



## Letters from Camp

By Kate Klise

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Mom and Dad,  
You've got to get us out of here! When you get this letter, COME IMMEDIATELY!  
-- Charlie

The brother-sister pairs who arrive for the summer at Camp Happy Harmony are almost too busy fighting with each other to notice how strange the camp really is. Not only are the campers forced to wear bizarre uniforms, eat gross food, and do chores all day, but the members of the family that runs the camp fight constantly--with each other. Are the campers in danger? Or--in spite of sibling wars--do they need to stick together to solve the mystery humming under the surface of Camp Happy Harmony?

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## Letters from Camp By Kate Klise Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

A bit less satisfying than the Klises' *Regarding the Fountain*, this summer camp mystery employs the same roundabout storytelling style, unfolding its plot through an avalanche of letters, memos, menus, ledgers and legal documents. The premise is clever: Camp Happy Harmony, run by the six Harmony Family Singers, accepts siblings who constantly fight and turns them into happy brother-sister pairs. With an abundance of characters to keep straight, the author cooks up no-holds-barred caricatures and spoofs. Thus campers Barbie Q. and Brisket Roast, two bickering Texans who "fight like starving dogs over a T-bone," are joined by the snooty Brits Mimi and Ivan Gems and the very average Charlotte and Charlie Lee. It soon becomes apparent that the Harmony Singers are anything but a happy family, and the children set out to discover their not-so-nice secrets. The energetic string of documents that tell the story appear here on overactive spreads, seemingly designed to cater to the MTV generation's appetite for constant visual stimulation. On the whole this busy send-up offers easy entertainment: the humor is obvious but kid-friendly, the mystery simple yet fun to solve. Ages 8-12. (June)

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From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7 Like the Klises' *Regarding the Fountain* (Avon, 1998), this quirky, humorous novel is told through letters, memos, shopping receipts, ledger entries, post-its, and news articles. Three brother/sister pairs are signed up by their parents for a month at Camp Harmony, where they are to work on their inharmonious sibling relationships with the Harmonys, six over-the-hill siblings who were once a popular family singing act. Barbie Q. and Brisket Roast from Texas, Ivan and Mimi Gems from London, and Charlie and Charlotte Lee from Illinois quickly realize how strange the camp is, with its nonstop chores and terrible food. They also realize that the Harmonys don't really like one another. In fact, they seem to be trying to kill one another off. Ivan, an aspiring mystery writer, is in his element as the youngsters put aside their own squabbles, unite against the adults, and try to discover the truth. Ironically, in the process, the siblings learn to get along, just as the brochure promised. With copious black-and-white sketches, each page is a collage of written evidence through which the story unfolds not as a straightforward narrative, but rather piecemeal like a puzzle. The book has clearly drawn heroes and villains, lots of puns and knee-slapping shenanigans, and the illicit thrill of reading other people's mail. A bit cute and chaotic, this novel will attract students with a wacky sense of humor who enjoy piecing together a mystery. Connie Tyrrell Burns, Mahoney Middle School, South Portland, ME

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From Kirkus Reviews

Anyone who has been to summer camp will delight in this wild spoof of camp life told entirely in letters, memos, and whimsical illustrations, in a format similar to the Klises' *Regarding the Fountain* (1998). Three sets of brothers and sisters who hate each other find themselves trapped in Camp Happy Harmony, which promises to teach battling siblings love and respect. But the Harmony family, a crowd of has-been singers, turn out to be thieving con-artists plotting to murder each other. Led by the egotistical Darlene Harmony, the family uses the campers for drudge work, assigning them to paint buildings and build fences, feeding them drugged dinners and very little else. Darlene is trying to kill off the handyman, while two of the Harmonys (one of whom isn't even a real Harmony brother) are trying to poison the other four. The campers, also oddballs, rise to the occasion by learning to cook, spying on the Harmonys, cracking the mystery, and exposing the Harmonys' crimes to the world. Along the way they also come to love one another. The illustrations are as important as the writing, allowing readers to become detectives and discover clues in the

letters and pictures. Every character and every plot development is thoroughly silly, and every single one contributes to the charm of this novel. A real treat, ideal for having on hand for camp care packages. (Fiction. 8-12) -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Ellen Garcia:**

Now a day people who Living in the era just where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources in it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each information they get. How people have to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Reading through a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information specifically this Letters from Camp book as this book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

#### **Muriel Carpenter:**

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the time or they will get lot of stress from both day to day life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not only a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, the book you have read is Letters from Camp.

#### **Tammy Kovar:**

You may spend your free time to read this book this publication. This Letters from Camp is simple to deliver you can read it in the playground, in the beach, train and soon. If you did not possess much space to bring the particular printed book, you can buy the particular e-book. It is make you easier to read it. You can save the book in your smart phone. So there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

#### **Ana May:**

This Letters from Camp is fresh way for you who has fascination to look for some information as it relief your hunger info. Getting deeper you into it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having little bit of digest in reading this Letters from Camp can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this specific book is easy to get by anyone. These books acquire itself in the form that is reachable by anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in book form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this publication is the answer. So there is not any in reading a publication especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for an individual. So , don't miss that! Just read this e-book kind for your better life along with knowledge.

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