



2009

If I Love You, Am I Trapped Forever?

Ruth-Anne Brown

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Brown, Ruth-Anne (2009) "If I Love You, Am I Trapped Forever?," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 30 : Iss. 2 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol30/iss2/9>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Kerr, M. E. *If I Love You, Am I Trapped Forever?*. Marshall Cavendish, 2009. ISBN 9780761455455. \$16.99. 178 p.

Reviewer: Ruth-Anne Brown

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fiction;

Subject: High schools--Juvenile fiction; Popularity--Juvenile fiction; Dating (Social customs)--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

"You use the words winner and loser to frequently Alan," she said, "I don't like it."
"It's a fact of life, though. There are the winners and there are the losers. Of course," I added generously, "there are the in-betweens."

Alan Bennett is a popular, cocky, sixteen-year-old jock, with good looks and an even better looking girlfriend, Leah. He has everything going for him until Dunc Stein, nicknamed Doomed by his classmates, moves into town. Doomed is tall, balding, and refuses to play sports, as well as being what Alan calls "of the Jewish persuasion." Doomed surprises everyone by publishing his own newspaper featuring ads for one-night mystery romances. All the girls flock after poetry-reading, hard-hearted Dunc, but none can keep him for longer than one night--that is until Dunc reads Leah's secret ad to his paper and answers it. They plan a secret date while Alan is in New York meeting his father who abandoned him before birth. Alan finds the letter between the two and takes his revenge by spending long nights with Dunc's young, beautiful stepmother, Catherine. Just as Alan forgives and forgets about Leah, Catherine runs away with his football coach.

If I Love You, Am I Trapped Forever?, originally printed in 1973, has been selected as a Marshall Cavendish Classic. The characters are unusual, realistic, and hilarious. The theme is centered around love, the different types of love, and how much love changes. Relationships are scrutinized and love is defined in many ways. The ending is abrupt, but allows the reader to imagine the mysterious future however he or she wishes.

Volume 30, no. 2 (November/December 2009)