



Nick and June Were Here

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Nick and June were best friends for years, until their relationship suddenly turned into something more. Now, June is coping with a new diagnosis of schizophrenia, a secret she asked Nick to keep for too long. Between managing her symptoms and her parents, June is just trying to keep it together. Nick is a reluctant car thief, supporting his aunt with the money and focusing on his art whenever he can.

But when June's condition sends her to the hospital and Nick's latest crime threatens to land him in prison, the two decide to run away. When the world is trying to tear them apart, can Nick and June find a way to stay together? \

Nick and June Were Here Details

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From Reader Review *Nick and June Were Here* for online ebook

Kelly Brigid says

"Your future will look different, but it's still a future and you're still in it."

***Nick and June Were Here* is a spur of the moment read that I greatly enjoyed reading through!** This is by no means a soft, fluffy contemporary, but rather, an endearing story about two broken individuals, struggling to find a way to cope with elements not wholly within their control. This is my first experience reading a novel that deals with a teen suffering from schizophrenia, and I personally found it to be quite insightful and intriguing to read about. Shalanda Stanley also shares the beautiful message that you are more than your mental illness. So long as you don't allow it to define you, you can rise above it.

The romance is sweet, and I appreciate how time isn't squandered sparking it. From the first page of the story, it's clear that Nick and June have made their mutual feelings for one another clear. The dual point-of-views progressively show the extent of their relationship in the present, while also sharing recollections of events in their past. Being a huge fan of flashbacks, I adore these short memories at the start of many chapters; they paint a broader picture of the road bumps Nick and June have encountered throughout their lives.

They're lost, they're broken, my heart is aching. I should honestly invent a phrase that encapsulates the whirlwind of emotions I feel when characters are in pain. I love it and hate it at the same time (but mostly the former), and simply feel as though I need to bundle these precious characters in my arms until their pain passes. Sweet June deals with so much distress as she tries to comprehend her newly developing mental illness. Amid this frightening situation, Nick causes her even greater worry, continuing to work at his part-time job stealing cars for a corrupt boss. What I love about this story, is how both individuals gradually realize that self-worth isn't determined by past mistakes, poor parental role models, or uncontrollable factors.

A small cast of characters, but fantastic dialogue and friendships. Where my focus remains on world building and enthralling writing in fantasy novels, my gaze lingers instead on dialogue and character development in contemporaries – I focus on the latter in books from all genres, of course, but weigh it quite heavily in realistic fiction. Novels from this genre have an additional element of relatability attached to them, so I often hand out a few brownie points if the dialogue feels genuine and is amusing. The friendship between June and her best friend, Bethany is adorable, and their jokes left me gasping for air on several occasions. I also admire how June's parents continually offered all their love and support, when trying to diagnose her schizophrenia. Nick's aunt is also a wonderful parental figure, tirelessly working to make ends meet, but never leaving her nephew's side.

This novel is bitter sweet, and I love all the ups and downs the characters face during it. Shalanda Stanley creates a terrific story, that felt incredibly authentic and genuine. She didn't glorify criminal behavior, nor made schizophrenia appear as a "problem" that can be "fixed" at the drop of a hat. I have a couple issues with some decisions Nick makes but appreciate how Stanley shows that these warrant repercussions. The only other complaint I have is that Nick's brother, John lacks development and conveniently appears for the sole purpose of inciting the conclusion. Nevertheless, I would highly recommend this read for anyone who loves the contemporary genre and doesn't mind realistic stories with a

tinge of sorrow.

I received an ARC from the publisher in exchange for an honest review!

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Jenn Conwell says

Nick and June have been best friends for many years. A recent relationship change has happened due to the fact that Nick and June are closer than ever: boyfriend and girlfriend. The two of them are struggling with big issues on their own. June is experiencing some scary mental illness symptoms, only to be diagnosed with schizophrenia not much later. Nick is trying to make up for lost money from his father's poor decisions by involving himself in illegal matters. Can the two of them work through these big changes on their own? Can they come out on the other side of this stronger than ever??I don't know why I thought this book would be lighthearted. The synopsis mentions the mental illness issues, something that is never lighthearted in itself. This was an emotional, deep read, but very well written. The only thing that deterred me from this was that I felt like it was a typical good girl/bad boy runaway novel. There are a lot of young adults like that out there in the world. I didn't feel like this was unique enough to distinguish from others. Regardless, I think Shalanda did a wonderful job sharing the importance of mental illness care. 3.5/5 Stars?thank you Knopf teen for my review copy

From my blog and Instagram account @livereadandprosper

Marochka says

7/10

Jen says

Two teens are determined to stay together in a world trying to tear them apart. Nick and June have always been best friends until recently, when their relationship became romantic. Now June is on the cusp of being diagnosed with schizophrenia and Nick is arrested for stealing a car, as he desperately needs the money. June is in the hospital and Nick is in jail until they decided to run away together. Will they be able to stay together and fight the forces keeping them apart?

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What I thought was going to be a foray into youth mental health was actually a YA love story. The author missed the opportunity to get the message out about this mood disorder and enlighten this age group to symptoms and treatment options. Instead, the reader gets a stereotypical look at schizophrenia. News flash, not all schizophrenics hear voices and see things! It's a huge pet peeve of mine, as I have a close family member with schizophrenia and I'm certified in youth mental health first aid. Aside from that, the author does give a small look at the hospital setting and a blip of June's treatment plan. I was a fan of how the author showed that June's friends don't keep her secret any longer and bring her to her parents, knowing she may be angry with them and doing it anyway because it's what's best. This is an important thing for teens to learn and I was so happy to see it included. For me, Nick and June Were Here was ?????/5 stars. Thank you @knopfteen for this advance reader in exchange for my honest review.

Joanna Bennett says

eARC provided by publisher through NetGalley

Nick and June Were Here is about two teenagers in love trying to stay afloat when their both faced with harsh reality. June has always been the good one and figuring out her plans for college while Nick has had a rough life since his mother left and his dad is in jail for the same thing he is doing now. Both are opposites but love makes you do questionable things as they set off on an adventure together.

I enjoyed the plot of the book and how it touched on mental illness which can be a hard subject at times. The characters were unique in their own way but I didn't feel as though I connected with them on a deeper level. The relationship between Nick and June was one thing that kept me going. Every step of the way, Nick wanted what was best for her and even when he does put her in danger he has the courage to realize it and make a decision that changes his life.

Her writing style was great and I loved how the chapters were split by point of views, Nick or June. It's nice when you can get into the head of multiple characters too see why they would make decisions especially in this book which is full of them. I can't say I was a fan of the ending because I am one that needs more closure but overall it was a decent tie up.

Although the characters lacked a bit for me, it was a decent read and didn't take long to finish. If you like contemporaries then give this book a try!

PinkAmy loves books, cats and naps says

*** Thanks to NetGalley for providing me a complimentary copy of NICK AND JUNE WERE HERE by Shalanda Stanley in exchange for my honest review.***

3.5 STARS

After a psychotic break, June is diagnosed with schizophrenia. Her best friend/boyfriend, a reluctant car thief hopes his destiny isn't prison like his father. Neither makes good decisions and the results may be catastrophic.

Writing schizophrenic narrators authentically is difficult, because disorganized thinking is a major component of the condition. Shalanda Stanley capture the auditory and visual hallucinations accurately. I was particularly glad she included June's childhood with some hallucinations because the mistaken notion that healthy young adults wake up one day with schizophrenia appearing out of nowhere. Stanley was less accurate showing the disorganization.

After a slow start NICK AND JUNE WERE HERE picks up about 25% into the story and I became engaged in their stories. I loved June's relationship with her second best friend Bethany and appreciated that both Nick and Bethany realized some secrets shouldn't be kept, even if a friend gets mad. I had more trouble with June and Nick's relationship because of certain decisions he convinced her to do including sneaking into the

hospital. I know I was supposed to root for them, and I did as individuals, just not as friends or a couple. I had a lot of empathy for Nick, poor parental role models, abandoned by both. To me he wasn't a victim of circumstances but a young man who made poor choices, pushing away help and support.

mini spoiler

The ending was satisfying. I was so glad Stanley avoided the love cure for mental illness and criminal behavior.

end spoiler

I recommend NICK AND JUNE WERE HERE with the caveat that friendship can feel good but be dysfunctional and ill-advised.

Tiffany says

Disclaimer I received this arc from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

I was super excited to read this book. But that excitement wore off fast. I was very annoyed with this book. First it's cliché. June is a good girl who is always worrying about her grades. Nick is a bad boy from the wrong side of town. He's a sweet bad boy. Typical. He's also an artist. June was diagnosed with schizophrenia. While she's in the hospital getting treated Nick gets arrested. We all knew that was going to happen. I mean come on he stole cars for a living. I can see why her parents didn't want her to date him anymore. What really made me mad was he escaped jail to bury the ashes of his uncle. 1. Why the hell is he burying ashes? Why not scatter them. 2. Why is he risking his life on it? He is just going to ruin the potential deal with the judge. 3. He takes June away from her home once she's released. She was just put on meds and needs to be close to her doctor to be monitored. He risks her health for his selfish needs. 4. He plans to live off the grid hiding from the cops. He also plans to have June drive back home when he leaves. Perfect plan, except he only had her drive once! She doesn't really know how to drive. Nick only cares about himself. Finally at the end he does the right thing.

I hated the characters and I didn't feel sorry for Nick at all. He got what he deserved. June was very weak. Not because she was schizophrenic but because she didn't stick up for what was right.

I was actually surprised I was able to read all of this book.

The things I liked about this book was that it had an appealing cover. The main reason why I requested it. I liked that the main character had schizophrenia that's something you don't see all the time in books.

Elizabeth says

Nick and June Were Here is a contemporary young adult novel that's a fast read. The problem is that it's too fast. It tries to address adolescent onset schizophrenia, realizing you need to make hard choices, the ceaseless grind of poverty, life in rural America, death of a loved one, and at least two or thirty other things.

The writing in *Nick and June Were Here* is good, which is what makes the novel so frustrating. If the author had chosen to just focus on June's terror as she deals with the realization that, try as she might, she can't will what's happening to her away and her gradual acceptance of her schizophrenia diagnosis, the novel could have been great.

If she'd chosen to focus on Nick, who wants a better future than the one he's got but can't see a way to get it and has so few options, and how he fails to realize that his choices could bind him for years when he's so used to thinking only of the moment, the novel could have been great

But that doesn't happen and everything is smushed together in a too-small space, resisting in a story that tries to touch deep places but only dips the edge of a toe and a half in instead.

I didn't believe June's fast acceptance of her schizophrenia, I didn't believe in the "coincidences" that led to Nick's escape, road trip with June, or the "surprises" that happened. (Just typing all that made me roll my eyes) I didn't believe in the far, far too neat aftermath that made the rushed ending

Nick and June Were Here tries to do too many things--it wants to be a romance, a coming-of-age, a social commentary, and a look at mental illness. If it was longer, maybe these strands could have been woven together, but it isn't and they aren't.

Still, Shalanda Stanley's writing is good enough that I would read another book by her, with the fervent hope that the next one tries to do a few things beautifully instead of a lot clumsily.

Lana says

My heart went out to Nick and June in this passionate story overflowing with young love. A love so intimate and powerful you'd think it could survive anything (I believed it when I was a teenager too!) Except Nick and June have so much going against them that it is absolutely reckless for them even to be together. As a parent, I was scared to death for them both as I tore through the pages.

I won't give too much away as to where the story takes them but once I got into it, I had to know how it would end. WOW!

This story deals with heavy topics such as absent parents, criminal charges, mental health and running away from home. Despite how troubled they were, I just loved this young couple and was cheering for them!!

I received this advanced copy from NetGalley and Random House Children's Publishing in exchange for my honest review. All opinions are my own. This book will be published February 12, 2019. I hope you will check it out!

Dahlia says

Well, that was pretty gutting, but also somehow optimistic? I like Shalanda Stanley a lot, man. It's such a mark of a compelling book now if I can actually finish the electronic version, and I read this one in a single day.

Samantha (WLABB) says

Well, obviously, I cried, but I will say the ending was more hopeful than I anticipated. This was an achingly beautiful love story between two people, who had so many obstacles in their way, but were determined to love each other despite it all.

Full review to follow.

*ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.

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Jypsy says

Nick and June Were Hear is a story of young love and serious issues. June is schizophrenic. Nick is a criminal. They face the challenges together. Here, however, is the irony: Nick's problems come from his own decisions and bad choices. June's mental illness is something that is not her choice and doesn't allow her to make decisions. Her illness decides for her. The story is intriguing and engaging, but I don't like the characters together. I'm in the middle here because there are good and bad things going on. Thanks to NetGalley for an arc in exchange for an honest review.

Staci Vought says

I loved Nick and June so much. This story reminded me of All the Bright Places mixed with Turtles All the Way Down....it's a beautiful love story with a highly engaging (but sometimes implausible) plot. I knocked the rating down a little due to a plot element that remained up in the air. I loved their story from start to finish. I want to know what happens next!

Cindy ☆? Savage Queen ? says

The year is half over, when will we get news on a release date? :/

Sabrina DiRoberto says

Nick and June were here by shalanda Stanley

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Thank you to NetGalley and Random house children's for an E-arc in exchange for an honest review.

June, a young teenager going through a mental breakdown. Months of not knowing what's going on and months of trying to hide her secret.

Nick, a young car thief that hasn't known anything else in his life other than being madly in love with June.

Best friends and now madly in love with each other, they try to take their life into their own hands. After June gets diagnosed with schizophrenia and Nick gets arrested for grand theft auto they decide to run away. Running away proves to be more than they could possibly handle. One thing leads to another and they hope the wronged can be righted again.

This book was so intense with young love, mental illness, friendship, and family. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who needs a read with good representation and a love story that feels just right!
