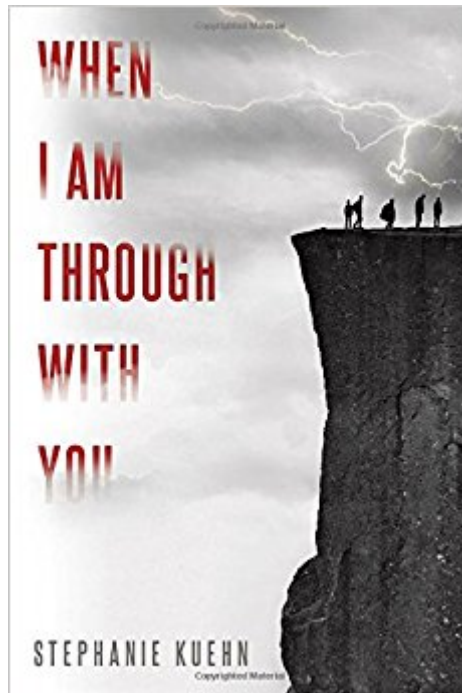




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When I Am Through With You



Synopsis

A gripping story of survival and the razor's-edge difference between perfect cruelty and perfect love. "This isn't meant to be a confession. Not in any spiritual sense of the word. Yes, I'm in jail at the moment. I imagine I'll be here for a long time, considering. But I'm not writing this down for absolution and I'm not seeking forgiveness, not even from myself. Because I'm not sorry for what I did to Rose. I'm just not. Not for any of it." Ben Gibson is many things, but he's not sorry and he's not a liar. He will tell you exactly about what happened on what started as a simple school camping trip in the mountains. About who lived and who died. About who killed and who had the best of intentions. But he's going to tell you in his own time. Because after what happened on that mountain, time is the one thing he has plenty of. Smart, dark, and twisty, *When I Am Through With You* will leave readers wondering what it really means to do the right thing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A tense, masterful thriller that gripped me from the first page." —Kara Thomas, author of *The Darkest Corners* "Complex and compelling, *When I Am Through With You* takes a hard look at the dark intensity boiling beneath the surface of an everyday teenage boy." —Edgar-Award Winning author Mindy McGinnis | "Taut plotting combines with prose that's by turns delicately plush and trenchantly foulmouthed for a

riveting experience. Full of secrets and plot twists, Kuehn's latest is a satisfying, sophisticated study in complicated relationships." Kirkus, starred review "[A] harrowing story that succeeds in keeping readers off-balance from start to finish as it explores the collision between desire and action in unpredictable physical and psychological landscapes. Publishers Weekly Praise for The Smaller Evil

Kuehn's specialty in depicting mental illness and her sharp, quick writing are on display in her latest novel, but it is her satirical integration of New Age hippie rituals with the pseudoscientific jargon of the self-help retreat world that is the most compelling addition. Fans of the author's work will find familiar material in this book. Readers interested in a Gillian Flynn-style take on cults and self-help retreats will also be intrigued. SLJ, starred review "Suspenseful and enigmatic, bristling with Stephanie Kuehn's vivid prose and sharp-eyed characterizations, The Smaller Evil kept me guessing till the very last page. I immediately flipped back to the first page to read it again, and so will you."

Laura Ruby, Michael L. Printz Award winning author of Bone Gap. "The Smaller Evil, with an engaging main character, precise, vivid writing and a continuous rushing train of tensions, is a captivating thriller." 2015 PEN/Phyllis Reynolds Naylor Working Writer Fellowship Judges

Stephanie Kuehn is the author of five novels for young adults. In 2014, her *Charm & Strange* won the American Library Association's William C. Morris Award for best debut novel, and her three subsequent books, *Complicit*, *Delicate Monsters*, and *The Smaller Evil* have cemented her reputation as one of YA literature's most unique and daring voices. She lives in Northern California and is a post-doctoral fellow in clinical psychology. www.stephaniekuehn.com

Thanks to First to Read for providing me a complimentary copy of WHEN I AM THROUGH WITH YOU in exchange for my honest review.

GRADE: A-4.5 STARS

Ben killed his girlfriend Rose, and he's about to tell you why. A heartbreaking story of abandonment, child neglect and domestic violence made Ben who he was. His father left when he was two, his stepfather nearly killed his mother, Ben accidentally killed him before his mother not-accidentally tried to kill him all before the age of eleven. He cares for his alcoholic mother, still suffering from injuries from the car accident that didn't kill Ben. He plans to sacrifice his future to continue taking care of her, despite how terribly she treats him. Rose also treats him badly. Mr. Howe, a kindly teacher takes Ben under his wing as

assistant to a hiking club, which is how the teens ended up on a mountain. Not everyone would come down alive. Stephanie Kuehn is an automatic preorder for me, so I was thrilled to get an ARC copy of *WHEN I AM THROUGH WITH YOU*. She drew me into this mystery from the beginning with Ben's confession to killing Rose. I like and empathized with Ben and often wanted to tell him he was worth more than he thought he was. My other favorite characters were Mr and Mrs Howe. While some of the scenarios in the story stretched credulity, I cared what happened to Ben and the other kids. If you like mysteries and complex narrators, *WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH YOU* is unputdownable.

I liked this book a lot. The story grabbed me right away and I was completely hooked. This is the first time that I have read anything by Stephanie Kuehn but I quickly found that she is a fabulous storyteller. I ended up reading this book over two nights and really never wanted to put it down because I had to know what happened. I had a lot of fun reading this book. This story is told by Ben. I really liked the way the story unfolded through Ben's recollection after the event. From the book's summary, we know that Ben does something to Rose but as I read the story I just couldn't figure it out. Ben is really a likeable guy. He's not perfect and doesn't always know the answers but I just couldn't see him causing harm to anyone. So I had to keep reading to find out what really happened. The book takes Ben, his teacher, and a few more high school students on an overnight hiking trip. I was a little surprised by how much this group of kids got away with on the trip. Ben is the teacher's assistant for the trip so he has a bit of responsibility but he doesn't hesitate to have a little fun himself. There is a bit of high school drama which I really didn't mind in this story. It felt realistic and really helped show who each of the characters really were. There are a few surprising twists in the story and a whole lot of excitement before everything is over. I really had no idea what was going to happen to everyone as the story moved along. I ended up feeling for these kids as they tried to figure out how to handle the situation they found themselves in. I would recommend this book to others. It was a really exciting story that was really hard to put down. I definitely plan to read more of Stephanie Kuehn's work in the future. I received an advance reader edition of this book from Dutton Books for Young Readers via First to Read.

The one thing that made this book extraordinarily readable is the high points of this book. A couple of chapters had a few lines at the end that really just dragged you back in. The writing is simple and concise and tells a story that's quick to the flesh of it and gets you from Point A to Point B with just the right amount of pain and guessing. This was a fantastic thriller. A couple parts of it dragged, but it

was probably mostly person preference over the actual plot or writing itself. There was a lot to be discovered and it told a unique story about survival and what makes us human, even in times we're discovering ourselves. Great read! It's only 300 pages, so enough to get you through it quickly and does not bore you. I, personally, was a little disappointed in the actual result of the book, but I'm sure other readers will disagree with me! You'll have to read to find out why and have your own opinion! One of the other things that bothered me is the way the characters always seemed to be trying to take advantage of each other and put everyone down. I know it's supposed to be about high school and kids learning who they are, but it really felt like each character didn't have a redeeming quality. A tragic backstory doesn't necessarily mean they're justified in their actions. But other than that, the small size of the book kept the pacing quick and moving along nicely. I received a free book in exchange for my honest review.

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