

Jinx

By Margaret Wild

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Jinx By Margaret Wild

Do not get to know me. Do not ask me out. Do not love me. Be warned! I am Jinx. Jinx doesn't start out as Jinx -- at first she's dull, safe, boring Jen. Jen who always hands her homework in on time, Jen who never stays out late, Jen who can always be counted on. When Jen's first boyfriend dies, she thinks she's unlucky...until her second boyfriend dies too. Jen is Jinx now -- a curse, a promise of bad luck, a girl who's angry and alone, who can't get close to people anymore. Can Jinx find her way back to being Jen again?

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Jinx By Margaret Wild Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Connected poems, ranging in length from three lines to two pages, compellingly tell the story of Jen, a self-proclaimed jinx. Here, Wild (The Very Best of Friends; Our Granny) gently traces the ebb and flow of Jen's observations and changing moods as she weathers the tragic, unrelated deaths of two consecutive boyfriends. The volume also offers an intimate glimpse of those closest to the teen: her parents, who divorced when Jen's sister, Grace, was "born imperfect"; Jen's ill-fated boyfriends, who are haunted by different forms of personal demons; and Jen's best friends, "ruthlessly" honest Ruth, whose "kind eyes" note everything, unselfconscious Connie, a lesbian, and starved-for-attention Serena. Poems from several different perspectives make readers privy to both close-up and distant views of Jen's world as she moves from "good girl" to "slut" ("The word is so juicily sexual / slut/ slot/ slit," she remarks) in the wake of her grief. The protagonist's bouts of anger, grief and self-doubt melt in a ray of hope that emerges unexpectedly from the boy who accidentally killed Jen's second beau. Though it's sometimes necessary to read between the lines (especially when gleaning a sense of her first boyfriend, "Good-time Charlie"), many of the brief narratives precisely capture the spirit of a character, feeling or moment. Together, the poems create something larger: a portrait of a young woman pulling herself out of despair. Ages 14-up. (Aug.)
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From School Library Journal
Grade 9 Up-When Jen's boyfriend commits suicide, she is lonely, sad, bewildered, and rebellious. During this bleak period, she starts drinking and having casual sex, but then meets Ben and begins the long journey back to normalcy. After he dies, a classmate calls her "Jinx," and Jen decides the name fits her. Seeking to strike out at Hal, the person responsible for Ben's accident, and not realizing or caring where her angry words fall, Jinx conducts a secret, malicious assault. It is not until she actually meets and becomes friends with Hal that she is able to begin putting aside the hurt and anger that have plagued her since childhood. In confronting and dealing with the family issues that have been a lingering shadow all her life, the teen learns that love and forgiveness are a first step to maturity. This newfound acceptance and understanding of herself, her family, and her friends enables Jinx to want to be Jen again. In a style reminiscent of Mel Glenn's Who Killed Mr. Chippendale? (Dutton, 1996), the story is told in verse form. This technique allows the author to acquaint readers with each character and to weave a powerful story of teen angst. The voices are distinct, and all ring true, giving insight into the parents' lives and concerns as well as those of the teens. While the setting is in Australia, the central theme of family dynamics is so universal that it could be anywhere.
Sharon Morrison, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK
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Review
Booklist (starred review) Intricate, vivid language.

Publishers Weekly The brief narratives precisely capture the spirit of a character, feeling, or moment. Together, the poems create something larger: a portrait of a young woman pulling herself out of despair.

Kirkus Reviews A subtly wrought, deeply affecting story.

SLJ The voices are distinct, and all ring true.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brian Andres:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the guides. But also they write about the data about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write with their book. One of them is this Jinx.

Donna Kerns:

Can you one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt while you are in the book store? Try and pick one book that you never know the inside because don't assess book by its deal with may doesn't work the following is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not since fantastic as in the outside appear likes. Maybe you answer could be Jinx why because the amazing cover that make you consider concerning the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside or even cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

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