



2018

Things We Know By Heart

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Andrus, Meagan (2018) "Things We Know By Heart," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 39 : Iss. 4 , Article 89.

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Book Review

Things We Know By Heart

Author

Jessi Kirby

Illustrator

Reviewer

Meagan Andrus

Rating

Significant Shortcom-

Level

Young Adult

Pages

291

Year

2015

Publisher

Harper Teen

ISBN

9781627790710

Quinn's boyfriend Trent died at the end of their junior year, and her world has never been the same since. For healing, she starts reaching out to the people who received Trent's organs after he died. The one person she hasn't ever gotten a reply from is the boy who got Trent's heart. She tells herself she won't go see him, but curiosity and the need for closure get the better of her. Colton seems unwilling to talk about his past but is very interested in Quinn, and she finds herself falling for him too. But falling in love again would be a betrayal to Trent's memories in Quinn's mind, and it takes her several introspective runs and some harsh squaring up to her own mortality until she realizes that finding love again is better than living forever in misery and heartache.

This book isn't necessarily bad, but it's not really that good either. The characters aren't that memorable or relatable, especially Quinn, who spends the entire book (for the most part) sad or guilty. Colton's character seems too sweet and romantic to be an actual nineteen-year-old boy, and the reader doesn't really get to know much about Colton and how he feels about his heart transplant. The author uses medical emergencies to create drama, which gets tiring and seems redundant. All in all, it's a simple and good enough romance story if that's all the reader is interested in. Beyond that, it's mindless fluff without decent characterization, plot development, or resolution.

*Contains mild language, moderate sexual content, and mild violence.