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Once Upon A Kiss



Synopsis

"This smart romance has an ending that delivers and an upbeat narrator that will appeal to fans of Meg Cabot's The Princess Diaries."*It's 1986 and sixteen-year-old Zoe Brenner's world revolves around Depeche Mode, Judd Nelson, exercise-obsessed parents, and her best friend Jonah. Then one day, in a freak Fun-Dip choking accident, Zoe falls unconscious, and awakes in the year 2016. So much has changed, and Zoe needs Jonah to help her make sense of it all. But in this life, Zoe is the most popular girl in school, and she soon realizes this Zoe doesn't associate with nerds like Jonah. As Zoe juggles new technology, attempts to hide her enthusiasm for poet blouses, and manages to keep her super jock boyfriend at bay, she tries to rekindle her friendship with Jonah and use her popularity for a good cause. Will she ever get back to 1986? And more importantly, does she want to?*

--Booklist

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Robin Palmer!"A fun and frothy modern fairy tale!" --Melissa de la Cruz, author of the Blue Bloods series, on Cindy Ella "This formulaic, fairy-tale-based romance will be a favorite with girls. --SLJ on Cindy Ella"[T]he writing is sharp and...funny." --SLJ on Geek Charming"Teenage girls looking for a light, enjoyable romance will not be disappointed" --VOYA on Little Miss Red"[A] frothy addition to the modern fairy-tale genre."--Booklist on Little Miss Red

After growing up in Massachusetts and New Jersey, Robin Palmer graduated from Boston University in 1990 and moved to Hollywood where she worked in television for ten years

before regaining her sanity and quitting her job to write. In addition to her modern retellings of fairy tales (the second of which--Geek Charming--was made into a movie for Disney Channel) she is also the author of the middle grade series Yours Truly, Lucy B. Parker as well as various screenplays, television pilots, and misplaced To Do lists. After four years in New York City, she regained her sanity again and now lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Visit Robin at www.robinpalmeronline.com and follow her on Twitter @robinpalmer

I'd give this six stars if I could. I want to say "It's ADORABLE," but it's actually smart and shrewd and creative and the humor just glitters. I started out highlighting my favorite phrases/lines, and finally just gave up because it was taking up too much of my reading time. I read it on a 12-hour Flight of the Damned from NYC to LA and it had me laughing out loud. My seat mate finally asked what I was reading on my Kindle. I summarized the plot and she said, "Wow, that sounds like so much fun! And smart, too." It opened a whole conversation, which I finally had to shut down so I could keep on reading. Robin Palmer has hit the perfect tone with the character of Zoe -- the self-deprecating, dry wit that is perfect for the genre -- and she weaves through it sharp insights about "How to Be a Good Person," which is a challenge in any era. There are familiar-with-a-twist main characters, quirky minor characters, and the world of Castle Heights High will be clear to anyone who went to secondary school. I love how specific and detailed Palmer is with all of her characters. Wonderful sparkly gems of personal traits of Jonah that only Zoe knows, and great descriptions that make the scene really "play out" in your mind -- including double-takes and funny facial expressions. I really did wonder how the author would wrap up the time travel quandary satisfactorily -- and she did. Because there is only so much you can control in life. Highly, HIGHLY recommended.

'Once Upon a Kiss' by Robin Palmer was a delightfully smart and witty read. It captured the angst of adolescence mixed with the doubts, intensity, and courage that make the characters in YA novels so fun and easy to read about. Zoe is not quite unpopular, but she resides on the outskirts of the hierarchy that makes up her high school. Her best friend, Jonah, is right there with her. She knows everything about him, as he does about her, and even though they seem a perfect match, their friendship overrides any romantic feelings that Zoe is sure will never develop. Andrea, the typical mean girl character, is always around to make Zoe's life more annoying, while her boyfriend, Brad, is nice, but falls under Andrea's spell quite easily. The variety of other characters that we meet when Zoe is a teenager in 1986 all come back into play when she is somehow transported to the year

2016. Thinking it all occurred as the result of a horrible incident at her favorite store, she doesn't know how to cope with all the newfound technology, music, and relationship developments that are populating her new life. Not only is she now the most popular girl in school, but she is downright mean and vindictive, much like Andrea was back in 1986. Except now Andrea is Zoe's sidekick. Robin Palmer has taken it upon herself to make 'Once Upon a Kiss' readers question what they would do if given the chance to be someone they're not, but in a way that allowed changes to be made that would benefit the masses. Zoe's supposedly selfish and hateful personality in 2016 is turned on its head when the "new" (or "old," if you think about it, since she came from 1986) Zoe arrives, ready to start fresh and turn over a new leaf in terms of who she is and what she wants out of life. The skepticism of her fellow classmates and family members, as well as best friend Jonah, who is nowhere even close to being remotely interested in even knowing who she is when she arrives in 2016, is extremely realistic. People are always wary of change, especially when it comes from unlikely sources. Yet, the point of much of the novel was about bringing people together and showcasing people's personalities and cultures beyond judgments people make without really knowing someone. Truly thought-provoking and definitely a page-turner, I highly recommend this book to anyone who has ever sought a new perspective or wondered what would happen if given the chance to start again. It is truly amazing how enlightening life can be when you allow yourself to see the world through different lenses. Beth Rodgers, Author of 'Freshman Fourteen,' A Young Adult Novel

4.5 At first, the story takes place in the '80s. '86, to be exact. Zoe Brenner is quite happy with her life. She and her best friend, Jonah, are inseparable. Her parents have invented "Discocize", the latest exercise trend, and she's absolutely infatuated with Judd Nelson. I mean, rightly so. Have you seen the man? The only sore point in Zoe's life is her arch nemesis, stereotypical mean girl, Andrea. As they're both running for class president, they aren't the greatest friends, and while Zoe has to beg for votes, Andrea earns them easily. Their speeches play a significant role. So when all the votes are tallied, the class election is a landslide - mainly due to Andrea's popularity - and Andrea is decreed president, much to the chagrin of Zoe. Eventually, Zoe goes back to her sad (sort-of but not really) life as an employee at Hot Dog on a Stick. But after a traumatizing corndog incident, she's fired that same day and dashes to her favorite clothing store owned by a sweet gal named Vicky with a packet of Fun Dip. Terri presents her a fabulous Lycra minidress and she runs to try it on. But after strutting out of the dressing room, she's stunned to find herself under the gaze of Andrea's boyfriend, the ultimate tool, Brad Bundy, who owns an "Easter egg-like palette of polo shirts." Zoe

couldn't be more peeved at his presence. So when she starts choking on Fun Dip and Brad is rushing in with his CPR training, she's horrified in more ways than one. Then, everything goes dark. Then, Zoe awakens in her bed. THEN, she discovers peculiar items in her room and her brother mentioning something called "Instagram" and a closet full of pink things, and something called Starbucks. The year is 2016 and Fun Dip is the culprit. It's soon discovered Andrea is her new best friend, Brad is her boyfriend, Zoe has become the queen bee, and Jonah wants nothing to do with her and has found a new best friend in another chick. Like I said, her only friends are Andrea and Brad, who have become semi-decent people in 2016. The 2016 versions of Andrea and Brad were so loyal and genuine. Though I mostly liked Zoe, she treated them pretty terribly and I wish she made an effort to like them. And in an attempt to win back her fellow classmates and discard her Regina George image, she appeals to run for student body president again in 2016, find clothes to her liking, and befriend Jonah. There was a lot to love. Definitely, Jonah. He was super super super cute. The 2016 versions of Andrea and Brad, obviously. 1986. Fashion throwbacks. (Gold sunglasses and Lycra miniskirts = LOVE.) Even Zoe's family was fantastic. Both versions of them. There were even a few quirky, hilarious, sitcom-worthy moments. I have so many things to geek over, I could seriously type all day. For now, grab the book when you can. Because what's there not to love?

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