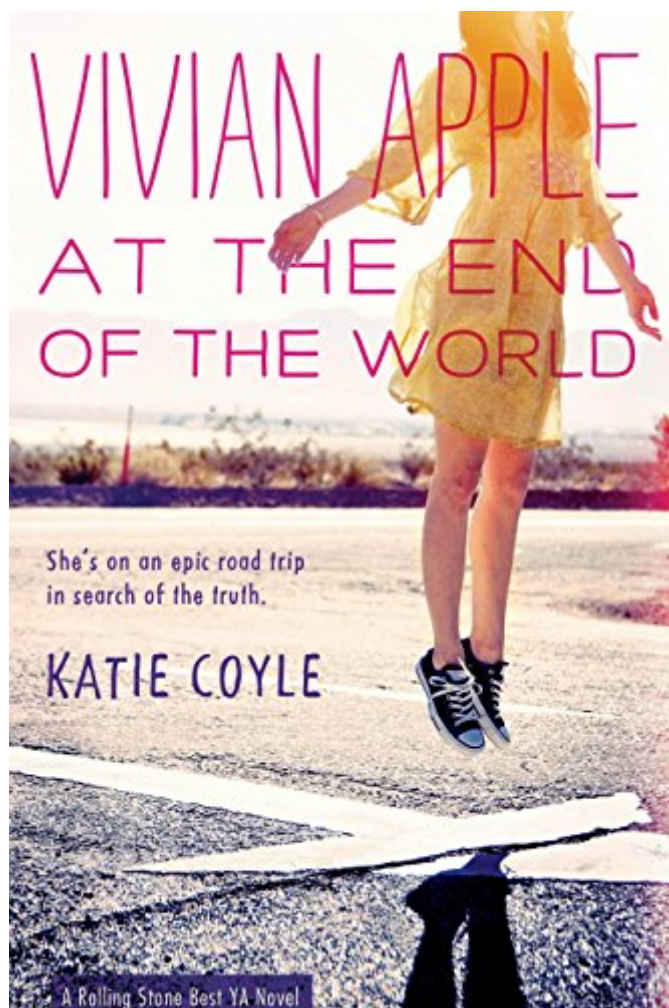


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Vivian Apple At The End Of The World



Synopsis

Seventeen-year-old Vivian Apple never believed in the evangelical Church of America, unlike her recently deceased devout parents. But when Vivian returns home the night after the supposed "Rapture," all that's left of her parents are two holes in the roof. Suddenly, she doesn't know who or what to believe. With her best friend Harp and a mysterious ally, Peter, Vivian embarks on a desperate cross-country roadtrip through a paranoid and panic-stricken America to find answers. Because at the end of the world, Vivian Apple isn't looking for a savior. She's looking for the truth.

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Customer Reviews

A Conversation with Katie Coyle The author of *Vivian Apple at the End of the World* answers a few questions about road trips, Twitter, her ideal Rapture Eve party, and what's next for Vivian.

You have a large following on Twitter. How would you describe your book in 140 characters?

Vivian Apple is about best friends, road trips, belief, cute boys, climate change, and a regular girl learning to tap into her inner badass! This book depicts a panic-stricken America. Do you think society is heading in that direction? To some degree, unfortunately, I think we're already there! To create this alternate United States, I drew upon a lot of the things that scare me about the one I live in. I believe in climate change and I believe its effects might be catastrophic. I also think it's easier to pretend it's inexplicable, to shroud it in mystery, than to face the challenge head-on with the intent to overcome it. A lot of the book is about the ways we as humans try to console ourselves during times of crisis. We buy things and deny things, and we isolate ourselves within our individual families or groups rather than working together to find solutions. Much of the book is about Vivian coming to understand these truths about the world around her, and herself, in order to help put things right. In the book, the evangelical Church predicts the Rapture. Describe your perfect Rapture Eve party. I think my Rapture Eve party would pretty closely resemble the one Vivian throws with her best friend, Harp. I'd try to surround myself with people I love, and I'd dance a lot. Hopefully there'd be baked goods present as well. If the world's going to end, I'd like to eat as many baked goods as possible before it does.

You empower your characters to stand up for their beliefs. Was that an important message for you? Absolutely! Personally, it took me until I was out of my teens to really speak up for myself, my ideas, and my convictions. Part of the problem for me was how much I internalized the sorts of things that are assumed about teenage girls—that they are silly and dramatic and, on the whole, not very smart. I didn't want to be accused of being any of these things, so I tended to keep my mouth shut. At the beginning of the book, Vivian is a lot like seventeen-year-old me; she so desperately wants to please other people that she's terrified of making waves. Writing her transformation over the course of the book was kind of a way for me to go back in time and shake my teenage self and say: It's okay! Speak up! Act out! You'll never please everybody, so you might as well be true to yourself. Vivian Apple embarks on an epic road trip with friends. Any good personal road-trip stories? Well, I've also traveled from Pittsburgh to San Francisco via car, with my now-husband, two years ago. We had a pretty amazing trip, and got to see Yellowstone and Mount Rushmore (as well as the presidential wax museum outside Mount Rushmore that plays a part in Vivian Apple). Before that, I'd say my most

memorable road trip was when I was nineteen, and drove from New Jersey to Boston with three of my best friends to visit Salem, Massachusetts, and see the band Harry and the Potters play. We had a really great time, we learned a lot of facts about witches, and we also nearly killed each other, which is kind of inevitable on any road trip taken with the people you love most.

Vivian Apple packs a sledgehammer. What three items would top your packing list? 1) Pliers. A sledgehammer is flashy but in most scenarios would not be of much use. Pliers, however, come in handy all the time. I have a friend who used to (and maybe still does) regularly carry around a set of pliers in her purse, and it got us out of quite a few scrapes. 2) A book. I never go anywhere without a book. 3) Trail mix. It doesn't matter if you're going on a run-of-the-mill road trip or whether you are venturing into apocalyptic territory to uncover frightening truths; you're going to need the protein. How did it feel to hear that your book had won the Guardian/Hot Key Young Writer's Prize in the UK? Do you know the scene in *That Thing You Do!* when Liv Tyler hears the Wonders on the radio for the first time and goes running, screaming, through the streets, collecting the members of the band as she goes, and they bounce around the store turning all the radios on and kissing each other and dancing with cardboard cutouts, and then at the end Tom Everett Scott shouts, "I am Spartacus!"? That was how it felt.

As a debut novelist, what has been most surprising about the publishing process? Truthfully the most pleasant surprise has been discovering the huge number of readers out there! I think we hear a lot about how people don't read books anymore and how Western civilization is crumbling because of it, but part of this process has been coming to understand the vast numbers of passionate, creative, smart readers who are out there snatching up every title that interests them, reading them, reviewing them, and spreading the word on their Tumblrs and their YouTube channels. It's been really delightful to witness! What's next for our sledgehammer-wielding heroine? By the end of the book, Vivian has learned some surprising things about herself and the country she lives in, and she's also inadvertently made some powerful enemies. In *Vivian Apple Needs a Miracle*, she'll have to figure out how to navigate this new, dangerous world with her new bolder self. Also there will be more puns and makeouts.

Why I read it: I have my own storied history with religion (include some dark places that have left me

a little wary and a lot jaded), and as a result, I like stories that take a serious look at what religions can be capable of. I also really loved the cover and title of this book. ZOMG Yes! I love Vivian Apple. Talk about character growth. From her first choice to the distinct change in her very last at the end of the book, Vivian has decided that she's the hero of her own story, and I can get behind that. This book also goes into the depths of friendship of two unlikely people. It's so raw and honest that I couldn't help but loving them both. As you read in the description, Vivian's parents were sucked into this religion, and she was not interested. I'm a sucker for parent-children dynamics in YA (even if the parents aren't there for the story itself). I have mommy issues (there, I said it), so I like seeing how this is examined with teenagers, because that's when mine started. Vivian Apple did not disappoint. I also have a soft spot for YA's with unapologetic cursing. I really, really love a well-placed curse word, and Katie Coyle nailed it here. kthxbai This was a fabulous story that left little to be desired, if anything. I'm excited to see where she goes with Vivian Apple Needs a Miracle.

Wow. Just... wow. So I first saw people raving about this book on tumblr as part of the Reblog Book Club. And I sort of ignored it. It's not that I don't trust people on the Internet, but, well, I don't trust people on the Internet, and I heard dystopian YA and checked right out. Until it went on sale and I thought I'd give it a chance. Without regurgitating the plot altogether, I can tell you it features a heroine who's pretty ordinary and doesn't end up being extraordinary other than that she takes charge of her life on her own terms. She doesn't save the world or start a revolution or end up pregnant with a vampire's baby. She simply faces an untenable situation and says "I'm going to do something. I'm not sure what, but it's better than sitting here." Is there romance? A little bit, but again, on her terms, and it isn't even a focal point of the book. Best of all, Vivian is relatable. She's not biting her lip or looking in the mirror and telling herself she's ordinary while some hero swoops in to tell her she's anything but. She's sort of unlikable. She's not always the nicest person in the room. She makes mistakes and sometimes writes people off who aren't helping her with what she's doing. That we get this amazing, imperfect heroine in a dystopian that feels more real than any other YA dystopian I've read, and in which greed, fanatical religion, and environmental issues play a huge role? I can't recommend this book more highly. Total win.

Interesting premise, but my practical mind couldn't help but think about several inconsistencies. I'm not going to list them here, because they'd contain major spoilers. I can suspend disbelief to a certain degree, but too many things didn't add up or make sense. There were several questions left unanswered, like what happened to Vivian's grandparents? Did they survive the hurricane that

decimated New York City? Maybe these questions are answered in the next book. However, I'm not invested in the characters (and in fact, Harp annoyed me to no end), so I doubt I'll be following the rest of this series. 2 1/2 stars.

For all the meek who want to be bold, for the lost trying to make their way in the world, Vivian Apple is the hero we need, our own opportunity to become who we want to be in our core. The story takes a good many detours, as all the best road trips do, but leads us eventually to a fantastic conclusion. For the religious, the hyperbolic Believers may be hard to swallow. Your faith will be tested as much as the characters, but it will be worth it. Put aside your meekness and strap on your seatbelt for the best post apocalyptic road trip you've ever taken.

I always find fiction based on cult and religion to be interesting. It could actually happen, you know? This is no exception. Vivian is a relatable character determined to find out the truth in what she believes to be a scam of a rapture. The characters are smart and witty and the story is gripping enough to want to know what happens next. I can't wait for book 2!

Vivian Apple is my new superhero, and Katie Coyle is my new favorite author. This book was phenomenal. I loved every bit of it. I just recently purchased the sequel to Vivian Apple at the End of the World, and I can't wait to dive back into Vivian's crazy apocalyptic world.

I read the second book first, and immediately wanted to read the first one. Since I was driving my kid to college I downloaded the audible book, and loved it. Great reading, and a fantastic, creepy-but believable story. Great characters, and a wonderful portrayal of teen friendships.

A fun read. If this book had been around when I was a teenager, it would have quickly become a dog-eared favorite. So excited to see there's a sequel coming out, because the ending left me in tears.

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