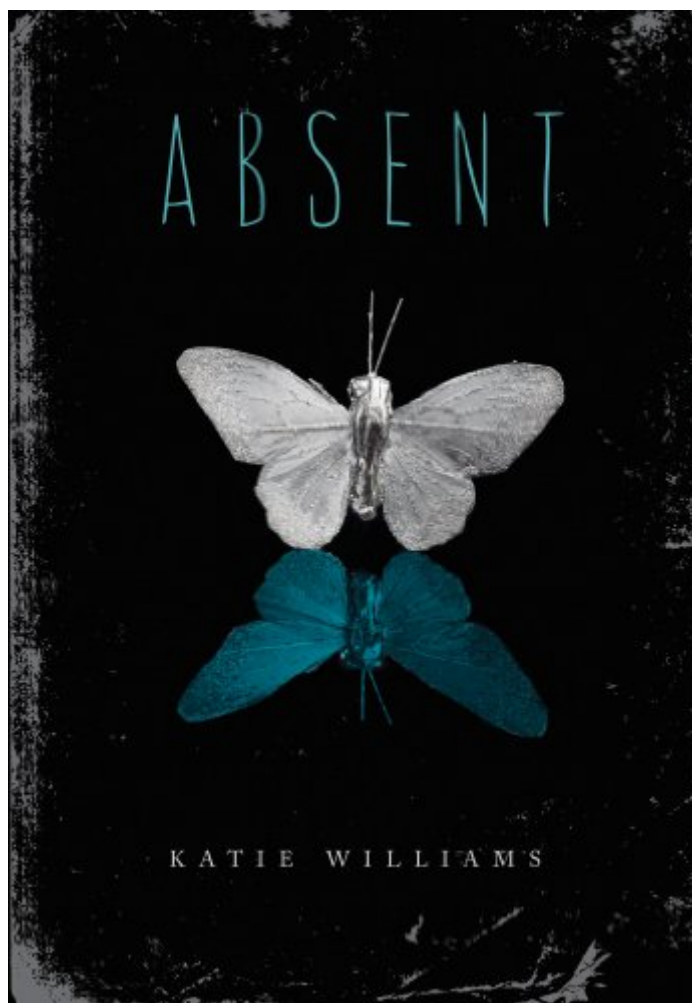


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# Absent



## Synopsis

When seventeen-year-old Paige dies in a freak fall from the roof during Physics class, her spirit is bound to the grounds of her high school. At least she has company: her fellow ghosts Evan and Brooke, who also died there. But when Paige hears the rumor that her death wasn't an accident—that she supposedly jumped on purpose—she can't bear it. Then Paige discovers something amazing. She can possess living people when they think of her, and she can make them do almost anything. Maybe, just maybe, she can get to the most popular girl in school and stop the rumors once and for all.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"At least I fold up easily in my soft-skin-clothes—old jeans and a velvety jacket from one of Usha's vintage scrounges. She convinced me to like about used clothes what most people hate: the other bodies that have unstiffened their elbows and knees, stretched out their pockets, salted them with sweat, only to toss

the clothes out at the precise moment when they are really ready to be worn. I've noticed recently that a lot of negative reviews, including, but not limited to this book, consist of the reviewer stating how much they "didn't like" the character/s. I would have to chuck a good portion of my collection out the window if that was something I considered important. I cannot grasp why people think they have to "like" a fictional character in order to enjoy or appreciate a good story. How limiting that must be! It is possible to hold two opposing ideas in your mind simultaneously. In this story, I didn't necessarily like (or dislike) Paige, but I did enjoy her arc. I absolutely adored the Mr. Frisk/Evan storyline (surprise, surprise). What I appreciated about all the teen dialogue was that it was effortless and, most importantly, timeless; different generations can read this and not be put off by references they do not get. There's so much to appreciate about how Williams constructed this story beyond the beautiful imagery and thoughtful phrasing. It may be fantastical in nature, but it's drenched in realism. Nor is it dark for the sake of being dark or edgy; it embraces it; it gives it light. It doesn't romanticize suicide, but it doesn't turn into an after-school-special, either. A compelling and haunting read.

Absent by Katie Williams is truly an amazing read and one that left me yearning to learn what happened next. My heart ached for Paige, Brooke, and Evan as they had to watch everything continue without them. Of course we know the world moves on without us after we pass on, but no one wants to be stuck watching the world move on without them. No one wants to sit and watch their friends mourn over them, or watch as rumors fly about how they died. No one wants to sit in the same place that they died and think about how they could have done things differently, but for Paige, Brooke, and Evan, they're doomed to that life. Or at least that's what Evan makes them believe when they first die. Paige gets antsy with the situation and does something about it. And I find a lot of myself in Paige, and I enjoy novels where I connect with the main characters. If I was in Paige's shoes I would have done the same thing. I would have traveled those halls and tried to change everyone's perspective about my death. I would have tried so hard to change everything, but only to find out the same thing she finds in the end- which I won't say because I don't want to spoil the novel. Though there are a few things I would have done differently had I been Paige while she was living- for starters I would have avoided Lucas like he was the plague. But if Paige would

have done that the story wouldn't have transpired the way it did. I'm curious to know if anything happens next though. I feel a little left hanging. Like there's more to the story of Paige, Brooke, and Evan. Do they move on into the afterlife? Or is this the afterlife? So there are a few questions that are left unanswered, but unanswered questions are ok because the story was amazing and will definitely lead me to read more of this author's novels in the future.

Some reviewers have commented that the characters were not likable enough, but I found all of them authentic and that's the most important criteria for me. They all demonstrated a growth/arc from their experiences. They were certainly not unlikable enough to prevent me from wanting to learn more about them and their problems. As a high school teacher I know that even the best teenage students do not always exhibit a likable character/persona. Another reviewer commented that the writing and dialogue is timeless and I totally agree. I was thrilled to find a great YA novel that doesn't rely on trendy teen jargon that may not be understandable by the next generation of YA readers. This novel doesn't glamorize suicide, drugs and profanity so I will have no reservations in recommending to my YA students. The writing is concise and well crafted, especially the imagery and symbolism. I was pleasantly surprised by the foreshadowed twist at the ending. My only disappointment was the last sentence came much too quickly, although the story left no loose ends.

What happens when you die? It's a question often asked but those who know aren't answering. So we make up stories about the moments and months and even decades after we die. In 'Absent' Katie Williams takes the question from a different viewpoint, I can't say 'new' but her take on the story is unique. And the plot twist at the end? Usually I have them figured out but this time I was slack jawed, like I'd taken a bat to the head. I would have never thought who did what was who it was even though, come to think of it, the author did give a good but easy to overlook hint in the story. While not a long book this is one worth reading. Acceptable for middle school students ready to look at and try to make their own understanding of death to adults like me who just enjoy a good young adult novel. Very much recommended.

A wonderful quick read! I really enjoyed this book and would recommend this book to others. I like to read "dark" stories and enjoy books from Dean Koontz, Stephen King, and stories like "Gone Girl" etc. This book isn't what I would consider dark but I greatly enjoyed it!!!

I really liked this book because it grabbed my interest right away and kept me involved. It was short

but worth it. I will read other books by this author.

I am so glad I decided to download this book to my kindle. This book is so wonderful and the end has a few twists that I would have never seen coming. A truly great read.

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