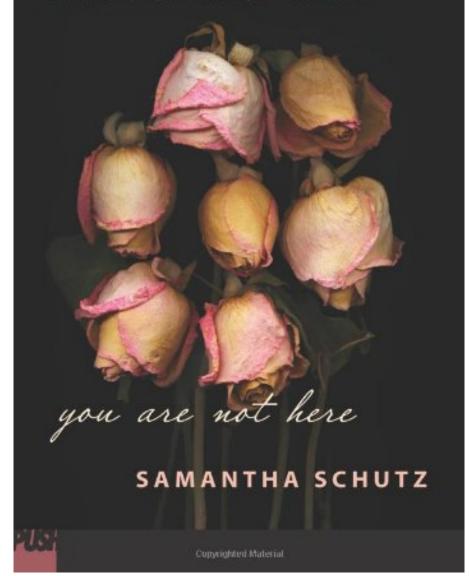


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"The death of someone you love will define you in ways small and large. It can defeat you. Or deliver you. You Are Not Here is a story about ultimate deliverance, and one you'll not soon forget." — ELLEN HOPKINS



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From School Library Journal

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A startling novel about love and grief from the author of the acclaimed memoir I Don't Want to Be Crazy.

Annaleah and Brian shared something special - Annaleah is sure of it. When they were together, they didn't need anyone else. It didn't matter that their relationship was secret. All that mattered was what they had with each other.

And then, out of nowhere, Brian dies. And while everyone else has their role in the grieving process, Annaleah finds herself living outside of it, unacknowledged and lonely. How can you recover from a loss that no one will let you have?

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- Published on: 2010-10-01
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- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.25" h x 1.07" w x 5.34" l, .70 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 224 pages

Features

• Great product!

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Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Deeply moving, realistic

By Molly P.

"You Are Not Here" is a first-person, poetic account by a sixteen-year-old whose first love has just died unexpectedly. Annaleah is grief-stricken and becomes very despondent, obsessing over how much she misses Brian -- even though he was far from perfect, and they weren't officially boyfriend and girlfriend. In fact, he never said he loved her. But she certainly loved him, and his death clobbers her senses and causes her to shut down, at least for a good while.

This book is beautifully and hauntingly written. The emotions and feelings Annaleah experienced were very believable. Not since Judy Blume's "Tiger Eyes" have I read a book about a death/loss that got everything so... right. (I know everyone deals with a loss differently, but both of these books, to me, seemed to nail it.)

In addition to the loss of Brian, the story also deals with Annaleah's relationship -- or lack thereof -- with her parents. Her "relationship" with her father was especially striking.

"You Are Not Here" is written in poetic line form, which was distracting at first, but I soon got used to it and read it as if it was regular prose. This is a stylistic choice that, I felt, didn't detract from the power of the novel overall.

I would heartily recommend this book to readers 13 and up, especially those who have experienced the death of a loved one.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.Courtesy of Teens Read TooBy TeensReadTooI was excited to see Samantha Schutz had written a novel. Her memoir, I DON'T WANT TO BE CRAZY, revealed her talent as a writer and her tremendous ability to describe her own very raw and painful experiences.

YOU ARE NOT HERE is a novel in verse. The focus is on Annaleah and the sudden and tragic death of someone near and dear to her.

If pressed, Annaleah would not be able to articulate her true relationship with Brian. They've been seeing each other for a short while and have shared a first kiss and much more, but to say he is her boyfriend still doesn't seem quite right. Their relationship has not included any outsiders. When Annaleah visits Brian, he always hustles her out before his father comes home. She hasn't really shared her budding romance with friends, either. Her one attempt to describe her feelings about Brian brought harsh criticism from her closest friend, Marissa. And as far as introducing Brian to her mother, forget about it. Better to leave that woman in the dark.

Because of the secretive nature of their relationship, when Brian suddenly dies while playing basketball, Annaleah has nowhere to turn. Since no one truly understands, she withdraws, spending all her time either in her room or visiting his gravesite. Their relationship was viewed as casual, causing Annaleah's mother and friends to look upon her continued grieving as unnecessary and ridiculous. Unable to explain, Annaleah sinks deeper and deeper into despair as she mourns the loss of a young man she realizes may not even have loved her.

Schutz explores the human reaction to death and loss in YOU ARE NOT HERE. The process of grieving is such a personal experience, and Schutz demonstrates that fact as she takes Annaleah on this often lonesome journey. Readers looking for a "problem" type novel will find this fast read satisfying, although rather predictable.

Reviewed by: Sally Kruger, aka "Readingjunky"

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Too little too late By K.

"You Are Not Here" is, i am sure, a book that will be therapeutic for a grieving teen. It will resonate with authenticity for anyone who has experienced death or rejection, and for that reason, i think this book has some merit.

However.

As for the "fiction" aspect of this book, I am disappointed. It has nothing to do with it being written in verse form. In fact,one of the best books i've ever read was written in verse (check out After the Kiss). The problem is with the verse form being fairly one-note and bland (AGAIN, if you want to read a mind-blowingly well written book of this type, read After the Kiss) and the fact that it takes 3/4 of the book for anything "novel" to actually happen.

This is one book that i'd recommend skipping. I think you can figure out what i WOULD recommend picking up instead.

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