How to Make Friends with the Dark 1

A powerful novel, where main character is in her dark times right from the beginning, but as some of the writter‘s friends say on the first pages, this book should learn us to find that light in the dark. The book wrote Kathleen Glasgow, who is one of the bestselling authors of New York Times. If you have not read this book yet or heard about it, let me explain, why reading it, would be a good idea. This navy-blue 420-pages long book, is known to be heartbreaking and breathtaking, but there are some things which become disadvantages for me. This is one of the reasons, I want to share with you my opinions and my first impressions of the book.

First three pages of book are filled with really nice and honest donation from many people, I guess author’s friends and family. I really liked this idea and it made me think: if I would ever write some book, I am doing that too. So, my first impression, like reading writer’s friends opinions about the story, were great. Now, I want to tell you what is it about, so you will know if it is interesting for you.

The story is about a 16 years old girl living her poor life. I guess you already know, that it was created especially for teenagers. That is good point, but I also do think that aduld people may enjoy reading it too. Right from the start is shown, that this girl, called Tiger finds by accident underneath her mum‘s piles of underwear unpaid bills. Those bills are marked with frazes like Urgent, Last Notice and Contact Immediately. They are in bad financial situation and Tiger cannot wear clothes like her friends do or cannot even have some hobby, because there is no money for that. She lives just with her mom, who is all by herself to take care of Tiger and paying bills. Her mum is nice but very strict. There is that one guy Tiger really likes and he asked her to dance on the incoming party, but Tiger‘s mom does not like this idea. In the second chapter that I have not read whole, we will know if she is going.

In this book I really liked the way, Tiger talked about how she fell in love with him. It was just by that one look they had on each other in biology lab. The spark just came like that. This part sounds a little like a fairy tale, but I still liked it. She perfectly described him and that whole situation, that I could imagine exactly how it looked like. That is what I like about this book. Everything is perfectly described. But yes, I know, all book are probably like that, but I do not read books as much as I should, so I do not know that.

Let me also tell you what I do not like at the book. As I said, my first impressions were quite good, but it was because, that I had read just donates and the last page of the cover of a book, but then I started reading. I am not going to lie, some of these English word were Spanish village for me. If I could compare it to my previous book The catcher in the rye, this english was much harder. On the other hand, by reading that, I did not even know how, but I dive deep into that. I use to these new words and realised that it is just good to imagine everything I could from the words I knew and then, it somehow connect in my head. I understood a story pretty well and that is crazy right? Anyways, this disadvantage was very uncomfortable in the start but then it turned out to be actually helpful for my vocabulary.

So, in the end I might say that I have not choose the best book for me, but I think I want to keep reading it, because I like the story and few more words cannot kill me. This book is about to learn me some new words and I hope it will show me that light in the darkness, how it was said by readers.

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Dear readers, I am back with this breath-taking and heart-breaking story again. If you have read my first report, based on my opinions in this book, you probably know that I was talking about things that happen in the first chapter and also shared my feelings about it with you. My feelings and opinions did not changed a lot. I still love reading it, but I want to tell you, what was the second chapter about, and what had surprised me there. So, do you want to know what makes me do another report after reading the second chapter?

As I mentioned in the first sentence and also in the first report, the story is heart-breaking and breath-taking. Honestly, I could not tell my own opinion about that in the first report, because I have read just first chapter and I actually have not seen anything similar to these two characteristics. It was interesting, kind of sad, sometimes funny and also dramatic, but nothing made me take my breath or broke my heart. As I have not read whole book I could not tell if those two words are truthful. Now, after reading the second chapter and a little from the third I could see that those words are perfectly eloquent for this book.

I expect you to be asking yourself what bad might had happen. Well, do not worry, I will tell you what surprised me there, at the end of the second chapter, but firstly, let‘s talk about what was happening before that, because it was something beautiful. Last thing happening in Tiger’s life was thinking how she had fallen in love with the classmate Kai in the biology lab. Also, in the report I have told you about the dance with Kai, which is coming and of course, Tiger really wants to go there but her mum? Whow, she will have a little trouble to let her go.

In the beginning od the second chapter is shown that Kai and Tiger are having great time together, but the sad thing is that Kai is leaving at the end of the summer for longer then a year to a Germany. Tiger wants to spend as much time with him as she can, because she knows that this is her chance to have the greatest summer ever. I personally think that it would be easier for her, to not falling in love with him even more by starting to date him, right before he is leaving, because then, it will be really hard for her. On the other hand I understand that she likes him a lot, so she wants to enjoy time with him until he is still here.

The story starts to be way more dramatic after not answering the phone calls and texts from her mum. She does not want to talk to her after that fight they had in the morning in the car, where her mum told her to not allowing to go on any dance. After ignoring her for four hours, she decides to pick up the phone, because even her friend Cake, thinks she should talk to her and not ignore her. Tiger’s mum had apologized to her and even bought her dresses for the dance, which Tiger is not happy about, because as she said, she cannot even choose damn dresses for herself. Tiger is being very disrespectful to her mum. I have to say, that I did not like the way she behaved to her. I think she should have been thankful and not upset. But, also, I can imagine, that she feels like her mum is doing everything instead of her and Tiger is feeling to be still controlled.

After the phone conversation they had, she does not to feel like to go home, so she is going out with Kai. They even kiss for the first time and she realizes that it would be the best to call her mum and tell her she is sorry, so she can have nice evening, not thinking about the fight. And that is what she exactly did. During this super romantic evening she enjoys with Kai, someone calls him. Three words are said. YOUR MUM.......DIED. Tiger’s life is changing into a night mare and cannot believe it. After reading these words I had to stop read for a moment and just think if that is really true. I could not believe what just Kai said, just like Tiger could not.

Death of her mother was huge surprise for me. I had never thought that it might happen. Just 16-year-old girl, who still do not know which path of the life, she should choice, just lost her mother. This is what convinced me that breath-taking and heart-breaking are right words for this story. I am really dive deep into that story, so I am going to keep reading it. If you feel like this book might be interesting, I definitely recommend it to you.

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I am here again with another report of this heart-breaking story written by talented author Kathleen Glasgow. My feelings about this book, how we could expect, are still positive. I could even tell, that this time, I have read faster and more pages in the same time as I would do in usual. The reason is probably that I was even more interested in the story then before. It is very dramatic and author really wants from us to see how hard are the situations of the kids with no relatives. It means, they have no one who could take care of them anymore and they belong to a state now.

In previous reports, we were dealing with the life of 16 years old Tiger, who had basic problems like teenagers would have. School, classmates, first love and some fight in family. Pretty normal problems that everyone have been through. Then, suddenly, happened something very unwanted. Tiger’s mum left us forever and now, Tiger’s life will not be the same. Those problems, are not basic and easy anymore. She is starting to think in different way and she wants different things in her life. I guess you are curious what was going on in next chapters, so let’s talk about it a bit more.

In the begging I would like to mention, that I have read more chapters, because the text was divided into more of them. Esthetic way is flawless because every chapter has a title in version of the time. Firstly, I did not get it, but then when I was thinking about it, I am sure it means that it is time that passed from death of Tiger’s mum. I really like this idea and I think it is very creative.

Last report end up with Tiger, Cake and her mum Rhonda packing all the important stuff from Tiger’s house. I think that last moment Tiger and Cake had together, was when they said goodbye to each other in front of social worker Karen. Rhoda really wanted to take Tiger with them, but she could not. Tiger, dressed up in the dresses that her mother bought her, had to go with Karen, to answer all of her questions. After that, Karen took her to the foster family. I did not think that she will go there that soon.

They went by a car and I noticed few things. First one would be that Tiger does not eat very little after her mum died. I understand that, but I am kind of scared what might be the consequences. Another thing I noticed is that everything Tiger sees, smells or feel ... every little thing reminds her of her mother. When she was in the car with Karen, they even stopped for a while because that horses near by the road had story with her mum too. I personally receive this like very sad and heart-breaking.

The first family. Two girls. Blonde and brown – haired. And lastly, foster mum called Georgia. Honestly, I think that girls were pretty nice to Tiger but Georgia did not win my heart. Even when they met for the first time I already hated her. When Karen left, with the promise that she is coming back in the morning I felt good about it. I did not expect Tiger’s step mum act like a strict boss with all those crazy rules and mostly I would never believed she is gonna say to Tiger,, Is that really what Karen told you? That you are leaving tomorrow morning?,, When she said that, I knew, that it is totally screwed.

Thanks to god, Karen came for Tiger and I felt bit more better for her. But, there was waiting another family for her. This time, I really like them. The mum Lala has three more kids she has to take care of. She seems really nice. She is not too strict or even scary, in few words she is friendly, kind, understanding and I think that kids have also that right respect to her. This house is not for long – term, so Tiger is expecting to see Karen again. But now, she is taking a shower to make herself to feel clean and just better. Now, she is just convincing herself that this is just bad dream. She expect to wake up in the beautiful morning and see her mum. Because she is not dead, this is just bad dream, right?

Those thoughts in the end of the chapter are very powerful. In conclusion I might tell that I am even more interested in this story, because there is a lot of drama now. For now, I am just hoping she will find kind family, which protect her and they will make her feel happy again. Sometimes, I think of Cake’s family. Who knows what family is waiting for her now. I will keep reading to tell you how it went. Meanwhile, have a nice life ☺

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Dear readers, in last reports we talked about what have happened so far in Tiger’s life. I also mentioned what did I thought about this story, and of course, what were my opinions about it. Another thing I said many times in previous reports is that I don’t see any disadvantages of this book and no reason to not read it. If there was something I did not like it was just probably some dramatic thing, happening to the main character Grace, called Tiger. My opinions are as good as they used to be when I started to reading it. Even by reading a lot more chapters my feelings are still pretty positive and I don’t think it will change. I hope so.

Firstly, I want to remind you what was going on lately, in Tiger’s life. As we all know, she has really hard life now. After normal life with basic teenage problems like classmates or boy named Kai she has now different things to be worry about. Sad things. Sad things that makes her feel empty, guilty, mad, angry, weak and lot more. After her mother died, she visited two foster families. I think that in the previous report I told you, the Lala’s house is not for long term. Well, I am not sure if it is true now. After few more chapters I have read I am going to tell you how this story continues.

Story begins with Tiger waking up in Lala‘s house and realising that this sad life is not just bad dream. She spends these days basically just in her bed. Well, most of the times. If she has to, she wash herself . Also these days she is not very good eater too. She is very depressed and has some type of anger inside of her, which I think, makes her very numb. On the other hand, she has a thousands reasons to be like that. The clock says 4:15 am when she is trying to call Kai. She practically just woke up, because her days and nights are completely garbled. Surprisingly, he picked up the phone. He didn‘t even had his own word because Tiger didn‘t let him. She was so angry that she said really bad things to him, which definitely can hurt person’s feelings. But she doesn‘t care anymore, she is not that girl that she used to be. After her monologue, Kai just hangs up on her and she lays back into her bed. Like nothing ever happened.

I would like to also share with you my feelings about this situation. Firstly, I want to say that I did not expect her to be still living in the Lala’s place. I thought so, because they said it is not for long - term, but now, it looks like everyone just forgot about that fact. I personally like Lala, which Tiger likes too but of corse, it is normal for Tiger to not feel good there. Another thing I want to mention is that I really did not like what she said to Kai. Of course it was not nice to just leave her in the hospital but maybe he just though he shouldn‘t be there. She blamed him : ,, maybe you should have been the one to die, not my mom. I  honestly think he did not deserve to hear this. On the other side, her behaviour is acceptable. We cannot even imagine what she is going through. In this point, it made me think that death of her mother, really let scars on her heart. She had become very insensitive and way more phlegmatic. She just doesn’t care anymore.

Other following chapters are about very uncomfortable situation. Tiger is home alone, which gives her opportunity to look more inside the house. She inspects LaLa’s rich bedroom and also room of that boy who doesn’t live with them. When Lala comes back, they have to go to the funeral home to make arrangements, where she meets Rhonda. Yes, you can probably imagine how that went. Those are stuff that has to be done to say last goodbye to the mother, but being in that dark, cold room doesn’t make Tiger okay. Even when she knows that her mother’s body is somewhere there. All she wants to do is just leave, so she picks up some random casket for her mum and go home. She goes back to her bed and think about how fine it could be if she just was not here and couldn‘t feel that pain anymore.

Lastly, I want to tell you that ending of this chapter was very depressing. I think that this book used to be more dramatic before this whole situation with staying in the one house. I mean, Lala’s. I ain’t sure if I like it in this way. It is still super interesting, but I have to say that those chapters were mostly about her thoughts and no action. In these chapters we had that opportunity to get inside her mind and feel that pain too. I am curious what will be next, so I will keep reading . If you want, you can wait for another report of this book. :)

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Hi, have you ever read a book which actually made you to feel more thankful for the things you have in your life? For example, when you wake up in the morning, how do you feel? Are we people in general, grateful for waking up in the morning with feeling that we just live and do what we want to do? Well, of course in some standards and rules. I just want you to imagine yourself waking up in the morning and do not know what is waiting for you that day. That person who experiences it, could be scared, confused, angry or sad. Few of these adjectives also belongs to description of a girl Tiger. This feeling could be also well – know even for you, when there are some huge stuff happening in that day and you know you cannot screw it. But it is different feeling that Tiger has. She feels lonely, empty and does not care about her life anymore.

Yes, it is again me. And yeah, again another report from this navy blue book. As we all know, words like heart-breaking and breath-taking are perfect for description of this book... but I would definitely count also word sad. Especially for these two chapters I have read. I even cried a bit because it was just very powerful in sad way. From now I would like you memorize to you what we were talking about in previous report. It was mostly about Tiger’s thoughts. We were basically in her mind and we read everything she was thinking about, which was fine, but I think that it is time for some ,,moving on,, in her life. I was happy about continuing story because these two chapters came with some action in her life I was waiting for. I mean... nothing dramatic happen, but the story came back to the action and it was not just over thinking. I think that this chapter of her live is about to be closed soon because she saw her mother for the last time in her life and there is new life waiting for her. It is just on her to move on.

Let’s see how was her life hanging. At the end of the chapter we could see how sadly it ended up. Tiger had to choose casket for her mother and had really angry talk with Kai on the phone. Another chapter starts with Tiger coming with the Karen, social worker on the funeral. Before that she even throws up some little food she ate. I have noticed that author had mentioned her health problems way too many times, so I am curious if there will happen something bad to her. Well, I hope not and maybe it was mentioned just for more drama. As Tiger walks into funeral house, Cake is giving her strong hug and everyone is just staring at her for rest of the funeral. There is too many people on the funeral, which I do not like. I think it would be better if there were just important people and not, for example, that one mean girl from Tiger’s school, who said how bad life Tiger will be living because of her situation. I honestly hate this girl. What does she even know about it when she does not even know her. After all hugs and sad eyes from people, that are not even close to Tiger, it starts to be very sad.

It is time for Tiger to see her mum last time. I have to say that reading how she felt there was not that easy. The words Tiger said to her mother were powerful and honest. ,,Please don’t leave me. Please don’t. Please.,, - I think that this is so true and I cannot imagine girls or guys in such that young age surviving situations like these. When it was after funeral I was thinking if there was Kai. They did not mention his name at all which means that he was not there. If I were Tiger I would be pissed off, but now it actually does not mater anymore. As Tiger goes to Lala’s house, Karen tells her she had found her a new foster family for long - term. I did not expect that. Her last days at Lala’s place are interesting. She is getting to know the boy who lived in Phoenix and had come back to Lala’s place. Thaddeus seems to be pretty cool teenage boy who has very sad history. He was in 14th foster families, his back is broke because his alcoholic dad is really bad guy and he even lived on the street for some time. One thing that he said, had stopped me reading for a sec. His advice to Tiger seemed very honest and truthful but I am not sure if I liked it. To tell her run away, was not probably the best idea, so I am curious if she will listen to him.

My opinions about book are pretty positive and I really want to know what will Tiger do in her close future. Even that nice guy called Taddeus seems very nice and brave so maybe there will be finally some human in her life that she will care about. We do not know that, of course, but if you are quite interested in the story I recommend it to you to read it. I also recommend you to be here next time with my report from chapters that went by. Lastly I want to tell that if you do not wake up grateful for things that you have, book How to Make Friends with the Dark will learn you to live and think thankfully . ☺

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Welcome back dear readers! I am here with another report from this navy blue book. After reading few more chapters my opinions and feelings about this book are still very positive, and that is what I was hoping for in my previous reports. The story is still dramatic and also heart-breaking as always. I would even tell that especially these two chapters I have read, may have definition of words like confusing or unexpected. I would also like to tell that these two chapters where more about her thoughts which I kind of like. I like when there is more action but reading about Tigers thoughts is very important if you want to really get deep into her story and try to understand that.

You maybe forget what my last report was about and that is why I am going to summarize you what was going on before the other chapters I have read. In very short and simple way we can tell that Tiger is 16 years old teenage girl who doesn't know anything about her dad and lives just with her mother who actually died no long time ago. Now she has to deal with unimaginable problems. She has no relatives and that's why she has to visit many foster families and live there until she'll turn finally 18 so she can have her own life. In last report she have met nice guy Thaddeus, who is also foster kid of Lalas. Today we will found out that she isn't actually the last one from her family who still exists. If you're interested what's happening right now in Tigers life, make yourself comfortable and keep reading :)

The story continues with phone call between Tiger and social worker Karen. Her new foster family for longer - term is waiting for her so this is last night at Lala's place. She cannot sleep so she goes outside where is already Thaddeus. She starts to checking her unread emails on her phone she's been ignoring for a while and suddenly sees some new messages from Bonita who was Tigers mom best friend. The messages are shocking. She says that Tiger's father is alive and his name is Dusty Franklin. There is also possibility that he wrote her some letter. Tiger is mad that her mother have not told her about him but she is also bit excited because there is someone who can take care of her and she doesn't have to live with strangers under one roof. She used to hate him when she was younger but now she sees hope coming for her.

When I was reading this I felt good about it. Isn't that great that she has someone who will be with her and it will not be complete stranger? But then I realized what person he has to be… why she never saw him, why he never cared, why he never called or why he not even send her some postcards. Is he going to be her most loving caring father now after those hard years she lived with her mother? Unfortunately I think that he just doesn't give a sheet about it. I suggest that it would be too easy and beautiful if he just showed up and make some great explanation why he never took care of her daughter…well let's see what another chapter says about him and this whole situation.

Now it's time to talk about another chapter called 6 days and 12 hours. The day has come. It's Monday and Karen should be coming today to take her to a new foster family, but before that Tiger has to say goodbye to Leonard (young boy without parents) who is leaving with tears on his face. Today it is first time when Cake visits Tiger at Lala's house. They talk a lot and they go to room where they meet a Thadeuss. Suddenly another visitor is Karen who has some information about Tigers father and about her close future. She says that Tigers father cannot take care of her because he is in correctional facility but she has surprisingly three more relatives, two of them are her grandparents who have unfortunately dementia so they can't take care of her but she has a half sister called Shayna Lee Franklin. She is 20 and lives in Hawaii and she is coming this weekend to see her. Crazy right?

I would like to tell you my feelings about this part. I didn't expect that her father will be actually in the prison but the thing that she has older sister wouldn't have come to my mind not even in my dream. When I was reading a part about sister I knew that it is good sign. Tiger doesn't have to go and leave with some strangers, she can just stay with Shayna. Tiger was very pissed off when she heard that from Karen but I honestly think that when they meet she will be happy that she could meet her. Well I mean… I hope so. I think that this might be new start for Tiger. She will have finally home, her own room, her own house with her loving ones. At this point I wasn't mad like Tiger was. I felt that after those heart-breaking and dramatically breath-taking situations will be coming something like happiness, friendship and so on.

In conclusion I would like to thank you for reading this report and I recommend you to read this book or maybe just my reports if you like. This report was from chapters which were pointed more on her thoughts but there was also some dramatic action so I really liked reading it. I believe that there is somewhere good life waiting for her so she can be happy again. I would also like to mention that this book gave me opportunity to be more thankful for what I have. So, if you are interested how this story continues, you are always welcome to check another report or maybe previous ones. See you next time :)