



Jump When Ready

David Pandolfe

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Since he drowned, Henry has remained with the same group of teenagers and he keeps wondering why. After all, what could he possibly have in common with a mohawk-sporting punker from the 80s, a roller skater from the 70s with a thing for kimonos, and an English "rocker" from the 60s? Add to that, Henry can hear the other groups but he never sees them. Soon, Henry learns that his new friends all possess unique skills for making themselves noticed by the living. Is Henry's group kept isolated because of their abilities? If so, are they considered gifted or seen only as a potential bad influence?

Before Henry can reach any conclusions, he witnesses his sister being kidnapped. He knows who did it, where she's being held and what will happen if the kidnappers don't get what they want. As the police chase false leads, Henry comes to realize that he's his sister's only hope. But for Henry to even have a chance, he has to convince a group of teenagers that dead doesn't mean helpless.

Jump When Ready Details

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From Reader Review Jump When Ready for online ebook

Jody says

I absolutely loved this book, and read it in two sittings, I didn't want to stop! I wished the main characters were my friends (around whom I could wrap my arms and with whom I could spend my free afternoons), and the story is so beautifully written so real that I actually felt their struggle. It's a fresh and exciting one: a "who am I" story, inside a really cool spiritual ("bigger-than-us") perspective, and tied together by an exciting thriller. Jump When Ready stuck with me - what vivid vulnerability and strength, the core of coming of age. Young adults will relate to (and adults will remember) the feeling of 'in-between,' and any reader will be fully entertained by the have-you-on-edge, nail-biter of a plot.

Michael Tankersley says

I received this book free in exchange for an honest review. I was not disappointed, what an excellent book. The main focus of the book is a fourteen year old boy who has the misfortune of becoming a ghost. It is a tale of his becoming aware of himself and of other ghost that help him fulfill his mission while helping each other to realize their own talents.

This is an excellent read for Tweens and young adults. I highly recommend this to the younger readers or even the young at heart old readers. It is a thought provoking read that will keep you interested from beginning to end.

I would give this an easy 4.5 to 5 star rating. I appreciate the author for providing me this opportunity and look forward to the next book in what I hope to be an exciting series.

I know this type of book is not for everyone but I have never met or do not know the author at all. I find it unnecessary to make accusations of other readers and reviewers just because you did not care for the book

FrumpBurger says

Mortality. Yikes: heavy stuff. The sort of heavy stuff that most of us don't really want to think about because it's scary and depressing and unpleasant, but also something heavy that's utterly inevitable and part of everyone's life. Everyone has different views of what happens after we die, some more pleasant than others. But we really don't know. In Jump When Ready, author David Pandolfe provides his take on the afterlife: an uplifting but not cliché vision.

When 14-year-old Henry drowns in a freak accident, he's transported to a realm that can best be considered between-lives. In this realm, he meets a variety of characters roughly his own age, each with their own tragic backstory, each in the process of transitioning from their last life to the one that lies ahead. While trying to process his own death and the general consensus that he did away with himself, Henry's older sister Bethany is abducted. Using his ability to communicate with the living, and the similar powers of some of his fellow departed friends, Henry undertakes a mission to save his sister at all costs.

While in description the plot may seem a bit contrived, Jump When Ready is a well-written, entertaining, and thought-provoking story about life, family, love, and what really happens to us — and our loved ones —

when we die. It's written in a conversational, casual and gripping voice. One can't help but feel for Henry. His confusion comes across as very real, as does his frustration at the seeming futility of trying to help his sister after she's kidnapped.

Whether you're 14 or 24, this book is a fun read with endearing characters and a quick-moving plot. *Jump When Ready* is not a book to miss — especially not at a price point of \$2.99. Pick it up. You won't regret it.

Reeka (BoundbyWords) says

As seen on my blog:

What a great throwback to the contemporary YA fiction I started off reading a year ago. It also didn't hurt that *Jump When Ready* had a great paranormal twist added to it. I appreciated the subtlety of it more than anything else, the idea of "ghosts" and "haunting" doesn't play as big a role as trust, self-realization, and essentially, coming-of-age, even if it is after death.

Jump When Ready reminded me of a *Five People You Meet in Heaven*, but for teens, and with a quick-paced, heart-thumping plot line. The main lead, Henry, has found himself in a place not quite far off from the reality he lived in before his death, but with more questions about his life than he ever had when he was breathing. Missing his family, and devastated for causing them pain, he's determined to get through to them somehow. What he didn't predict, was that he'd become witness to a horrific scene involving his sister being abducted and held against her will. What ensues is a world of rules, bending those rules, and learning from the new group of people around him, all of whom have spent much more time being "dead." How will he help his sister before it's too late? Who is willing to help him do that?...

I loved the almost dual storyline played out in *Jump When Ready*. Henry struggling to accept his new fate, while desperately trying to prevent his sister from meeting hers. It was the perfect grounds for what I think the author was trying to achieve, a coming-of-age story with elements of the age-old questions: What happens after we die? Is it possible to get another chance? I soaked in every last bit of detail that described Henry's new surroundings, the fact that anything was possible in his new state, every wish, every thought, manifested before your eyes—it made for some beautifully descriptive scenery. Who said the dead don't eat? You want the biggest burger you can fathom? Done. It was those little elements, mixed with such deep, and profound ones, that made *Jump When Ready* a solid piece of literature.

I've been spoiled with trilogies, sequels, and companion novels, and as much as I want the chance to spend more time with the characters I met in *Jump When Ready*, I loved (and hope), that this book was/is a standalone. It impacted my thoughts in a serious way, and I will most likely spend the next few days going over it, and over it, in my head.

Recommended for Fans of: YA Contemporary, Paranormal, and Mitch Albom

Leylan says

I was given this book to review by the author on goodreads. It did not disappoint. I was immediately taken in with the main character Henry and his transition into the in between and his goal to help save his sister Bethany. It touches on many points in a subtle way. It presents the side of a love one passing (Henry) and his difficulty with the fact that he is gone. We get the perspective of the loved ones left behind (his family) and the different grieving processes: his father's drinking, the mother's depression and the reaching out to strangers by his sister Bethany.

One of the best parts of this book was the understanding of the roles of each of the kids in the "in between" and the histories behind their death. While most people would think that reading about the death of young boy and his struggle to help his family would be in a way upsetting, the author does a great job of incorporating humor and the traits of teen emotion into his characters. As seen with the inability of his brother John to focus with the problem at hand but rather on a girl.

My favorite character while a bit elusive at first was Curtis. He provides an air of mystery. He is the bad boy with a heart. One that is not seen until it really counts.

Overall, this book captivates its reader since the beginning and gives a well rounded conclusion. I highly recommend it.

Heather (The Real Bookshelves of Room 918) says

I read this book in one sitting. I absolutely loved this book and couldn't put it down. Originally I thought this would be a depressing book since the main character is dead and stuck "in-between" worlds, but it wasn't doom and gloom. There is witty banter and strong bonds between characters. And speaking of characters, I loved all of the characters that Henry meets upon his arrival to the in-between world. They are realistic and each have their own quirkiness that makes me want to be their friend (Yes, even Curtis). The pacing was fast and I was on the edge of my seat the whole time. It was exciting to get to know each kid in the in-between world and the group dynamics. It was even more exciting to watch Henry try to save his sister Bethany from the world beyond. The combination of coming-of-age, philosophical and thriller story comes together to make a fascinating and engaging book. It makes you think about what the afterlife will be like and if the "in-between" world will be as frustrating as it is for Henry. I can't wait for my students to read this book in the fall. I think there will be many amazing conversations that come from reading this book.

Karen Siddall says

Jump When Ready by David Pandolfe is a well done after-life story about 14-year-old Henry who accidentally drowns while wading in a river during a teen party. He finds himself in the company other "dead kids" and an older woman, Martha, in another place – a nice, "normal" place that changes according to the desires of the kids and Martha. The kids have their own home together, each with their own private room that suits their personalities and interests from the lives they just left. A food court provides any type of meal.

As part of the process of settling in to his new "life," the other kids take Henry to his own funeral. Although undetectable by the living, Henry discovers that by really trying he can make his family hear him talking to them in their heads – if only they would believe it was really him! What begins as Henry desperately trying to get through to his family and make them understand that his death was accidental rather than suicide becomes a critical ability when his older sister, Bethany, is kidnapped and held for ransom by a sinister online acquaintance.

Henry and his new friends attempt to save Bethany and bring her captors to justice as they come to

understand their afterlife, begin to develop their newly discovered ghostly skills, and avoid becoming ghostly shades trapped in their former lives.

The author's vision of the kids' afterlife was great and well described. Explanations of "how things worked" were gradually worked into the storyline so there was a nicely drawn out feeling of discovery. Henry is initially confused and the gradual unveiling of the story was nicely done and progressed at what I felt was a natural pace.

I really liked the main characters. The author provided a nice variety of young teenage characters to populate the new surroundings, and their voices, attitudes, and actions sounded true and appropriate to their ages and situations.

The gradual "reveal" of what heaven is, what hell is, and the soul was gentle, positive, and hopeful, and left me interested in knowing where things might go next for all the main characters.

Tracy Banghart says

I don't read a lot of "afterlife" books, generally, so this was a bit out of my comfort zone. But I'm so glad I made the jump (Har har. See what I did there?) because JUMP WHEN READY was an engaging, poignant book that stayed with me long after I read the last word.

Henry is a great character with a consistent, realistic teenage voice. At first I had a little trouble keeping his new friends straight, but soon enough their personalities emerged and I loved the interaction between them. The idea of a group of friends from different decades, with different experiences and frames of reference, is really cool, and worked well within the world David created.

The story of Henry's sister's abduction is intense and heart-wrenching. David kept me guessing as to how it would all play out, and I felt Henry's desperation and fear for Bethany right along with him. All of the characters in this book were really well developed, and that included the "bad guys" who kidnapped Bethany as well.

There are difficult topics addressed in this book - suicide, abduction, and the obvious - death - and I think all are handled with sensitivity and respect. Despite the serious themes, the story stays surprisingly upbeat, with an incredibly poignant ending that had me in tears (the good kind!). Seriously. The ending made this book for me. All the pieces were engaging and kept me reading, but the way David tied everything up made me want to go back to the beginning and read it all over again, just to appreciate how it all comes together. When I came to the end, I was happy to have had the experience of following Henry's story and touched by the time I spent in David's world.

I highly recommend this book, and hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Ciara1973 says

Fantastic read. I'm looking forward to future stories from this author.
Great plot, likeable characters and good pace at storytelling. I haven't noticed any grammar, spelling or editing issues.
I got this book for free and I was a surprise how much I enjoyed it.

Jennifer says

It's 2:12 am and I just finished it. I usually can't stay awake past 11. That's an engaging book!!

Kristy Frenken-Francis says

Actual rating: **4.5/5**

As soon as I started this book, I knew it was going to be good. I absolutely loved the style and voice of the writing. It charmed me right away and I was pulled in to this really cool world. *Jump When Ready* is a book that you would think would be kind of sad and depressing, as it's about a boy who dies and tries to help his family from the "in between" but the author does an excellent job of incorporating humour into it and keeps the story with a lightness to it. Here's a quote from the beginning that I liked:

"I'd drowned, met a bunch of kids in a tree, slept in a hammock that had turned into a house which had disappeared again, then gone to my own funeral. Now I basically had an apartment in a house the size of Texas with an arcade, food court and inside pool."

I thought the writing was really well done and I was never bored with the story. The characters were all very distinct, which is one thing that always sticks out to me in a book, and they were very well developed as well. Another plus to this book was the pacing. It was fast-paced and exciting, because even though it was an 'after-life story,' it was still suspenseful and the story was always moving. My heart ached for Henry as he watched his sister's kidnapping take place and the fact that he couldn't do anything about it... I was constantly guessing how it would turn out and I couldn't stop reading until I found out.

Overall, *Jump When Ready* was an impressive debut that I would recommend to anyone, really. I loved this book and am looking forward to seeing what the author will come up with next!

Kristi Casey says

Good book. Thought provoking. Really fast read and the type of book that makes you want to read it in one sitting. Like you want to read more than sleep.

Kean Khang says

Definitely a good read! I'm sure the author had as much fun writing this story as I had fun reading it.

A tale of a teenager who seemed lost in afterlife but eventually find his place among his group of 'between-lifers'. When tragedy strikes the living, he finds that a certain 'ability' may help him change the course of the living... but things don't go as smoothly as hoped. The author paints a wonderfully magical afterlife, sprinkled with teenage wonderment, friendship, family love and an exciting dose of the supernatural to make a story that is just heart warming to read.

David Pandolfe has imagined an afterlife that opens up so many doors to untold stories... wish this story was longer! will be on the lookout for more works from him.

Pop Bop says

Are You Ready?,

When I first read the blurb for this book I had two distinct reactions. On the one hand I thought this could be an imaginative, exciting, thoughtful and creative variation on the teen adventure/thriller. On the other hand this could be a heavyhanded teen crime/suspense novel with an odd take on life/death or heaven/hell, and heavy reliance on teen angst and drama. Guess what? First reaction was right, and this is even better than I could have hoped.

We have a motley crew of teens who have to resolve their differences and come together as a team to save our hero's sister. But, they have to do it as spirits - teens who have died but have not yet crossed over. So, they have to come to grips with their limited ability to effect the real world and they have to rely on each other's unique strengths and abilities to accomplish their task. This isn't some heaven/hell allegory; if anything it is a very sly and knowing engagement with the powerlessness that teens often feel as they confront the real world. And that just slips in there between the lines.

What is up front is the camaraderie, banter, general good humor and fundamental decency of the teens. What spices it all isn't just the suspense plot, but the marvelously creative in-between world the author has imagined. That world is not presented through exposition or monologuing. Our recently deceased hero has to figure out how things work and what's going on, and understanding is parceled out in bits and pieces as the story unfolds. This keeps the reader focused and invested in the in-between world, and how it works and what it means is slowly unveiled. It is a wonderful job of timing and pacing, and sometimes the reader is ahead of the curve and sometimes behind, but is always into following the action.

So, this is well conceived, well crafted, a bit challenging for a YA reader, and very rewarding. What a nice find. Please note that I found this book while browsing Amazon Kindle freebies. I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.

David says

What can I say? Of course, I'm giving this one five stars since I wrote it. I'm really excited about JUMP

WHEN READY being published and I hope you all enjoy the novel!
