



2018

The Ethan I Was Before

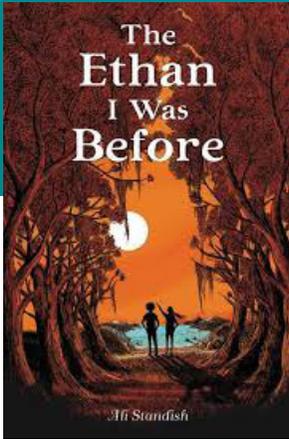
Jennifer Padgett

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

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Padgett, Jennifer (2018) "The Ethan I Was Before," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 39 : Iss. 10 , Article 4.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol39/iss10/4>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All 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.



Book Review

The Ethan I Was Before

Author

Ali Standish

Illustrator

Reviewer

Jennifer Padgett

Rating

Excellent

Level

Primary, Intermediate

Pages

368

Year

2017

Publisher

HarperCollins

ISBN

9780062433381

Thirteen-year-old Ethan and his family live on the East Coast. When Ethan suddenly loses his best friend and confidant, his world blackens with despair. Depression and isolation set in and he becomes unreachable. His parents decide the only reasonable thing to do is move far, far away from the memories of it all. Soon, they find themselves in the hills of the small town in Georgia, Palm Knots, where their mother spent her childhood years. Though it's far from easy, Ethan is able to gradually put the pieces of his life back together again. He finds friendship, forgiveness, and closure he once thought impossible.

This unique and heartwarming novel is not only laced with tragedy, sadness, and grief, it's laden with humor, irony, and grace. Ali Standish does an artful job of joining together these dichotomies in a way that allows her to reach children with a variety of interests. Those who savor a story that captures their hearts and takes them through an array of emotions and events will be drawn to this text. It's perfect for children who have experienced loss and tragedy in their young lives as well. Additionally, those who have been ridiculed by their peers or simply set aside as unimportant may find common ground in Standish's work. Readers will be touched by her writing and heartened by the time they reach the concluding pages.