



It's Just a Jump to the Left

Libba Bray

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When the lights dimmed and the familiar red lips and white teeth glowed on the screen, the audience erupted into cheers, and Leta felt that surge of excitement in her belly, the thrill of sitting in the dark with strangers sharing an experience that made them all seem like friends.

Best friends Agnes and Leta have a Friday night ritual. They spend an hour trying on different lipsticks, experimenting with eyeliner, and torturing their hair before they head off to the Cineplex for the midnight showing of The Rocky Horror Picture Show. That was always the routine, until Agnes started dating Roger, and left Leta behind. But between Leta's awkward first kiss; her crush on Tom, the cute guy at the movie theater; and her absentee dad, everything feels so out of control--she could really use her best friend right now. Can Agnes and Leta find their way to a new and better friendship?

It's Just a Jump to the Left Details

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Author : Libba Bray

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From Reader Review It's Just a Jump to the Left for online ebook

Jamie says

Boys, coming of age and Rocky Horror Picture Show. Need I say more? Why are 8th graders doing these things?! This story was good but part of me was horrified that girls so young would act this way. Forget first kisses! Lets turn it up a few notches! Well written but I would have felt out of my element as a teen and as an adult, I worry for the young girls out there now if they act this way.

rebecca ? says

Anything by Libba Bray is always a yes please.

Kandice says

I should have loved this story. My younger brother was a die-hard Rocky fan and was part of the “cast” for years, slowly working his way up from the part of “Fence post” to “Rocky” so I must have seen this about 200 times in the theater. My family also plays this movie as we decorate our Christmas tree each year. No, I don’t know why, anymore than I know why we watch “Monty Python’s Search for the Holy Grail” as we take it down!

This story was just too depressing! The girl it’s about has a God-awful life that is in no way improved by the end of the story. There aren’t even any glimmerings of the hope of improvement. I’m more receptive to this kind of gloom and doom in a novel, but in a short story I expect some kind of resolution or change in situation. Here there was none. It was a bit of a “month in the life of drudgery” and I don’t need to read for that!

Hannah Edington says

As an obsessive Libba Bray reader, this was so-so. I think more than anything it was just because I wasn’t a fan of the prevalence of sex in this story, but I’ve always been considered a prude and I’m okay with that. I do have to give her credit for the fact that she aimed it at teens that age because that really is what life is like for teens in the past few decades. The characters are well-developed for being a short story and I almost gave it three stars simply for how much she developed in only 38 pages. But...they’re only like 14 and at 24, I’m more of a Leta than an Agnes I guess.

Erin says

The negative reviews here speak to our assumptions about 8th graders and the stories about them.

For me, this gorgeous, poignant, sad story captured the messy and on-going process of losing and finding yourself at fourteen.

Michele says

I'm a huge RHPS fan, so I got a lot of sweet nostalgia for this short story. The teen drama was a bit annoying. I would have liked it more if the girls had been a few years older, but I do know that I have loved this movie during all stages of my life, so it was nice to see the effect it can have on all age groups.

Latanya (CraftyScribbles) says

Coming of age story centered around one of the greatest musicals ever. (Magenta forever!) 1970s life and two girls figuring where they fit. 2/5

Brett says

Only three stars because, although it worked perfectly well as a short story, I felt so strongly about it & the characters that I wanted more. A lot more, really. What happens with Leta? Her family? Cawley? Agnes? I really want to know!

Bethany says

Libba Bray is a very interesting author. No two stories are alike. You really never know what you are going to get when you open one of her books. For that reason, she is an author I am always compelled to read. I'm even more compelled to read her work when it focuses around a major part of my middle school year.

That being said, the nostalgia I received from all of the Rocky Horror Picture Show scenes is about all this story had going for it. The plot was mediocre and overdone. The characters fell into the same cookie-cutter trap as those in Bray's *Beauty Queens*. The bottom line is that it wasn't exactly compelling. It's written at the level of a younger audience, but the content is for an older one. Unfortunately, this story was completely lost on me.

Zee says

This...long story? Novelette? I'm not quite sure how to categorize it...might have worked better as a longer piece as a few of the elements deserved a bit more time and development than they got but it was an enjoyable read that captured well the attachment that some fans get to a property in which being a fan of something substitutes for the personal identity they've yet to find for themselves in themselves. Bray obviously knows her Rocky - a nice touch - and is particularly good at writing the complicated feelings of being in-between life stages. I would've liked just enough more story for some sort of resolution (even an

open one) but it's a decent read even so.

Kate says

A great short story that really captures the life of a young teen in the 70s. My only complaint is that I could have used a novel full of Leta and Agnes. The story ends and leaves a lot unknown.

Ellen says

THAT WAS SO CUTE I LOVE ROCKY HORROR SO MUCH

Laura says

I wondered what kind of parents would take their kid to a midnight showing every week - but more importantly, what kind of parent would pick them up again. #snoozebutton

Stephanie ((Strazzybooks)) says

Nooo, that was it?! I felt it ended so abruptly because the Kindle version ends at 65%. I wanted more. This was a love song to Rocky Horror, filled with all of the nostalgia of being 13/14 when everything is changing.
A good short story.

Cat (cat-theatlady) says

I can't say this little short story blew my mind but I quite enjoyed it either way. it's a really touching tale about growing up, discovering yourself and dealing with whatever surrounds you. the rocky horror picture show setting completely warmed my heart. I love that movie so much, I wish I could go to those screenings too.

full review here: <https://catshelf.wordpress.com/2016/0...>
