



## Before You Go

By James Preller

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### Before You Go By James Preller

The summer before his senior year, Jude (yes, he's named after the Beatles song) gets his first job, falls in love for the first time, and starts to break away from his parents. Jude's house is kept dark, and no one talks much?it's been that way since his little sister drowned in a swimming pool seven years ago when Jude was supposed to be watching her.

Now, Jude is finally, finally starting to live. *Really* live. And then, life spins out of control. Again.

Acclaimed author James Preller explores life, death, love, faith, and resilience in his first young adult novel that will grip readers from the book's dramatic first few pages to its emotional end.

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## Before You Go By James Preller Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up-Jude's summer is probably going to be a disaster. At least if his crappy concession-stand job on a Long Island beach is any indication. His parents, distant as ever since his sister drowned seven years earlier, leave him alone. Things look up a little when he spends time with his friends from school and those from work. And there is Becka. They love hanging out and they get along with each other's friends. Then something horrible happens, and Jude cannot handle it. All of the unresolved feelings from his sister's death compound with this latest tragedy. It's not just the summer that's awful; it's Jude's life. This is a character-driven story with a plot that's a bit of a bore. The majority of the book is told from the teen's point of view, but there are a couple brief sections, a paragraph or two in the middle of a scene, that lapse into someone else's thoughts without any warning. These bits seem out of place and they break the feeling that the author is trying for. The story is supposed to be about Jude's journey through grief and faith, with the faith part as more of a footnote. The end leaves readers feeling a little hope and a little fear for him. He seems to be on the mend, but balanced on the edge of a dull knife, where he might be okay, or he might not. The idea for this book is steeped in reality and makes one wonder just how much grief a person can be expected to bear, but the execution does not make for an interesting read.-Melyssa Kenney, Parkville High School. Baltimore, MD (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

## Review

"...Preller makes us care about these people. We wonder about them when they're gone." ?*New York Times*

"...the author strikes the right tone in capturing Jude's inner struggles with grief, angst and love..." ?*Kirkus*

"...will hook readers..." ?*Booklist*

## About the Author

James Preller is the author of several picture books and novels, including *A Pirate's Guide to First Grade*, *Six Innings*, and *Bystander*. *Before You Go* is his first work for young adults. He lives in Delmar, New York.

## Users Review

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#### Patrick Vanmeter:

The ability that you get from *Before You Go* could be the more deep you looking the information that hide in the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but *Before You Go* giving you joy feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood through anyone who read it because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having this particular *Before You Go* instantly.

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