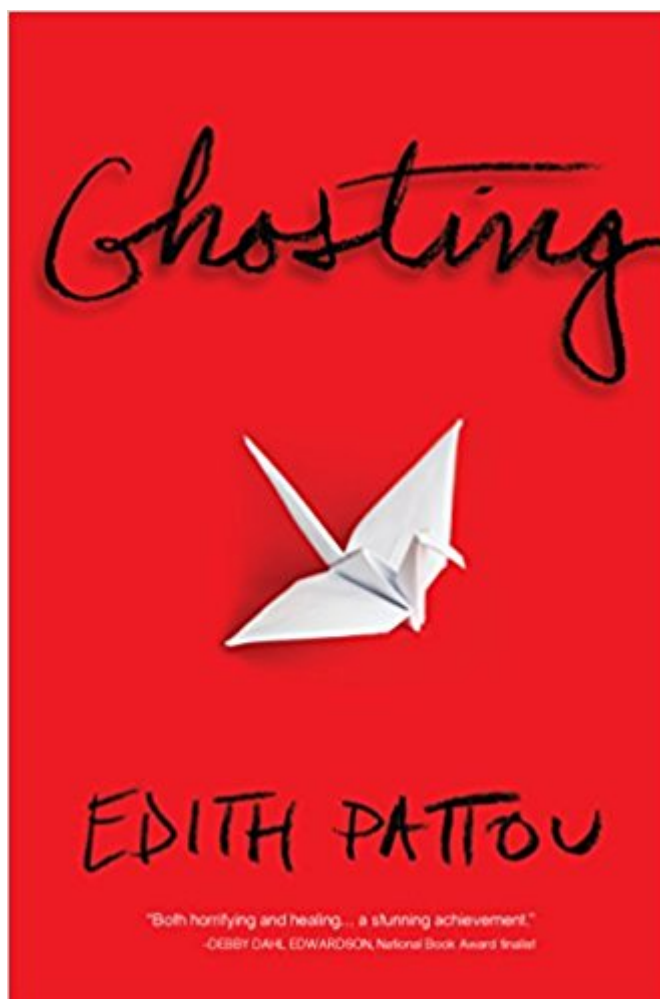


The book was found

Ghosting



Synopsis

On a hot summer night in a midwestern town, a high school teenage prank goes horrifically awry. Alcohol, guns, and a dare. Within minutes, as events collide, innocents become victims— with tragic outcomes altering lives forever, a grisly and unfortunate scenario all too familiar from current real-life headlines. But victims can also become survivors, and as we come to know each character through his/her own distinctive voice and their interactions with one another, we see how, despite pain and guilt, they can reach out to one another, find a new equilibrium, and survive. Told through multiple points of view in naturalistic free verse and stream of consciousness, this is an unforgettable, haunting tale.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 54 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up— This swift, free-verse page-turner follows seven teens and the events before, during, and after an evening that permanently alters their lives. Once childhood friends, they have gone their separate ways. Maxie moved away with her family and recently came back; Chloe is pretty and popular; Emma and Brendan play varsity sports; and Felix smokes marijuana to escape his unhappy family life. They are reunited (joined by Chloe's boyfriend Anil) on a late summer night right before the beginning of school year, and a series of bad decisions lead to a terrible tragedy. The story features increasing tension coupled with first-person narration that moves the plot along rapidly as each character picks up the story line left off by another. The narration gives readers the chance to see exactly what all of the characters are thinking and a glimpse of their families and homes. After the tragic event, the characters all demonstrate personal growth and maturity. Pattou

is even generous with the young man responsible for the tragedy, giving him somewhat sympathetic and recognizable "Boo Radley" (Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*) characteristics. What begins as a story featuring typical teens haunted by the past, and dismayed by the present, turns into one where everyone is reminded that mistakes can be learning experiences and that people can adjust to what one character concludes is a "new now time." Recommended for reluctant readers given the book's realistic portrayal of a Midwestern town, the lyrical narrative, and the readily relatable protagonists. — Anne Jung-Mathews, Plymouth State University, NH

"Eight teens' fates intertwine and recombine in the aftermath of a prank gone very wrong. [Ghosting is] a novel in verse |engaging. — Kirkus Reviews — "Pattou's deliberate attentiveness to character maturation, along with familial ties that bind and strain, strengthen this skillful portrayal of teen wrongheadedness at a most vulnerable moment. — Booklist — "This swift, free-verse page-turner [is] recommended for reluctant readers given the book's realistic portrayal of a Midwestern town, the lyrical narrative, and the readily relatable protagonists. — School Library Journal — "Pattou develops distinctive poetic styles for each character in this verse novel |each character manages a full recovery through difficult circumstances, the ending note is upbeat as kindness ultimately wins out. — The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

Spare, haunting, engrossing, and moving, this novel-in-blank-verse is a must-read. Both a breathless page-turner and surprisingly emotional, I wouldn't be surprised to see it on year-end awards lists — it has that quality of real people living real lives captured in every single line. Via nine alternating first-person narrations, Pattou tells the story of a single tragic night in the lives of a half-dozen teens. We know from the start that something terrible is going to happen, and so we read with a mounting sense of dread as the kids roll toward the central event of the book. The voices Pattou puts down on the page here are the real joy: Each voice is distinctive, so that without even reading the name of the character we know the narrator of any particular section. As well, the voices ring true — these feel like real kids dealing with the issues that every teen has to deal with: first love, peer pressure, the looming future, the longing to fit in, the difficult work of becoming a real person. It is to Pattou's credit that there are no easy "bad guys" in the event itself; more like a Rube-Goldberg-like series of bad choices and misunderstandings that ends in bloodshed. And it is to Pattou's credit that these dark events change these kids' lives believably for

the better. Her characters come through stronger, more sure of themselves, and better people than they had been when their story began. For a story as filled with misfortune as this one, it ends on a surprisingly hopeful note. Even the worst experiences, it turns out, have their upsides.

You will consume this book at a record pace, and then you'll close the cover and have to catch your breath. Told in verse, this book alternates narrators in a teenage web of deception, lies, friendship, violence, and forgiveness. It is the ultimate cautionary tale about the impact of a single decision or error in judgement. But it leaves the reader to draw this conclusion and it just paints the story.

I could not put this book down. It captured for me the combustible teenage spirit and the dangers of being young, reckless and ARMED. Ghosting is a beautifully written cautionary tale every adolescent should read right now.

Edith Pattou has expanded her writing by going in a modern direction! Ghosting explores a few teenager's life and how it changes one night. I loved it! She nails all of the characters' personalities and how they mature in their senior year! Thank you Edith!

Highly recommend this for any high school library...A prank which goes horribly wrong and its consequences. A great lesson for all teens.

I really liked this book and wish it was longer because I wasn't ready for it to end!

This was a quick read, but I didn't enjoy the writing or the actual story. It just left me with the feeling that my time could have been better spent doing something else.

Very creative writing in free verse. The character development was very believable and amazing. A must read for young adults, as well as adults.

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Ghosting

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