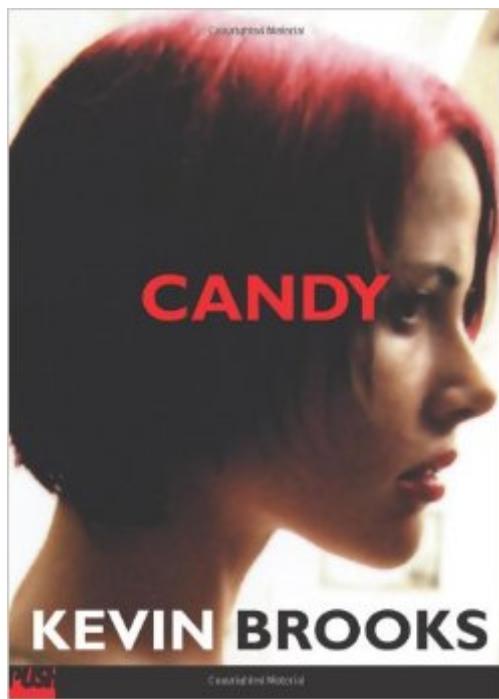


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# Candy



## **Synopsis**

Kevin Brooks is at the top of his YA game in this "provocative, suspenseful" (Booklist) novel. Now in a dynamic new Kevin Brooks repackaging! When Joe meets Candy, it seems like a regular boy-meets-girl scenario. They chat over coffee, she gives him her number, and he writes her a song. But then Joe is drawn into Candy's world --- a world of drugs, violence, and desperation. As the dark truth about Candy's life emerges, Joe finds himself facing real danger at every twist and turn. Soon Joe's conflicting emotions begin to mirror Candy's, and he understands that falling in love just might be worth the struggle. This intoxicating tale of heartache, danger, and hope will enthrall teen readers.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Candy by Kevin Brooks is an entertaining book to read, it keeps you wondering what Joe Beck's, the main character, next move will be. Joe lives in a nice neighborhood near London with his dad and sister and although he has a few problems with his father and mother, this doesn't seem to bother him much. Basically, Joe is like any other regular adolescent. He plays guitar in a band called the Katies and is very talented with music. When he meets this beautiful girl, Candy, everything else doesn't seem to matter but her. It's a scary thought, Joe lets everything around him not matter as much as Candy. After meeting Candy, he really changes. Candy is a young girl with various problems involving drugs and prostitution hence, causing problems for Joe. Of course Joe doesn't see these problems himself, all he cares about is protecting Candy, but the problems keep on piling up. The author doesn't make the reading as difficult so it's pretty easy to read for those who

are younger. Kevin Brooks keeps you anticipating in certain scenes where there might be confrontation. This book kept me reading longer in order to find out what's going to happen. In one of the many scenes that kept me reading was when Joe is confronted by Candy's pimp, Iggy. Iggy is a violent man who doesn't care about hurting anyone. Joe risks his life when he enters this area in hope of seeing Candy again, but later Joe finds himself right in front of Iggy. Joe is defenseless against Iggy but fortunately for Joe, Candy helps him escape. Both Candy and Joe care for each other and although Candy is a prostitute, she acts totally different with him. No one seems to realize this and tell Joe he needs to leave her alone, but Joe is convinced he can help her in some way and continues to get in deeper trouble. I like the way the author ends the story, it sure isn't a happy ever after ending, but with all the intense situations Joe gets involved with, it's a satisfactory conclusion.

"Candy", a novel by Kevin Brooks, is quite simply one of the best YA novels I've read in the past few years. The book's subject matter is not exactly joyful; prostitution and drug use and abuse are parts of the plot, but looking past that, the story really is captivating. It starts with the story's protagonist, Joe, getting lost in an underclass neighborhood. He hears a girl shout out at him. He's amazed by her looks, and finds himself fascinated by her. His fascination turns into an attraction, and then his attraction turns into an obsession for this girl named Candy. But, he soon realizes that his love for her can become dangerous. Her world is the complete opposite of his. Turns out, Candy is a prostitute, working for a pimp named Iggy. She works for him to support her Heroin addiction. But Joe still wants to be involved with Candy. But as Joe gets deeper into Candy's world, the road turns dark. His world is turned upside down, and he's forced to make the decision of his life. The characters were pretty well developed in the story. I found myself liking both Joe and Candy rather quickly, and I believe that Kevin Brooks did a great job at bringing Joe and Candy to life, as well as Mike and Gina, who are Joe's sister and boyfriend. The book portrays drug addiction rather realistically, for there are scenes where Candy goes through withdrawals from not using heroin and Brooks doesn't hold back describing what it's like. So I recommend this book to anyone looking to read a good story. The most important thing of all is that it keeps you reading. Pick this book up today.

I will be the first to admit that this book takes an amount of experience to fully understand. If you're too young and haven't experienced some of the things in this book, it will be boring, and if you lived the sheltered life then it won't do you much good either. Candy is a book that is written in a format that is not often seen in the literary world. Whereas most novels attempt to make their sentences

and paragraphs form pictures that move smoothly in your mind, this one is different. The paragraphs are abrupt and jump quickly, and are purposefully done so, which gives the book a feeling of....well, it's like looking through a window that's so dirty you can't see anything. But there's a hole in the dirt where someone's recently wiped it off with a shirtsleeve. You can only see through that one part of the window. The rest isn't clear. The hole in the window being what the author makes the subject at the time, everything else the adjectives that we assume are true about the subject. A good book in its own right, it doesn't live up to the generic teen "guy meets girl guy and girl fall in love guy and girl break up weep weep sob sob the end," making itself very unusual and a very enthralling read. It's unique, well-written, and enjoyable. I'd really give it four and a half stars because nothing's perfect, but we can't have everything in life.

This was one of those books I had to force myself to finish. I am a recovering addict and I like reading stories about others who suffer, fiction or otherwise. But this book was just frustrating. It felt like it took so long to get to any sort of climax and then that was disappointing. I kept asking myself "and why do I care?" about any character development, story line, or plot building. In other words, this book did not get me emotionally involved in any way, nor at any point. Candy just simply was not my cup of tea. I would not recommend paying to read this book. Borrow a hard copy from a friend or the library, if at all.

One ordinary day, a kid named Joe takes a train to London and get lost around the city's station...and meets Candy. Candy is the girl who takes average Joe out of his safe, comfortable world. As Joe stumbles into Candy's life of drugs, prostitution, and violence, he becomes more and more drawn in until he can't think of nothing but her. Soon Candy's problems become Joe's problems and their lives become both at stake. This was a completely captivating novel, but I kind of wanted to know more about what happened in the end. However, overall it was well-written and I do recommend it.

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