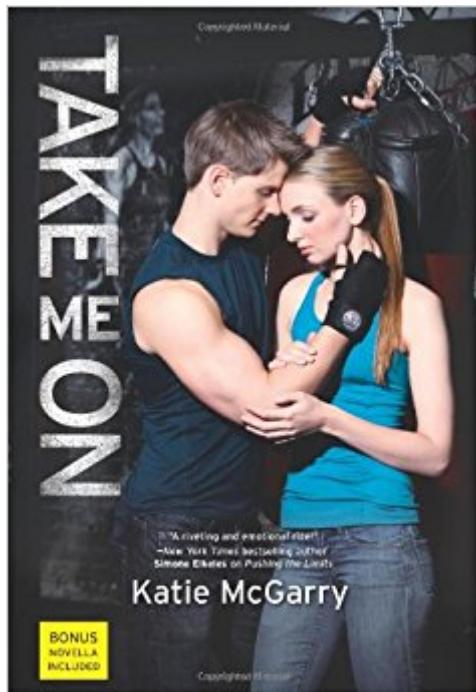


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# Take Me On



## Synopsis

Acclaimed author Katie McGarry returns with the knockout new story of two high school seniors who are about to learn what winning really means. Champion kickboxer Haley swore she'd never set foot in the ring again after one tragic night. But then the guy she can't stop thinking about accepts a mixed martial arts fight in her honor. Suddenly, Haley has to train West Young. All attitude, West is everything Haley promised herself she'd stay away from. Yet he won't last five seconds in the ring without her help. West is keeping a big secret from Haley. About who he really is. But helping her--fighting for her--is a shot at redemption. Especially since it's his fault his family is falling apart. He can't change the past, but maybe he can change Haley's future. Haley and West have agreed to keep their relationship strictly in the ring. But as an unexpected bond forms between them and attraction mocks their best intentions, they'll face their darkest fears and discover love is worth fighting for. **\*\*Bonus Content\*\*** The novella, *Crossing the Line*, will be included in the back of *Take Me On* (both print and e-book editions).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up • Bottling up her emotions has become Haley's way to deal with her problems from her dad losing his job, to the family living under authoritarian rule at her Uncle's house, and her violent act of hitting back after her ex-boyfriend hits her first. West, on the other hand, has problems controlling his emotions while dealing with his tumultuous relationship with his parents, blaming himself for his sister's terrible accident and paralysis, and getting in one too many fights at school leading to his expulsion. Haley and West's lives and narratives intertwine after West nearly hits

Haley with his SUV and a conflict with her ex-boyfriends younger brother results. To protect West and her family from retaliation, Haley trains West to battle it out with her ex in the octagon. That decision means she'll have to face the reason she gave up kickboxing. As the story progresses so do Haley and West, their romance, and their fight for what is best for them. Although dramatic and star-crossed, McGarry's novel adds realism to the romance, dialogue, and problems that both West and Haley encounter. With likable characters and a tensely building romance, this book will not disappoint fans. •Adrienne L. Strock, Chicago Public Library

"McGarry has written another knock-out hit - gritty, hot and just as enthralling as always. Fans of the series will love the character connections and development. Get ready to cheer for West and to fall in love with Haley." -RT Book Reviews

So I seriously don't know why I didn't read this book sooner. I meant to pick it up when it first came out, but then life and other books got in the way. But, holy crap I just adored this book. I never thought I would say this because Pushing The Limits has always been my favorite, but Take Me On has just stolen that top spot. I loved this book. I loved West. I loved Haley. I loved everything about it. Haley is awesome. I can't even explain how much I loved her and I related to her in some ways. I know what it's like to be good at a male dominated sport and to have others judge you for that, so I really got that and I knew how she felt. But aside from that, I just liked Haley. She thought things through and she didn't fly off the handle for no reason. There were a few reveals that I thought was going to cause her to flip out, but then she didn't and I just loved her all the more for that. My heart broke for her and for her situation, but I loved how she tried to stay strong through it all and I loved watching her power through and grow. And then there is West. Honestly, I don't know how I kept from starting this review with me just flailing all over him. I. Loved. Him. He is my new favorite Katie McGarry guy and honestly he is high up on my list of favorite book boyfriends. Noah had been holding strong as my favorite but West was just. I can't even fully explain it, but I loved him. He loves his family so much and he tries so hard to help. He may be impulsive but he has a good heart. I loved watching him learn to stand on his own two feet and grow into a great man. I have to take a second to rant about West's parents because I struggled with them so much, especially West's Dad. I could go on and on about all of the reasons they drive me crazy but they aren't worth my anger. West learned to overcome their shortcomings (and

there are many) and I was so proud of him for that. And then there is Haley. Uncle and well I'm not gonna even go there because I'll just end up in a rage spiral. I also loved the MMA aspect with this one. I liked the sports aspect it added and I liked watching Haley be awesome at it. I also loved that Haley was a billion times better than West and it didn't bother him in the least. He respected her for it and admired her for it. And what else. I loved the romance and I thought West and Haley were perfect together. This book absolutely broke me on numerous occasions and I felt like my heart had been ripped out of my chest, but then there are some truly amazing moments that made me happy cry. I was on a rollercoaster of emotions and it was wonderful. Nobody puts my heart through the wringer quite like Katie McGarry. Take Me On was a wonderful read and I could go on and on about this book for days. It is easily my favorite book of 2015 so far and it will honestly be very hard to top. I don't know what it was, but I just absolutely fell in love with this book and I know I will be visiting it again and again.

Another amazing Katie McGarry novel! I have read every book of this series and have loved every minute of it. Pushing the Limits is an amazing series. What I love is that it is not your typical romance novel. This series yes is romance but it is so much more than that. These characters have problems. It is real life! They have issues with their parents, school, etc. This book is no different. First off thank you NetGalley and the publisher for allowing me to read this amazing book. I am so grateful that they allowed me to read this book. Okay the cover. Amazing right? I love these characters and the cover designer did a great job with it. The story. Dang. Okay you have Haley, who is a past kickboxer who also lives with a horrible Uncle. West. oh West. West is the boy who is the brother of Rachel, from the previous book. West is amazing. I love his character, but then again how can you not. Together Haley and West learn about life and each other. Throughout the book they fall in love and experience heartbreak...but that is not all. Katie McGarry you sure know how to write a novel.

I think some authors, in their zeal to avoid the cardinal sin of telling too much and showing too little, err on the side of brevity so much that they leave the reader hanging. This fourth installment of Katie McGarry's Pushing the Limits series, which I have totally devoured this week, is an example of such a book. This story has an interesting premise: both the hero and heroine are homeless, though by very different circumstances. Haley's family has been on a slow slide from lower middle class stability since her father lost his job, and they've been bouncing around from shelters and friends

and finally settle in an overcrowded two bedroom house already occupied by Haley's mean-spirited and controlling uncle and his family. Meanwhile, West goes from being the pampered scion of Louisville's wealthiest family to living in the back of his car overnight when his rebellious behavior gets him kicked out of school, which is the last straw for his father, who kicks him out. There are so many issues this book could have explored about the similarities and differences between West and Haley's positions and their attitudes toward their shared circumstance, and it's not that the book didn't touch on these things... but it only touched on them, it didn't sink its teeth in. That's true of so many of the subplots as well. There's a lot going on in this story: issues with Haley's family and West's family, Haley's history of domestic violence with an ex-boyfriend and the trauma associated with it, West's discovery of a deeply guarded secret regarding his past, West's sister's recovery from an almost fatal car accident, Haley's efforts to find a way to pay for college, Haley's history as a champion kickboxer (a sport she's walked away from) and West's introduction to that sport, a final confrontation between West and Haley's ex, and West's and Haley's developing feelings for each other. "Take Me On" deals with all of these things, but only glancingly. The plot skips right along, but all of these issues are too weighty to be addressed as summarily as they are. The whole book whet my appetite, but didn't satisfy.

The story of Haley & West (love that name) is an emotional roller coaster & very, very good. It sort of ties you up in knots, tho, or at least it did to me. They both have been damaged by their families - altho they are both loved by their families. Circumstances around them have caused each of their lives to be full of heartache and a lot of angst. They're from different worlds, on the outside, and yet inside... they're half of the same whole. It's a good read, and has a classic storytelling quality I quite enjoyed. I definitely wouldn't call this a recovery read, but I do think it has the potential to call to me as a re-read in the future.: )

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