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Take Me On: Pushing The Limits, Book 4



Synopsis

Champion kickboxer Haley swore she'd never set foot in the ring again after one tragic night. But that all changes when the guy she can't stop thinking about accepts a mixed martial arts fight in her honor. West Young is everything Haley promised herself she'd stay away from: handsome, sexy, and full of attitude. West is keeping a big secret from Haley. He hasn't told her who he really is, and helping her - fighting for her - is a shot at redemption, especially since his family is falling apart and it's all his fault. He can't change the past, but maybe he can change Haley's future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

West Young is Rachel's brother from Crash Into You. While Take Me On can be read as a standalone, there are several references to what happens in Crash Into You, plus this takes place during the ending time period of CIY, so it may be helpful to read CIY first. Plus I loved CIY, so I recommend it anyway. Our MCs, West and Haley, are not perfect characters, nor perfect people. They have made mistakes, hurt others, suffered loss, and have yet to find the tools to dig them out of the holes and traps they are in. Some of their struggles are from their own choices, some from other's choices, and some are just what we call "life." What goes down in this book, and the past situations these two have endured, are heartbreaking. But this story brings these two people who shouldn't even know each other together, and somehow they find reasons to change, grow, and renew their focus, purpose, and hope in life. I loved reading about both West and Haley. I genuinely liked them both, and rooted for them to make the right choices. Not only did I like them individually,

but I loved the tender, determined, and endearing traits they brought out of each other. *Take Me On* tackles numerous topics, numerous social and personal issues, and though I don't want to say what they are specifically because I don't want to give away spoilers, I will say that McGarry is able to seamlessly blend so many situations and struggles together, that anyone reading this book should be able to relate to at least one issue, if not more. All of McGarry's books have handled difficult topics, but I think *Take Me One* has touched on the most topics, and I really appreciate the respect and sensitivity she shows the characters and their situations through her writing.

So far I have been loving the *Pushing The Limits* Series and this one was no different although out of the four if I had to choose this would be my least favorite but I still really enjoyed the heck out of this book. I think I was a little biased towards West since I pretty much hated him from the last book so to look at him in any other form than the guy who screwed things up in the last book took a little time to get past...about half way through the book until he grew on me actually. Right off the bat I really liked Haley, she is a champion kick boxer which is bad ass but like all of McGarry's characters she is broken her and her family have suffered great loss which leads them to depend on her verbally abusive uncle who is a complete jerk to where your waiting for the moment when someone sets him straight and then on top of that Haley has stopped fighting after getting into it with her abusive ex who happens to also be a MMA fighter and has it out for her brother and cousin. I liked that she had many layers to her character she was strong but yet had many weaknesses as well which made her seem very real. Then there is West, i'm still not fully in love with his character because of the last book but even then he just seemed typical rich party boy with parental issues. He is one of those characters that just does things without thinking which is what landed him in a fight against Haley's ex. It was interesting to see how the Rachel situation from the last book really affected him and that made me soften up on him a little. He had tremendous amount of guilt to the point where he couldn't even face his sister and it was a battle within himself for him to finally go see her knowing he was the cause of it all.

I think some authors, in their zeal to avoid the cardinal sin of telling too much and showing too little, err on the side of brevity so much that they leave the reader hanging. This fourth installment of Katie McGarry's *Pushing the Limits* series, which I have totally devoured this week, is an example of such a book. This story has an interesting premise: both the hero and heroine are homeless, though by very different circumstances. Haley's family has been on a slow slide from lower middle class stability since her father lost his job, and they've been bouncing around from shelters and friends

and finally settle in an overcrowded two bedroom house already occupied by Haley's mean-spirited and controlling uncle and his family. Meanwhile, West goes from being the pampered scion of Louisville's wealthiest family to living in the back of his car overnight when his rebellious behavior gets him kicked out of school, which is the last straw for his father, who kicks him out. There are so many issues this book could have explored about the similarities and differences between West and Haley's positions and their attitudes toward their shared circumstance, and it's not that the book didn't touch on these things... but it only touched on them, it didn't sink its teeth in. That's true of so many of the subplots as well.

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