book will keep you on the edge of your seat, involving the sabotage on the set. But I just think Kasie West is a master of YA Romance, and I think she is so deservedly beloved among the community. I can't wait to see what she does next, and she 100% made a new fan from me.

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*The quote above was taken from an ARC and is subject to change upon publication.*

**Content and trigger warnings** for a couple comments that are weird about food and dieting, talk of online harassment and bullying, and use of the word cr\*zy.

Buddy Read with Amy & Heather! ♥

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