

SLOW DANCE
IN PURGATORY

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

AMY HARMON

SLOW DANCE IN PURGATORY

The hallways are empty, the school day long over, the din of lockers and youthful laughter have dissolved into silence. It's as if the very walls are waiting. And then through the intercom a song starts to crackle, the soundtrack of a forgotten life. And the band begins to sing - "Lovely Maggie falls for Johnny, a boy no one else can see. Heartthrob Johnny, 50s bad boy, trapped for eternity. Lonely boy and lonely girl, unsolved mystery. Maggie and Johnny, only high school sweethearts, because Johnny can't ever leave. Do wop, Do wop . . ."

In 1958, a rumble goes down outside the brand new highschool in Honeyville, Texas. Chaos ensues, a life is lost, and Johnny Kinross disappears. But in 2010, someone finds him. Orphaned at the age of ten, 17-year-old Maggie O'Bannon finally finds a permanent home with her elderly aunt in a small Texas town. Working part-time as a school janitor, she becomes enmeshed in a fifty-year-old tragedy where nothing is as it seems and the boy of her dreams might vanish when the bell rings.

This volatile and mismatched romance is doomed from its start, as Maggie struggles to hold on to yet another person she is destined to lose. Secret love and hushed affection are threatened by outside forces, resulting in a desperate race to keep a secret no one would understand. Deeply romantic, funny and tender, *Slow Dance in Purgatory* captures the heartache of a love story where a happy ending might be decades too late

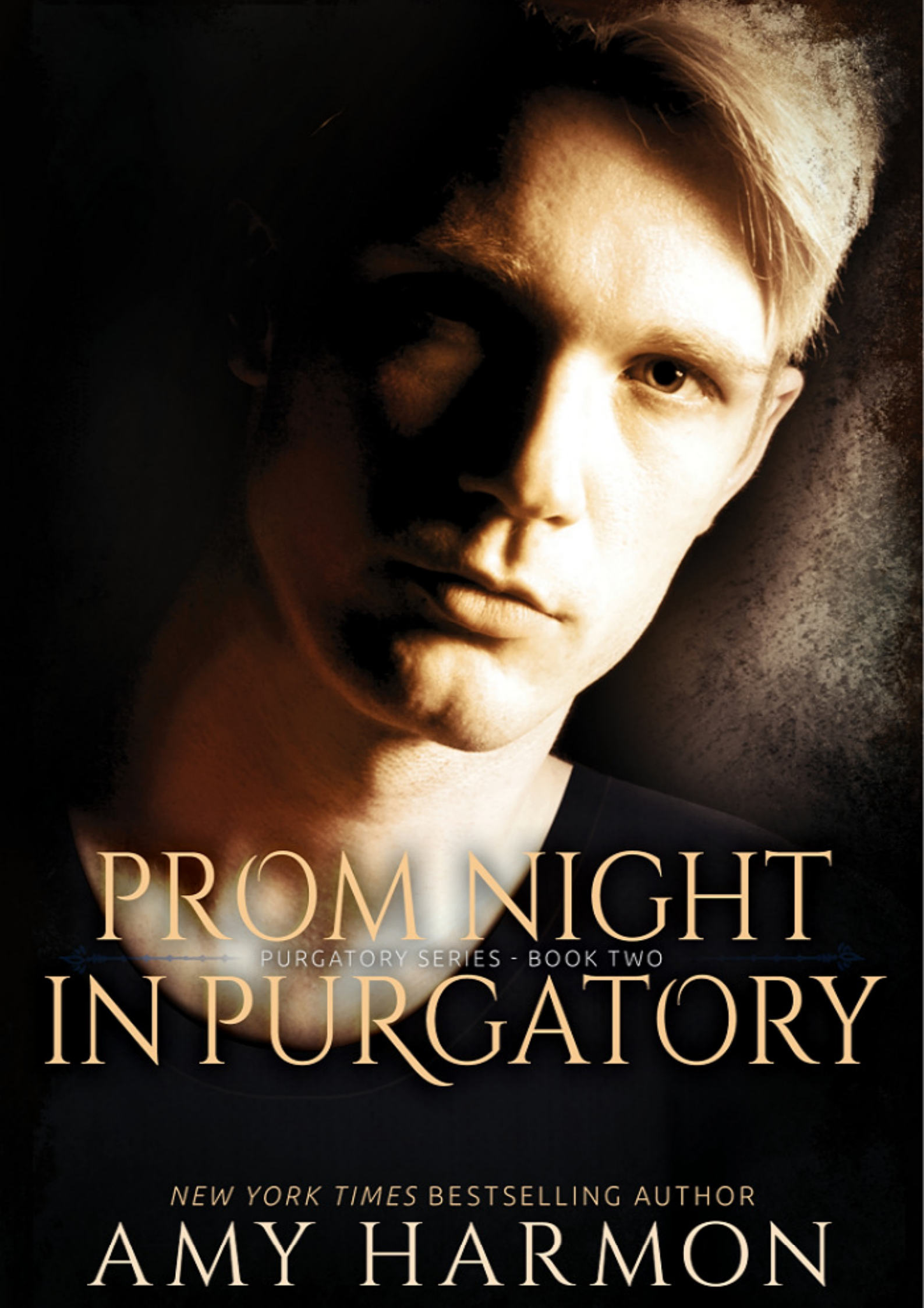


Publication date: April 2, 2012

Genre: Teen and Young Adult Romance, Paranormal, Time Travel

Recommended for ages: +14





PROM NIGHT
PURGATORY SERIES - BOOK TWO
IN PURGATORY

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PROM NIGHT IN PURGATORY

Where does before end and after begin?

Johnny Kinross is a boy from the 1950s, a boy trapped in time, and Maggie is the girl who loves him. By some miracle and against all odds, Johnny and Maggie are given a second chance at life and love. But Johnny is freed from Purgatory only to find himself in a totally different time and place, in a world full of strangers. One unsolved mystery becomes another, and Johnny and Maggie must unravel the past to have any chance at a future.

'Prom Night in Purgatory' is the sequel to the love story that is unlike any other, where time is shifting and everything can change, and Maggie must fight for Johnny all over again.



Publication date: August 1, 2012

Genre: Teen and Young Adult Romance, Paranormal, Time Travel

Recommended for ages: +14



ATTENTION

**THIS DOCUMENT INCLUDES SPECIFICS YOU MIGHT WANT TO AVOID
UNTIL YOU HAVE FINISHED READING THE BOOK.**

CHARACTERS

The love story is centered around Maggie O'Bannon and Johnny Kinross. Do you consider them the only main characters in this novel or do you think there are others who play a pivotal and influential role? If so, who and why?

Do you think the characters were realistically portrayed? Describe these character's personalities, motivations, inner qualities.

How does the way the characters see themselves, differ from how others see them? How do you see the various characters?

What did you think about their attraction to each other? What drew them in? What did you think of their relationship?

What is motivating the actions of the characters in the story? What do the sub-characters want from the main characters and what do the main characters want with them?

Were there any moments where you disagreed with the choices of any of the characters? What would you have done differently?

What do you think Roger was really feeling that night toward Dolly Kinross when he said "I'm not here because I want you! I'm here because I hate you!" ?

Do you think Clark Bailey would have believed Dolly Kinross if she asked for help when Roger threatened her that night?

What past influences are shaping the actions of the characters in the story?

Who did you like best? And who do you like the least? Why?

What do you think will happen next to the main characters?

THEMES, DEFINITIONS & SYMBOLISM

Purgatory

1. A condition or place in which the souls of those dying penitent are purified from venial sins, or undergo the temporal punishment that, after the guilt of mortal sin has been remitted, still remains to be endured by the sinner.
2. Any condition or place of temporary punishment, suffering, expiation, or the like.

“I seem to be stuck here, or stuck between here and somewhere else.”

“You mean somewhere between life and death?”

“Maybe . . . or between Heaven and Hell. I guess this is Purgatory.”

How do you see purgatory? How is each of these characters trapped in their own purgatory? How do we get trapped in limbo when things happen in our lives. How do the characters move forward? How do we move forward?

Choice and accountability

“Life had taught her that consequences were ugly and painful, and seldom worth the pleasure they had been bartered for.”

Both books are about time travel, but it's also about how the choices we make have a consequence - how everything effects everything else. The story is about chain reactions. Which consequences of actions can be found in the story? Which are the chain reactions caused by each consequence? If you could change one choice of action or accountability, how do you see its chain reaction?

QUOTES

“What good is being crazy if there is no one who can deem you insane? Or for that matter, care whether you are normal? Insanity was exhausting and futile.”

This is one of the most highlighted quotes from the novels. What are your thoughts about it? Do you have any favorite quotes or passages in the novel that you enjoyed or found insightful?

Discuss the following quotes.

“Energy isn't really created or destroyed, it's simply redirected.”

“The hard times are often the best times, ‘cause they draw you closer.”

“Death is a pain that we can heal from. Not knowing is an open wound that never heals.”

Were there any particular quotes that stood out to you? Which ones and why?

STRUCTURE, WRITING & GENERAL DISCUSSION

What did you think of the overall structure of the novels? Were you engaged immediately?

What did you think about the time-line and point of view?

How did you feel reading them? Which emotions conveyed the story? Did the story keep you interested?

Would you say these are plot-driven books or does the story unfold slowly with a focus on character development? Were you surprised by the plot? Or did you find it predictable?

How credible did the author make the setting and dialogue?

What scene did you find was the most pivotal for the book? How do you think the story would have changed had that scene not taken place? What scene resonated most with you personally in either a positive or negative way? Did certain parts of the novel make you uncomfortable? Were there any scenes that made you laugh?

What is the significance of the title of each book? Did you recognize it in the story? Would you have given the books a different title? If yes, what are your titles?

What surprised you the most about the books?

How important is the setting & time period to the story? How would it have played out differently in a different setting? What about a different time period?

Based on the prologue, did you expect the ending or were you surprised? Did you think the ending was appropriate? How would you have liked to have seen the ending go?

At the end of *Prom Night in Purgatory*, we see that the past has changed and Johnny willingly returns to Purgatory to wait 50 years for Maggie to appear again. Seeing as how Maggie's life is so different now, what makes Johnny so sure that they will be reunited? What do you think will happen to Johnny if the school was destroyed?

Have these books changed you, broadened your perspective? What did you learn from, take away from, or get out of these books?

If you could pick any power, what would it be and why?

