



If You Come Softly

By Jacqueline Woodson

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If You Come Softly By Jacqueline Woodson

A heartbreaking contemporary romance from a three-time Newbery Honor winning author

Jeremiah feels good inside his own skin. That is, when he's in his own Brooklyn neighborhood. But now he's going to be attending a fancy prep school in Manhattan, and black teenage boys don't exactly fit in there. So it's a surprise when he meets Ellie the first week of school. In one frozen moment their eyes lock and after that they know they fit together -- even though she's Jewish and he's black. Their worlds are so different, but to them that's not what matters. Too bad the rest of the world has to get in their way. Reviewers have called Coretta Scott King Award-winning author Jacqueline Woodson's work "exceptional" (*Publishers Weekly*) and "wrenchingly honest" (*School Library Journal*), and have said "it offers a perspective on racism and elitism rarely found in fiction for this age group" (*Publishers Weekly*). In *If You Come Softly*, she delivers a powerful story of interracial love that leaves readers wondering "why" and "if only...."

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If You Come Softly By Jacqueline Woodson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #180862 in Books
- Brand: Speak
- Published on: 2010-01-07
- Released on: 2010-01-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .38" w x 5.50" l, .40 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Once again, Woodson (*I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This*) handles delicate, even explosive subject matter with exceptional clarity, surety and depth. In this contemporary story about an interracial romance, she seems to slip effortlessly into the skins of both her main characters, Ellie, an upper-middle-class white girl who has just transferred to Percy, an elite New York City prep school, and Jeremiah, one of her few African American classmates, whose parents (a movie producer and a famous writer) have just separated. A prologue intimates heartbreak to come; thereafter, sequences alternate between Ellie's first-person narration and a third-person telling that focuses on Jeremiah. Both voices convincingly describe the couple's love-at-first-sight meeting and the gradual building of their trust. The intensity of their emotions will make hearts flutter, then ache as evidence mounts that Ellie's and Jeremiah's "perfect" love exists in a deeply flawed society. Even as Woodson's lyrical prose draws the audience into the tenderness of young love, her perceptive comments about race and racism will strike a chord with black readers and open the eyes of white readers ("Thing about white people," Jeremiah's father tells him, "they know what everybody else is, but they don't know they're white"). Knowing from the beginning that tragedy lies just around the corner doesn't soften the sharp impact of this wrenching book. Ages 10-up.
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From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up-Two 15 year olds, Jeremiah (Miah) who is black, and Elisha (Ellie) who is white, meet during their first year at an exclusive New York prep school and fall in love. Both teens are also dealing with difficult family situations. Miah's father has left his mother for another woman, and Ellie is trying to fight through her feelings about her mother, who twice abandoned her family for extended periods. The teenagers must also deal with the subtle and not-so-subtle bigotry that they are subject to as a mixed-race couple. Miah and Ellie go about working through their problems, both individually and together, and their relationship continues to blossom, giving readers a shared sense of contentment. Thus, the tragic climax will leave them stunned. Woodson's lyrical narrative tells the story through alternating voices, Ellie's in the first person and Miah's in the third. This fine author once again shows her gift for penning a novel that will ring true with young adults as it makes subtle comments on social situations.
Tom S. Hurlburt, La Crosse Public Library, WI
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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 7[^]-10. People stare when teenagers Miah and Ellie touch and hold hands in public. He is black. She is white. In alternating chapters, we learn about how they meet in their private high school and fall in love, and we learn a lot about their families, both of which are far from perfect. As in all her fiction, Woodson confronts prejudice head-on. Miah's family is rich and famous, but when he and Ellie walk in Central Park, two old white women ask her if she is all right. Ellie, whose family is Jewish and secular, comes to realize that she takes her whiteness, her race, for granted in a way that Miah never can. He always knows he is black. The burning of black churches in the South are part of who he is. His mother accepts Ellie; so does his friend whose family is biracial. But Ellie's lesbian older sister asks Ellie to think twice about dating a black guy. What will her parents do? Readers will wish that Woodson had given us that elemental scene when Ellie brings Miah home to dinner. Instead, the sudden violent ending is a devastating shock that seems stuck on, though it does make us go back and reread the story for clues, and they are there. Many will want to go on from this story to the personal essays in *Half & Half: Writers on Growing Up Biracial and Bicultural*. Hazel Rochman

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Greiner:

Book is definitely written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can understand everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important issue to bring us around the world. Alongside that you can your reading talent was fluently. A book If You Come Softly will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think which open or reading any book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they are often thought like that? Have you looking for best book or appropriate book with you?

Priscilla McNeil:

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Lien Fugate:

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book specifically book entitled If You Come Softly your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a e-book then become one type conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get just before. The If You Come Softly giving you yet another experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful details for your better life within this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Richard Manning:

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got college students? We believe that that query was given by teacher to their students. Many kinds of hobby, All people has different hobby. So you know that little person including reading or as reading become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important as well as book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update concerning something by book. Different categories of books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them is this If You Come Softly.

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