

# THE GREAT UNKNOWNABLE END Read Free

The Great Unknowable End. Books & Writing. Review: The Great Unknowable End by Kathryn Ormsbee.



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Kathryn Ormsbee  
400 pages  
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SIMON & SCHUSTER  
9781534420502  
English  
New York, United States



Yes, we get it. You have problems. We got it. This website saves cookies to your browser in order to improve your online experience and show you personalized content. Read our Privacy Policy and Cookie Policy to get more information and learn how to set up your preferences. If this is really the end of the world, who do they want to be when they face it? Likes 4. Comments 0. View 1 comment. The Great Unknowable End by Kathryn Ormsbee is a historical young adult read that takes a reader to the small town of Slater, Kansas in Stella is an average teen that is doing the best she can with her situation.

Galliard is a member of Red Sun, a hippie commune on the outskirts of Slater. When Galliard begins venturing out he and Stella become friends despite their differences. The Great Unknowable End was a fun trip back into the late 70s bringing in music and events of the era to set the tone. I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley. Feb 14, Stacey rated it it was ok Shelves: read-in , netgalley. I was completely sold by that synopsis and the previous book I read by this author.

Sadly, this title was disappointing. I liked Stella and Galliard well enough. There are a few other characters, but no one stood out for me. Plot wise it was boring. The movement of the story I was completely sold by that synopsis and the previous book I read by this author. The movement of the story was slow and repetitive and absolutely missing a spark for me. Overall, I liked the growth of the characters, but definitely wanted a lot more out of this book. View 2 comments. And I didn't dislike this one, but it definitely isn't my favorite of hers either. There are definitely some good points, and some that are The 70s, punctuated by some eerie shenanigans, was quite the trip to read about! I mean, Kansas probably wasn't the most exciting place to grow up, so an unexplained potential "end of days" has to shake things up.

I definitely felt the vibe of both the time period and the ominousness of the events taking place. I mean, what is happening here? And why? And what about everywhere else? Can it be stopped? Will it be stopped? So many questions, right? And I was quite eager to find out the answers, since I really didn't have any idea where things were headed, which is another plus. Stella really needed something to shake up her daily mundanity.

She was stuck, let's be honest, and she wasn't going to become unstuck without some serious intervention. Galliard was stuck too, though I suppose in a more literal sense, considering he was in a cult. But they're at a precipice when the book starts, and it's clear that they're going to have to decide what they want out of their lives. Her sense of responsibility and duty warring with her own dreams and desires is all too common. I also loved the friendships that were presented during the book, and yes, eventually the romance! Okay look obviously I am not going to factor this into my rating, but it drove me bananas, because I searched many, many sites to make sure that back in the 70s, frequencies weren't done differently, and my research seems to indicate that this distinction between AM and FM radio has been in practice in the US since the s.

If anyone has any different info, please share! Anyway it's mentioned so many times in the book that I just couldn't let it go, so here I am, perseverating on a tiny detail. Ugh I don't even know why I loathe it so fully, I just know that it irks me and I can't help

it. The cult wasn't actually all terrible? Which is not what I want from my cult! I wanted it to be a little more awful, I guess. Maybe some cults aren't the worst, and this is some kind of I have no idea, but when I hear "cult", I am hoping for dark and twisted, and it really wasn't so much here. I liked the relationships and their struggles and development and such, but I just wanted to feel a little more of an emotional connection with them, and I didn't.

I don't think I necessarily had any particular expectations for how I wanted it to be, but it just felt a little easy, perhaps? Anyway, I don't want to say anything else about that, for obvious reasons. Bottom Line: Not bad, but not as epic as I'd expected. The friendships, family, and ambiance made it worth it, though. I enjoyed watching Stella coming into terms with her capabilities. With her mother dead and older brother at the Red Sun, she felt like she had to step up. The interaction between Galliard and Stella felt genuine. Despite coming from different places and growing up with completely opposite ideas, beliefs and environment, they got toget I enjoyed watching Stella coming into terms with her capabilities.

Despite coming from different places and growing up with completely opposite ideas, beliefs and environment, they got together quite nicely. Galliard has always been curious about the Outside since he was born in the Inside. All his life, he only knew about his commune and their rules. Galliard is a wonderful musician, but he never got to showcase it. I love that he never let it affect him when new people interacted with him for the first time. The whole countdown thing was building up to a huge event but I was disappointed at how it happened. Was it nature? Was it aliens? Dec 31, Kales rated it really liked it Shelves: s-s , 4-star , arc , mental-health , ya-general. I am so pleasantly surprised by this book. It was weird but in such an endearing and wonderful way.

Kathryn Ormsbee is one of the most underrated YA authors and if you haven't read one of her books, you definitely should. The individual journeys that each Galliard and Stella take are commendable. They are dealing with realistic teenage issues of the time and yet, issues that people of many ages can relate to. The feeling of being split between love and duty is a universal theme but I adored how t I am so pleasantly surprised by this book. The feeling of being split between love and duty is a universal theme but I adored how they were portrayed there. The "cult" life was an interesting aspect of this as well. I haven't read a lot of books with this aspect that weren't true crime. Most of them had negative connotations whereas this was rather positive or at least, multi-sided.

It bordered on being negative and creepy but the redemption at the end was refreshing. Additionally, Stella's final lesson about letting go was awesome. I liked the conflict of liking vs loving people you love. And how, just because you are related to someone, you don't have to like them or get along with them or agree with their choices. Finally, the doomsday bit was interesting. I was a little dissatisfied with the fact that there wasn't an answer but at the end of it all, it was ultimately okay. Some of the elements of it all were interesting, rather unique and fascinating. And I liked the fact that it was set in the 70s. The importance of radio and nightly news is also wonderful because of the lack of social media and that is now news got around that

time.

It was education and really captured the time. I hope you all pick up this book in February. It found it immensely satisfying and a unique read. I find myself wanting to know more about these characters and hope they have good lives. Conclusion: To purchase Nov 11, Celia McMahon rated it really liked it. Thank you Edelweiss for the chance to review this book. This book was weird and fun, and surprising. This story is set in the 70's in a town called Slater, Kansas and involves one girl and one boy whose lives could not be more different.

Hey, let's throw in some mysterious phenomena and here we have *The Great Unknowable End*. Enter Stella. She lost her mother to suicide and works two jobs, one at an outdoor movie theater and another at a hair salon. She puts her dreams of becoming a space engineer to the backburner to care for her father and little sister when her older brother suddenly leaves for a commune called The Red Sun without a word two years prior. Her family has distanced themselves from a town who associates evil with The Red Sun. They're loners, but they're loners together.

Enter Galliard. He was born at The Red Sun and has little knowledge of the Outside.

When he loses a spot as the resident artist within the commune, he seeks answers beyond the commune's gates. Strange things begin to happen in Slater. From red rain to eyeless snakes. The town puts the blame on the Red Sun. The Red Sun returns blame to the Outside. Meanwhile, Stella and Galliard meet and strike up an unlikely friendship. In the backdrop of all of these strange happenings, there's a girl with a weird face and a boy with tics who find each other amongst their secrets and pain. I absolutely loved this book. I loved it because the two main characters were so flawed and so real that I couldn't stop reading to see what would happen to them. I love magical realism, and I love it more when there's no explanation for it. For some reason, that mystery is better for me. But you can speculate, and I am sure there might have been something I missed that wrapped it all up together.

What drew me into requesting this book was the magical realism aspect. What I got was the stories of two teenagers whose lives weaved with each other with that desire to be found and understood. It's about devotion to family, no matter blood-related or not or how blindly it is. There's a reminder in there about no matter what happens in life, be it a loss or the world coming to an end, that there are opportunities to follow your heart and to never give up on your dreams. This is the type of book that sticks in your brain long after you've read it. When I finish a book, I usually move on quickly, but this one has lingered. I've never read a character with Tourette's, and I'm grateful for the education about the disorder. And a girl who is in love with the stars? In closing, add this to your reading list, preorders, whatever. I am certainly going to add it to my shelves. Apr 13, Jessica The Psychotic Nerd rated it really liked it Shelves: released-in-historical-fiction-realistic , pov-multiple , summertime , books-i-own , stand-alones , hall-of-awesomestars-or-more , simon-and-schuster , cover-lust , short-and-simple.

And there are not enough YA books that take place in Kansas. Granted I want more YA books that take place near the city. Why does everyone automatically think of

rural when it comes to This and other reviews can be found on The Psychotic Nerd Short and Simple Review I originally added this book to my TBR list right after I read Tash Hearts Tolstoy and all I really knew about it then was that it was going to take place in Kansas so I automatically wanted to read it I'm from Kansas, okay? Why does everyone automatically think of rural when it comes to Kansas?

I'm not sure if the geography made sense, but I was really drawn into this book. The setting was very atmospheric, not just the small town setting, but there was such a clear feeling of summer and the '70s. The pacing was slow throughout a majority of the book, but that did not bother me. It just put a focus on the characters and I loved both Stella's and Galliard's perspectives. As the book progressed the pacing quickened in a very exciting rate. The last portion had a hint of magical realism and I'm still not sure what happened, but I overall liked this book. Also, I'm glad the Cosmosphere at least got a tiny shoutout at the very end. Jan 24, USOM rated it really liked it. Disclaimer: I received this free book from Netgalley.

This has not impacted my review which is unbiased and honest. The Great Unknowable End is about self-discovery. Whether it be Galliard and his questioning of his Red Sun life, or Stella's assumption of her motherly role towards her family, both of our main characters are at points in their life where they have figure out who they want to be. When you don't think you can be anything else than what you've known, what you've thought, how do we Disclaimer: I received this free book from Netgalley. When you don't think you can be anything else than what you've known, what you've thought, how do we break free? How do we become something we never thought was possible? This has not impacted my review which is unbiased and honest. The Great Unknowable End is about self-discovery.

How do we become something we never thought was possible? All of this is grounded in a special town and a relationship that draws them, inexplicably, together. It is a book that is almost like a swirling storm, these layers and depths of colors orbiting each other, until they are pulled together. My only complaint is that Ormsbee does such an excellent job at describing and creating this tension that the climax ends up being not as climactic as I expected. I think this is a quiet YA book that has this understated tension and character intricacy that readers can really appreciate. Frequency of Emails Subscribers Weekly Digest. You're almost done! Please check your inbox or spam folder now to confirm your subscription so you don't miss out on any fun!! Your email address will not be published.

The Great Unknowable End |

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become something we never thought was possible?

Jun 16, Claire marked it as to-read Shelves: young-adult. Well, sign me the hell up! Note: These gifs are from the episode, Monsters are due on Maple Street. All I can say is I'm a huge fan of this series. I've only watched it the first time when I arrived to America 7 years ago. I was born in the Philippines, so give me a break! The premise sounds like the Maple Street episode, which involves mass hysteria, conspiracy theories, and mistrust amongst other people. May 11, Melina Topp rated it liked it. It's a historical fiction taking place in the 70's, with Tourette's representation and character's coping with loss and grief. It balances chasing ambitions and passions with reality. Oh and there's a cult. Did I mention the insane weather and unexplainable countdown clock?

With intense doomsday vibes??? You could take anyone of these themes, run with it, and write a book. And more. It's a lot. A bit too much for to fu 3. A bit too much for to fully enjoy it. The characters were fine, the plot was fine, the ending was fine. I read it pretty quickly. My least favorite part of the book was when it would break into second perspective and tell me what I was feeling. I know what you are thinking.

You are saying It just took my out of the story each and every time. Overall a decent book with a beautiful cover! Jun 26, Basil rated it really liked it Shelves: arcs , young-adult , summer-thr. I feel lucky to live in a world where I get to share my enthusiasm about literature and reading with people, and this book made me really appreciate that, despite its flaws! Mar 08, Teenreadsdotcom rated it really liked it. Slater, Kansas, is like most Midwest towns record shops, hair salon, an outdoor theater and Red Sun, a nearby pacifist community that strives toward unity, shunning the Outside and its corrupting influence on relationships and the environment. For some, however, tensions with the commune run higher like for the Mercer family. Meanwhile, Slater itself faces more than internal tensions strange weather events, from pink lighting to tornadoes, keep occurring, while a countdown clock appears in the town.

What are Stella and Galliard, and the rest of Slater, heading toward? And who will they become before what might be the end? One of the most distinctive features of the story is the historical context and the way that Ormsbee recreates its unique feeling. Even the reactions of the characters echo the mindset of a decade where global powers interacted in unexpected and, at times, frightening ways, and project the uncertainty of the time.

Down to the smallest detail, Ormsbee includes little reminders of the historical context, demonstrating her concrete understanding of the time period and successfully making the story feel firmly integrated into the era, rather than existing in the time period on a superficial level. In terms of the content of the story, Ormsbee develops the central conflict between personal aspirations and responsibility that shapes identity, exploring this same idea from the two unique perspectives of her main characters.

While Stella debates her commitment to her family, particularly her little sister, Gillard wrestles with his bond to his own community, and the role he needs to take for the harmony of the group as a whole. Even without these details, though, both characters prove relatable and passionate. The strange, almost supernatural events of the story slowly gain intensity, keeping the reader engaged in the unexplainable, while the reactions of the townspeople seem realistic and add to the tension of the events. However, the climax itself feels rushed, with many events happening in such a short span of time that they lose their individual resonance, leaving the reader looking for more.

Additionally, the resolution of the novel lacks a completely satisfactory explanation. While the style of the conclusion seems to fit the historical context of the novel in some ways, readers who like tidy endings may not feel like the final chapters of the story measure up. May 18, Seoling : marked it as to-read. I am so excited for this book. Why is summer not here yet? Apr 08, Chelsea Pennington rated it really liked it. I completely fell in love with this book. I think it shows such strong growth from the author, Kathryn Ormsbee, and is easily my favorite novel by her to date. The novel is dual POV with alternating chapters. Stella and Galliard's voices were easily identifiable and had clearly been crafted with care.

It didn't take long for me to root for both of them individually, and for me to root for the two of them to fall in love!! Both character arcs were well thought out and made sense. I wished I could j I completely fell in love with this book. I wished I could just dive into the novel to encourage both of them as they struggled with ghosts from their pasts and the looming uncertainty of the future. They each have such painful parts of their

pasts that, while they're completely different from each other, make them uniquely able to understand what the other person has gone through.

Also, I am always here for representation, and my brother has Tourette's Syndrome like Galliard does, so I loved that Ormsbee incorporated a character who has TS as a part of his story, but by no means the only interesting thing about him. This novel is beautifully atmospheric. So many questions swirl about what is happening in their hometown of Slater, Kansas, and it dances on the lines of being spooky without ever being terrifying something I personally appreciated! But it is so beautifully written that I was completely captivated. Ormsbee's writing style grows with each book she writes, and this was clearly the culmination of years of writing. The world of Slater and Red Sun, the nearby hippie commune, were painted so clearly and vividly, whether it was a normal afternoon or there was pink lightning. This is a gorgeous book that left me wanting more of Stella and Galliard's stories, and I would be lying if I said I wouldn't gobble up a sequel!

Mar 23, Christabel rated it really liked it. I did enjoy it. The atmosphere and strange apocalyptic happenings like the pink lightning were very cool. I really liked Stella as a character, and enjoyed reading her POVs a lot. I also thought the character arcs and growth of both of the main characters was well done, and the ending felt satisfying in that way.

The rest of the ending was a bit unsatisfactory though? Honestly the main thing that annoyed me the most about the book was just Galliard himself, and all his POV chapters. Also he spent a large chunk of the book complaining about how selfish Phoenix was applying for the job Galliard wanted, but he never stopped to think that maybe he was being selfish too?

And maybe shunning Phoenix, just because Phoenix wanted a chance to do a job he enjoyed too, was kind of hypocritical. TW: Talks often about suicide and its effects on family and friends, including two different past suicides being described. Feb 12, Jen rated it liked it Shelves: The Great Unknowable End takes place in the 70s and features a cult. Well, they don't call themselves that, obviously, they're a commune if you ask them.

The story switches point of view between Galliard, who was the first child born in the commune and has lived there his entire life, and Stella, whose brother ran off to join the commune two years prior. Galliard has parents in the commune, but they aren't called that. Kids are basically raised by the entire commune and belong to everyone. Their The Great Unknowable End takes place in the 70s and features a cult. Their purpose was basically to live in peace, as they weren't a religious community.

In fact, Galliard prays to rock legends who are no longer living. He also cusses like a sailor, which I thought was an interesting aspect as I guess I always see communes like that not swearing? Maybe that's just my weird thoughts on it haha. Stella lives with her dad and little sister Jill. Her mother died years ago and her older brother has run off to the commune. This story totally takes on a creepy vibe as it goes on. It starts with bizarre weather that no other surrounding towns or cities have. There's things like pink lightning and then the rain is blood red, etc.

It creeped me out and I loved it. Not only that, but the town and Stella's closet have eerily lit numbers doing a countdown. To what? No one knows. Stella and Galliard strike up a friendship that turns part romance, and between their budding friendship and the building anticipation with the countdown and weather, I was super excited to see what happened.

Unfortunately, the ending was anti-climactic for me. It just And that's the best way I can describe it. It was such a let down because I was totally hooked into this book until the end. Even though the ending wasn't for me, I thought the book itself was written well. I really liked the characters and loved the overall vibe of the book. Feb 18, Leah Hatch rated it liked it. I received an advance copy of this book from the publisher. The story follows our dual protagonists, Stella and Galliard, as they navigate the strange happenings around their city.

Stella is a young woman working several jobs, just trying to get by and care for her family. Galliard is a member of a cult called Red Sun, and is trying to achieve his dream of being the resident artist so he spread the word of Red Sun to the outside world. Stella and Galliard meet under abnormal circumstances. This was a fairly average book for me.



I wonder if I would have liked this better as a movie rather than a book. If you are a fan of slight magical realism, you might want to give this book a shot. Mar 08, Alison Morquecho rated it really liked it Shelves: I received this e-book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review The title of this book drew me in. When I read the synopsis I knew I would enjoy this book. And I did. I pretty much fell in love with this book within a few pages. I was intrigued immediately. Galliard, who is one of our POV's, is such a cool character. He struggles with Tourettes syndrome, and it was so neat to be in his head and see how he thinks.

I have a 7-year-old daughter who may have Tourettes, it's still too early t I received this e-book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review The title of this book drew me in. I have a 7-year-old daughter who may have Tourettes, it's still too early to tell, but this book has even helped me understand her tics a bit more. Gilliard has grown up on Red sun, a commune, all his life. He doesn't know much of the outside world, only that it is horrible and he never wants to go.

Once you hit a certain age in the commune, you can choose to either go or stay. Most people stay, and that is Gilliard's plan until events happen in his life where he's not so sure anymore. Our other POV is Stella. She has a younger sister named Jill, who she takes care of most the time. Her father works nights, so he isn't around a ton. Her mother committed suicide when she was younger and her brother has run away to Red Sun a few years ago. I loved Stella. She is a down to earth gal, but super smart. Galliard has only ever known life inside Red Sun.

There, people accept his tics, his Tourette's. But when he's denied Red Sun's resident artist role, which he'd believed he was destined for, he starts to imagine a life beyond the gates of the compound The day Stella and Galliard meet, there is something in the air in their small town. So begin weeks of pink lightning, blood red rain, unexplained storms Hardcover List Price: Slater, Kansas, is a small town where not much seems to happen. Stella dreams of being a space engineer. Galliard has only ever known life inside Red Sun. The day Stella and Galliard meet, there is something in the air in their small town.

So begin weeks of pink lightning, bloodred rain, unexplained storms

The Great Unknowable End a book by Kathryn Ormsbee

Stella dreams of being a space engineer. Galliard has only ever known life inside Red Sun. The day Stella and Galliard meet, there is something in the air in their small town. So begin weeks of pink lightning, bloodred rain, unexplained storms And a countdown clock appears mysteriously above the town hall. If this is really the end of the world, who do they want to be when they face it?

Take a small-town paranormal mystery, drop in a 70s commune, add a dash of haunting familial histories, and a hefty scoop of Science vs. Art, and voila: a book to delight the likes of Carl Sagan himself. Kathryn Ormsbee is that author. There, people accept his tics, his Tourette's. But when he's denied Red Sun's resident artist role, which he'd believed he was destined for, he starts to imagine a life beyond the gates of the compound The day Stella and Galliard meet, there is something in the air in their small town. So begin weeks of pink lightning, blood red rain, unexplained storms And a countdown clock appears mysteriously above the town hall.

With time ticking down to some great unknowable end they'll each have to make a choice. If this is really the end of the world, who do they want to be when they face it?