



Kelly + Victor

Niall Griffiths

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A bar in Liverpool January 2nd 200:

VICTOR meets a girl. Some time later that night he is in her bed. This, he thinks, is the best sex he's ever had.

KELLY meets a boy. Some time later that night he is in her bed. This, she thinks, is the best sex she's ever had.

So the story of *Kelly + Victor* progresses, through two mirror-image narratives: a story of the growth and spiralling intensity of sexual obsession, traced to its inevitable, devastating conclusion. Set against a backdrop of urban despair, spiritual absence and a world swamped with pornography, this is a novel about yearning for union, for purity, and for magic and mystery in a world that denies them all. And it is, above everything, a love story - or all that 21st century Britain will allow of one.

Kelly + Victor Details

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From Reader Review Kelly + Victor for online ebook

Clodia Metelli says

A reread after about ten years but I'm still counting it towards my yearly total. Just as grimly absorbing as I remember.

Mike says

Wow, what a ride.

I shall agree with most of the readers here, this book is not for the faint hearted. Nor it's a love story, according to my opinion; it's a passion/passionate story that involves a sexual relationship between a male and female, but I should point out that not once neither Kelly nor Victor used the word "love" or "being in love". Both of them were obsessed with each other, obsessed beyond words, thus leading to tremendous sexual extremeness.

One thing I think it stands out and one shall obtain from reading this book, is that here we have a really unique female character in terms of sexuality, she's quite the exact opposite of how usually feme-fatales' or even next-door-girls' sexuality is portrayed in literature. Although I reckon that upon finishing the book Victor can be easily seen as the victim and Kelly as a psychotic, sadistic bitch.

Griffiths writing skills are not to be taken lightly, you can feel what the characters feel, see what they see. I found that reading the same story twice as it was experienced from both parties was brilliant. You *think* you pretty much know how the story ends from Victor's narration alone and somehow, along the way I had a slight yet so naive hope that we might have a pleasant ending there. Nope, it was utterly depressing.

I have been a dedicated reader for almost a decade and I can truly say, this was one of the most intense stories that I have ever crossed paths with. Really depressive, harsh, nihilistic and left me utterly gutted when I finished reading the last word, but I was completely, purely overwhelmed at the same time.

Jolene says

"I first met her and yet it feels like to be with her is what I was born for."

Even if this Kelly is fucking crazy, I just loved this love story. Both characters' psychology is well described and unlike Fifty shades of Grey or so, the story looks a little bit more realistic.

I'm curious to see the movie though... Some scenes (the "engraving" scene) are pretty hard to read but this part of the story really aroused my curiosity regarding both characters' reactions.

+1 for the author who knows how to describe a boy's AND a girl's feelings when it comes to sentimental relationships, sex or even guilt and shame.

Jon says

Gave up after the first sixty or so pages, unrelentingly grim, negative and depressing.

Nicole Silverlance says

I bought the book when I was 18, but I did not have the courage to read it until recently, at the age of 21. It was a painful delight to enter their minds. I have too many mixed up emotions right now about it... so brutal, so bittersweet.

Sarah Tomo says

Very well written book. The scouse accent is very realistic, you can almost hear them. However this has got to be the most depressing book ive ever read. Yes I knew it was going to be gritty , seedy and dirty from the blurb, but I didnt expect it to be so extreme.

The misery, urban squalor and drug taking never lets up. I was hoping for some small ray of sunshine in there, but there is none. No happy endings here. I can do dark and depressing but this was just too much. There was also zero eroticism in this "21st century love story", the sex scenes were gut wrenchingly brutal.

Only for the very strong of stomach!!

I gritted my teeth and ploughed on till the bitter end, and felt tainted and utterly depressed by this story. Grim.

Hayley says

A friend had heard that this book was truly, horrendously, sick and depraved and wanted to find out if it was, but didn't want to read it. So I did. It was pretty twisted but I didn't think it was as bad as he'd been told - whether that says more about me or the friend who recommended it to him I'm not sure!

It definitely won't be to everyone's liking but I enjoyed how Griffiths managed to convey a real seediness about the characters that at times actually made me feel grimy. Yet he achieved this without overcooking it and so the characters and their lifestlyes remained shockingly believable.

Mark says

"It's a love story...
Or as much as the 21st Century will allow of one"

I'm not too convinced of this quote.
A lust story, a sex story - sure.
A Love story, I don't see it so much.

Written in two parts, One from Kelly's perspective & One from Victor's - the story is obviously repetitive...but in credit to the author, the second part still reads quiet fresh and interesting.

There is fisting after all, how could it not be fresh and interesting.

Vanessa Wu says

I'm not sure if this is hardcore trashy BDS&M masquerading as literary fiction or literary fiction masquerading as hardcore trashy BDS&M.

I like the way Niall Griffiths writes but I think I preferred him in Sheepshagger. I found the violence in Kelly and Victor a bit hard to understand.

By the way, Sheepshagger is not pornographic in any way shape or form. And nor is Stump. Just to be clear.

But Kelly and Victor quite possibly is. Er, I dunno. It's not my kind of porn anyway so I can't tell.

April Sherlock says

Quite dark, I liked the way the book is written as the the voices of the characters.

Craig says

If you thought Nick Caves latest wasn't smutty or debauched enough. Kelly and Victor takes things to a whole new and profoundly disturbing level. Hooray.

Nina Rossing says

Not quite sure how to rate this, to be honest. The story was so devastating it's difficult to know what to say about it. It's not a story you can like, I think. But the writing was good, especially with the dialect and slang giving the story a raw intensity. The rest is dark, gritty and depressing.

Michael Jones says

I think it was a love story, I think. Once again his characters have such depth and detail you can really

believe they're real. There are plenty of laughs; some of it though was so gruesome that I kind of feel like maybe I should have cried.

Angela Pap says

I don't believe in an interventionist God
But I know, darling, that you do
But if I did I would kneel down and ask Him
Not to intervene when it came to you
Not to touch a hair on your head
To leave you as you are
And if He felt He had to direct you
Then direct you into my arms

Into my arms, O Lord
Into my arms, O Lord
Into my arms, O Lord
Into my arms

And I don't believe in the existence of angels
But looking at you I wonder if that's true
But if I did I would summon them together
And ask them to watch over you
To each burn a candle for you
To make bright and clear your path
And to walk, like Christ, in grace and love
And guide you into my arms

Into my arms, O Lord
Into my arms, O Lord
Into my arms, O Lord
Into my arms

And I believe in Love
And I know that you do too
And I believe in some kind of path
That we can walk down, me and you
So keep your candle burning
And make her journey bright and pure
That she will keep returning
Always and evermore

Into my arms, O Lord
Into my arms, O Lord
Into my arms, O Lord
Into my arms

I LOVE THIS BOOK.

Lucie says

My ex recommended this as the most influential book in his life, and Griffiths' success has prompted him to become a writer, showing that it's okay to write about ordinary everyday things. The boy has done well for himself in the field so fair play to him and Griffiths can be credited.

Unfortunately he also sold me it as a naughty book to wipe off the stale aftertaste that 50 shades disappointingly left on my palate. It was a bit of a letdown on that count. I did have to restart this book once as I simply couldn't cope with those nasal Scouse accents. The book is written largely in phonetic, conveying the accent very well - a good and bad thing. I could just hear them in my head going 'eeeeee lad'. I did enjoy reading the deeply detailed and carefully thought through sex scenes. However, as someone pointed out I did find the violence in the book hard to understand.

I knew what was going to happen from around page 15. 'Why are you coming back you idiot, you're getting hurt!' I thought to myself so many times. But then again this did resonate with me and my inability to keep away from the person that's hurting me, if in an incomparably less extreme way. In that way this was a well developed study of a self-destructive obsession - certainly not love as the blurb on the back (and my ex) would have it.

I was so angry that I had to read the thing twice over. As I was getting towards the end of 'Kelly' I almost stopped, but wanted to push through even if the reading was making me feel uncomfortable. Luckily 'Kelly' was less repetitive than expected. Still preferred reading Victor's part as I felt genuinely sorry for him. Kelly is just a mad bint.
