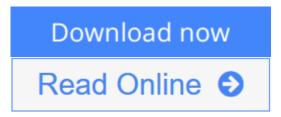


The Night Gwen Stacy Died

By Sarah Bruni



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An offbeat love story about the adventures and mutual rescue of a young woman out of place in her hometown and a mysterious stranger who calls himself Peter Parker (and begins to cast her in the role of Spider-Man's first sweetheart), The Night Gwen Stacy Died is about first loss, first love, and finding our real identities.

"A dreamy world where comic book characters and psychic visions are as real as teenage boredom and young love, Bruni's debut is a magical story, a whiteknuckle thrill ride." —Diana Spechler, author of Who by Fire

"The perspective shifts, slippery identities, and lurking weirdness in this book recall the peak moments of Kurosawa, Hitchcock, and Lynch. But to describe it in cinematic terms would risk slighting that bighearted, sneakily exhilarating voice that can finally be only the work of a masterful writer." —Sean Howe, author of *Marvel Comics: The Untold Story*

"Bruni's fiercely smart and delectably unpredictable first novel delivers again and again that most sought-after shiver up the spine, the chill that comes when you realize the world you thought you knew and understood is newer and stranger than you ever dared imagine. A genuine page-turner." —Kathryn Davis, author of The Thin Place

"Mixed into this novel's blustery atmosphere are gusts of contemporary masters, like Joy Williams, Lorrie Moore, Kelly Link, and Michael Chabon. This gave me the sort of reading experience I always hope for but almost never find: a world that somehow both resembles the one in which I live and is also unlike any other I've ever seen or read." —Stefan Merrill Block, author of *The Story of Forgetting*

"A brave and bold new voice, Bruni takes us on an unexpected adventure of love and loss, of beginnings and ends, all the while showing us what it really means to be a hero." —Alison Espach, author of The Adults

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Editorial Review

From Booklist

Seventeen-year-old Sheila Gower is going nowhere fast. Working at a local gas station, she has no aspirations to go to college but is learning French in the hopes of moving to Paris. Then a man who goes by the name Peter Parker starts to frequent the gas station. Sheila finds herself increasingly curious about why he's christened himself with Spider-man's alias, and when he walks in one day with a gun, suggesting they stage a robbery and flee the state, Sheila agrees. The two drive to Chicago and begin a new life together. Peter starts calling Sheila by the name of Spider-man's girlfriend, Gwen Stacy, but what he doesn't tell her is that she's factored heavily into prophetic dreams he's been having. Peter is on a mission to save a suicidal man that he's seen in these recurring dreams, and he believes he needs Sheila by his side to do so. Bruni's debut is an unusual and inventive love story, with two lost souls who hold the key to each other's salvation at its heart. --Kristine Huntley

Review

"Sweetly eccentric."—New York Times Book Review

"THE NIGHT GWEN STACY DIED uses Spider-Man lore to tell the tale of two loners and improbable lawbreakers from Iowa, a high-school student and a taxi-driver, who embark on a mission of escape to Chicago. Staged, at first, as an abduction—gun, robbery, kidnapping—their adventure quickly begins to resemble a surreal love story. Bruni's book superbly explores the part fiction plays in our search for identity." -Bookforum.com

"Superbly suspenseful first novel ...Bruni does a masterful job evoking their world, equal parts fantasy and reality and further skewed by a downtown Chicago that's been invaded by coyotes...She keeps readers guessing as the plot twists and turns. Bruni writes dark passages and playful moments with equal aplomb. The world is her oyster." - *Kirkus*, starred

"Part tangled love story and part love affair with comics, this debut novel centers on that tenuous bit of time between childhood and adulthood, when anything seems possible and so many decisions seem inevitable. Rough with dark psychology, rich with introspection and emotion, this beautifully written book will appeal to fans of Spider-Man comics as well as coming-of-age fiction."

—Library Journal

"Engaging... The novel's quirky tone and accessible themes of rescue and recovery make for a likeable read." – *Publishers Weekly*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Stover:

The book The Night Gwen Stacy Died give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable far more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem using your subject. If you can make reading through a book The Night Gwen Stacy Died being your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like open up and read a guide The Night Gwen Stacy Died. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or other folks. So

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Homer Simon:

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