

Reader's Guide For
I Heart You, You Haunt Me
by
Lisa Schroeder
A Debut Young Adult Novel

About the Book

Fifteen-year-old Ava is heartbroken over the death of her boyfriend, Jackson. But Jackson's spirit is unwilling to let go just yet, and has rooted itself to Ava's home. He plays songs for her on the stereo, whispers to her telepathically, and visits her in her dreams. At first Ava is thrilled, and does whatever she can to stay home, just to be with him. But soon she realizes that having a ghost for a boyfriend is neither easy nor fulfilling. How will Jackson react when he learns that his girlfriend may be ready to move on when he clearly has not?

With an endearing voice molded into well-paced verse, this ghostly love story promises to deliver a powerful emotional punch that should resonate with paranormal and non-paranormal readers alike.

About the Author

Although Lisa Schroeder has been a fan of verse novels for a long time, she'd never written one until she had a dream about Ava and Jackson. She was literally haunted by their story until she finally wrote it down. This is her first novel for teens.

Discussion Questions

1. Did you like the verse format for the story? Why or why not? Can you site some favorite passages where you think the verse serves the story especially well?
2. At first Ava is thrilled to know Jackson has returned to her, even if it's in the form of a ghost. What changes for Ava, and why does she eventually become frustrated and unhappy?
3. Jackson's ghost is a metaphor for the guilt Ava feels over his death. She obviously feels responsible for Jackson's death. Is this feeling justified? Why or why not?
4. Although Ava is close to her parents, she never tells them about Jackson's ghost. Why do you think this is the case? If you thought you were being haunted by a loved one, would you tell anyone? Why or why not?
5. Lyric plays an important role in the story. Discuss this role, and also talk about how you felt at the end of the book when you learned of Ava's decision regarding Lyric.

Activity

The book is written from Ava's point of view. Pretend the author has asked you to write one last poem for the book. This time, it's a poem in Jackson's voice. What would Jackson say to Ava?