



# Whisper

*Phoebe Kitanidis*

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## Whisper Phoebe Kitanidis

*I'd love a cup of coffee. I wish she knew how pretty she was. I wish I could drop this kid in the dryer sometimes. I just want her to be happy. I hope she didn't find out what Ben said about her. I wish I knew how many calories were in a bite of muffin...*

Joy is used to hearing Whispers. She's used to walking down the street and instantly knowing people's deepest, darkest desires. She uses this talent for good, to make people happy and give them what they want. But for her older sister, Jessica, the family gift is a curse, and she uses it to make people's lives—especially Joy's—miserable. Still, when Joy Hears a frightening whisper from Jessica's own mind, she knows she has to save her sister, even if it means deserting her friends, stealing a car and running away with a boy she barely knows—a boy who may have a dark secret of his own.

## Whisper Details

Date : Published April 27th 2010 by Balzer + Bray

ISBN : 9780061799259

Author : Phoebe Kitanidis

Format : ebook 281 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Supernatural, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Whisper for online ebook

### Misty Baker says

Well, since I'm still not finished with "The Judge" (and honestly.. I should be by now) I figured I would switch up my schedule a little and bring you the review for "Whisper" a little early.

This was a book I pre-ordered a few months ago and I'm glad I did. I have been so wound up in request lately that I have barely had time to read anything of my own, and when I finally find the time to indulge myself, I devour it in just a few hours.

There are aspects of "Whisper" that were original, and some that were a tad bit copy cattish, but thankfully, the mixture of the two made for an original plot.

Joy has a gift... she can hear everyone's thoughts. Taking the advice of her mother (who is also a Hearer) she decides to make the world a happier place by granting peoples wishes (Have a sudden urge for chocolate? No problem 1 Snickers bar coming up), but after a knock down drag out with her clunky boot wearing, black pants sporting sister, and a migraine headache that makes the apocalypse sound like a good idea, Joy's little gift suddenly flip flops from "Positive" to "Negative." What happens when you suddenly realize no one likes you? What happens when your sister decides to take your advice and runaway? And more importantly what is up with that weird loaner boy from school?

As good as this book ended (in all honesty) it started off in a funk. I almost tapped out after a few chapters because of its lack of originality, and the fact that the main character just plan annoyed me with her constant need to overanalyze and whine, but thankfully, once "Phoebe Kitanidis" got past her boring setup (the "Positive") and got to the plot (the "Negative") the book became action packed (Yes... there were bouts of grand theft auto) and enjoyable. The writing was average, leaving me nothing to really rant about in either direction, and like I said before, once the plot was established it was clean and smooth. The character development was equal all the way around and the ending was rounded off nicely.

Overall? This is probably one of the most boring reviews I've ever written. Why? Because the book was good. Not great, not horrible, there were no major editing or writing flaws, and the length was just right. Whoever knew I could be so average about a book.

There were funeral home lilies, oblivious Dads, bathroom brawls, a wasted cup of coffee, drug dealers, dread-lock induced fires, and 1 very revealing drive to Seattle.

I think it's worth the time and the cash so...Get it, Live it, Love it and pass it on.

Happy Reading my fellow Wave-riders and remember: When in doubt, ask your crazy aunt... even if she's wrong at least she'll be entertaining.

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### Liliana says

Reviewed on Lili Lost in a Book

*Whisper* was very interesting. You see, all of the females in Joy's family have the ability to "Listen," AKA read minds. Joy's mother taught her to make the best of it and use it to make others happy. But Joy's sister Jessica... she's another story. She is very bitter about this ability and Joy doesn't understand why. Until Joy starts to slowly see for herself why Jessica is the way she is first hand. Joy's power is changing and she doesn't know how to deal with it—she's slowly becoming an outcast herself. Even worse, Jessica has had enough of her family and this awful (to her) ability she never wanted, so she runs away. Shortly after, Joy starts to get this strong feeling that Jessica is in trouble and she is the only one who can help her. Luckily for Joy, Jaime, a boy she barely knows, is willing to help her out on this mission.

The characters were great! I really liked Joy, though I thought this whole "making everyone happy" thing was just bleh. The girl has to think of herself every once in awhile, honestly. Jaime was very intriguing. I liked him! And I was SO surprised to find out about his Big Secret! How insane! Jessica was a very complicated character. I kind of didn't like her in the beginning because she was so bitter, but after seeing what she went through via Joy, I ended up understanding and even kind of liking her by the end. And then their mother, I liked her in the beginning, but by the end...

So many secrets she kept from the girls. So much that could've been avoided had she been upfront with them.

*Whisper* had a very intriguing story, and I am happy to say that I really liked it! The only thing I thought was kind of unfortunate was that it didn't really go into how they got this ability. I would've loved to know where it came from/how they got it, because apparently it's been in the family for, like, ever! However, I did like how this wasn't your typical coming-into-your-powers type of story. Joy's ability had already been established, but now it was changing in ways she never expected. And I love me some awesome supernatural abilities, in the first place, so this was just great for me! I loved the way it was described how these abilities worked!

With an interesting story, complex characters, action-filled plot, and an interesting mystery, it's safe to say that I very much recommend this read! I will definitely be keeping an eye out for more books by this author!

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## Sara Shaw says

This.Was.The.BEST.BOOK.EVER!

Oh God, when I first read into it, I thought the hearing thoughts thing is a cliche, but boy could I be more wrong?

The author, **Phoebe Kitanidis** is a very good one indeed.

I loved Joy's Character, so innocent and sweet, thinking that her sis is the *bad guy* She too, couldn't have been more mistaken.

To be honest, Jessica's character is *so like me*.

Okay I do not do drugs or smoke, but I'm a truly Rebellious teen. I'm mean, rude and hurt people. lol its true! Anyway, I didn't like the taking drug thing but I can't blame Jess for it. Damn what would u do if all your BFFS thought you were bad? Had no friends? No mom to trust cause I'm just too mean to her and reject her, and a sis that has gone away to so called Bffs and the most important, the curse! So no I can't blame her.

The characterization was so damn good. like REALLY good. The plot was fine too, I just thought the \*searching for sis with bad boy and stolen part\* is gonna be like from page 20 or something. But I didn't get

bored though. I'm waiting foR BooK 2, and I know, I'm so bad in writing reviews. 3 words. I love it AKA Another favorite book!

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### **Emma Michaels says**

I really enjoyed this novel. Normally I stop reading a novel once I see any cursing... okay, maybe that is an overstatement. It makes me want to put it away but in some cases, like this one, it isn't enough to warrant not finding out what happens next! It had a very emotionally raw (in a good way) feel to it not in terms of the writing style but in terms of the characters and their personalities. I am really happy I read this book and it was definitely a one sitting book for me. (Even if I was forced to take a break to sleep.) Was definitely worth my time and something I would suggest to anyone. (As long as they are okay with minor cursing. I will admit normally it feels like it isn't needed which is why I don't like it but in this case it felt like it was needed in some ways for that part of the story. It was a natural response that went along with the realism of the story.)

For more reviews:

<http://EmmaMichaels.Blogspot.com>

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### **SjA says**

I loved this book. I started it a few hours ago and read through the night. I went to bed thinking 'I'm so tired i'll just read for a minute.' Next thing I knew hub's alarm was going off for work.

Joy is your typical preppy girl that everyone (almost) likes. Only she -like her mother and sister- has a seemingly rare gift. They can hear 'whispers'. They hear people's most private thoughts/desires and making peoples desires come true makes Joy... eh happy? Well not technically it gives her a false sense of happy for a short period.

Joy eventually learns what most teenagers eventually learn. People aren't always what they are cracked up to be. Or rather how they first appear. Everyone has a negative/bad side. Something her sister's been trying to teach her all along. Maybe hearing peoples private desires isn't such a good thing?

Joy goes from feeling accepted and loved and part of the gang to feeling left out and alone to feeling accepted again when she 'finds' Jamie. Or he finds her.

Their friendship/relationship starts on a roller coaster of emotion. Or is that putting it mildly? Their journey together leaves Joy learning more about her gift and the people who surround her.

Was a quick and easy read for me. It left me wanting to read more about not only Joy and Jamie but wondering where her sister ends up as well.

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## **Peter Kahle says**

Whispers is an excellent twist on the young woman's passage into adulthood theme. Joy is every teenager, but with something extra, the ability to hear the mental 'wishes' of others. All her life she's heard their best thoughts and hopes; now turning sixteen, she begins to hear their ugly wishes too. I enjoyed Kitanidis' humor and her ear for young people's voices.

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## **Jessica (Goldenfurpro) says**

This and other reviews can be found on The Psychotic Nerd

### **MY THOUGHTS**

I've had this book on my to-read list ever since I first got a Goodreads account so it's about time I picked this one up. This book didn't wow me, but it has a very interesting storyline and I overall enjoyed it.

All the females in Joy's family to hear Whispers. Whispers are of people's desires, their wishes. Joy loves hearing Whispers. It lets her help people and she sees it as a gift. Jessica, aka Icka, sees it as a curse and constantly tries to make everyone miserable. When Icka disappears and Joy's gift begins changing, Joy begins to wonder more about her gift and what it might have done to Icka.

I love the idea behind this book. I've read books with mind reading, but this book is not about mind reading. Joy can only hear the desires of people and it's interesting how much she loves being able to hear Whispers. It lets her be able to help people. I feel like we didn't get to know everything about this ability, as so much was dropped near the end, but I still feel like it was a really great idea and was done very well!

I think the Whispers are important to the book, but I felt like the relationships were also important, especially Joy's and Icka's. In the beginning, you really do not like Icka. It's not because she's an outcast, but because she tried everything to make Joy miserable. It's horrible. It's hard to like her and to understand her, I still have a hard time liking her after reading the book. Even though Icka was horrible to Joy, Joy still went looking for her and Icka still cared for Joy. It's an odd relationship, but it's very important.

My one main issue with this book is how long it took to get to the major plot. Most of the book was about Joy's Whispers and it was very slow-paced leading to what happens with her sister, which isn't really until the very end. I like learning about the Whispers, Joy, and other characters, but not a whole lot happens and it kind of bothers me when they mention something in the synopsis that doesn't happen until the last half of the book.

### **IN CONCLUSION**

This book has a very unique premise and besides some slow pacing, it's a wonderful book with a slight paranormal twist. This book is also a very quick read and a solid standalone! Overall, I enjoyed reading this book!

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## **Lala\_Loopsie [fire breathing B!tch Queen] says**

Actual rating 3.5 Stars.

This book was good, i guess. But she seemed readlly inmature. But I really liked Jamie, or however the hell you write it.

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### **Jess says**

To be honest, I didn't really read the whole thing, just up until the first few chapters then I skipped to the part where the story starts to happen but here's what I thought of what I DID read.

First of all, Joy really irritated me because she was so infuriatingly naive and pathetic. However, there is a point in the story where she realizes this about herself and becomes a bit of a stronger character. I may be wrong in this but I don't think I missed much from what I skimmed because it seems like it was mostly a series of desastrously embarrassing situations. I did like the second half much better because that's when it finally got to the actual plot. A couple interesting things Kitanidis did with Whisper were 1)introducing a character with telepathy who has lived her whole life knowing about her ability (as opposed to other stories where the character is caught completely confused and questioning his/her sanity before figuring it out and moving on with the plot) and 2)having more than one type of mind-reader.

All in all it was an okay read but nothing incredible, just a fluff read.

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### **Precious says**

After years of granting people's wishes and making the world a happier place, a night of a killer headache and deafening silence, Joy's gift finally matured. She can now hear whispers that come from a deeper and darker place and manifest the side of humanity that centres on the satiation of wants. Disturbed and terrified, Joy found out that she can't carry on doing the only thing that defines her: granting wishes. She was wrapped in a cloud of loss, loss for not hearing dark desires, loss of friendships and loss of the things she believed in.

Jessica has always been acknowledged as the evil sister, the one who was always making everyone's lives miserable with the sharp truth pouring out of her mouth. Joy was convinced that her sister was beyond any point of reasoning with. Joy was about to find out more about her sister as she races to save her.

Phoebe created a world where desires and wishes – both good and bad – are unravelled, giving better judgment and helping people like Joy see the reflection of someone's soul. Her writing, through Joy's optimistic perspective found the best in everything and in everyone.

In this debut, the threads that bind and make a strong bond – sisterhood – are scrutinized. Every memory, every intention, every word, every whisper awakened me to the reality of a life with a sibling, a person that I can be friends and enemies with at times. It can be positive and negative depending on what angle you choose to see it through.

Whisper is a novel of realizations and revelations about the truth of familial and friendly relationships and of acknowledgement of the dark part of our souls and the desires that may be egoistic and selfish, and above all human, that dwell inside our hearts.

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### **Tara says**

I really enjoyed this story and found the storyline to be both imaginative and engaging. The story followed a family who could listen to others thoughts or whispers. This was both a blessing and curse. The two sisters had very different experiences and followed different paths. On Joy's birthday, Jessica (her sister) makes a choice that will change their relationship forever. It was a book that provided some predictable storylines, but offered some surprises and in the end was a fun read about being yourself and embracing your gifts.

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### **Raīla says**

Joy would be a normal girl, except for the fact that she Hears Whispers. In other words, she Hears what others desire, their desire-thoughts. In possession of this hereditary gift, Joy likes to make people happy, to give people what they want, which is the opposite of her sister's choice—use it to make people's lives miserable.

Like I have said since I closed this book: I have no words to describe how much I loved it! It is like no other "hearing thoughts" story. It is such a different, creative, unpredictable and well-written story. I dove into this and almost couldn't get off if it wasn't people calling me to do something while I was reading. I was so excited to know what would happen next that I stayed up really late. I needed to know what Joy would say and do next, who she would meet next. Although it is fast-paced, it doesn't sound like the whole story happens in only one weekend. It seems to happen in a longer time! It did surprise me, because the story is not a cliche at all, like the summary might make you wonder.

I am so sure the highest positive point of my identification with this book were the characters and the dialogues—and, as a consequence, the writing style of Phoebe Kitanidis, of course. It made Joy sound like she wasn't only fifteen, but an older, mature person with characteristics of a teenager girl. Oh, I can tell how big her heart is! Even when Jessica aka. Icka, her sister, treats her like a shit—which means always since they weren't kids anymore—, she is a sweet person, until she explodes and tells Icka the worst things she thinks about their relationship she had kept inside, which leaves Joy super-regretful. Besides all that, she still has to deal with her so-called friends and their desire-thoughts, which turn into kind of "evil" ones.

I really don't know if I can talk about J, who Joy barely knows, but steals a car and runs away with him to save her precious sister. I got so excited about it! Although they had once met, they don't completely know each other, but get into a great, well-developed conversation after some events. They share feelings and things that even Joy's best-friend doesn't know about. J's revelation is a very interesting one. I'd love to learn more about it! Their relationship gets pretty intense in those two days while Phoebe Kitanidis shows us how two people who look so different can be so much closer than you might think.

The ending doesn't make you think it is going to have a sequel. Not for me. It sounded lovely and peaceful for the situation the characters were in. But I want to know what is going to happen to Joy after all this. AND there is going to have a sequel!

Whisper is an amazing debut novel that might make you consider carefully every little attitude you and people around you do. Phoebe Kitanidis has totally proved her writing quality.

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## **Heather says**

WOW! I knew when I read the description of this book that it had potential. I had no idea how much potential it had.

Short story: I would have preferred to read it all in one sitting, but I have three young children and just cannot. I did my best to read as much as I could, and read the whole thing in less than 10 hours. That's 280 pages in 10 hours, stopping to care of my kids – and take a nap because of a headache. I. Could. Not. Put. It. Down. Couldnotstopreading.

In case you need more: I love Joy. What a great character. So much emotional depth, and she really grows up in just a matter of a few days. What a bomb to have dropped on her later in the book.

And Jamie. Loved him. I hope they have a future together, as I really like him. I kinda had an idea what his "dark secret" was. (*Possible spoiler*: I think having read The Emerald Talisman somehow cued me into that. I'm not entirely sure how, but if you've read *that* book, it might make sense to you.)

At the end of the book, I found that I really liked Joy's dad, and couldn't stand her mom. I look forward to seeing how these characters turn out in the next installment, as well as if/how their relationship changes.

This is one (and not the first) book that I'm sorry to have to part with. I *will* get my own copy someday, and I DEFINITELY will read this again.

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## **Merril Anil says**

### **It's there and it's not there**

It is sad to see that something with so much potential and interest picking up from a wrong note and going downhill from there. The book has a really good theme and had a bit more effort been put into its development this would have been one heck of a read. Technically I cannot beat my mind as to where exactly it started messing up but certain areas in the book did show that there was lack of effort.

The first page of the book is something that will make you sit down and take notice and no doubt it raises your expectation but then you proceed further to four to five chapters and you have no idea where this book is going as all you could feel is that you are reading a diary of a teenager who keeps ranting about the usual stuffs that high schooled do on a daily basis for living but why that should cover half of the book is beyond my understanding. Fortunately in spite of all the ranting, the book do keep a fast pace so before you die of lack of anything substantial coming your way, you get bombarded with an unexpected change and then before you know, the book ends with a cliché ending where everything wraps up nicely.

The problem with the book, I felt was that the narration is all over the place and the author tends to go out of path with unrelated descriptions sometimes. The starting chapters are filled with forced jokes not helping anywhere with the narration. The characters except for "icka" do not seemed to be worked upon and sadly that included our main character as well because I clearly felt that the main character "joy" was a work in

progress.

**The book lacks a smooth flow of events and narration and succumbs to the after effect of a good theme badly treated**

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### **Lilibeth says**

Joy's whole life was summed up entirely by pleasing others, and giving what they wanted. She did this because it was what was taught to her to do with her ability to Hear. Hearing Whispers was something the women of her mom's side of the family were born with. Dealing with the constant desires--wishes, hopes, dreams--of the people around her was bombarding when she was little. By the age of eleven, Joy could handle the Whisper's and even grant some of them. However, with her sister, Jessica, it was a totally different story. Always making Joy's life a living hell at home, Icka--Jessica--wanted her baby sister to feel the constant crowding she felt everyday.

When Joy finally confronts Icka for the first time, it shocks both of them, it lights a fire to new discoveries in the family and in Joy's way of life. Instead of always trying please everyone that wants something, Joy slowly comes to terms to the revelation that she needs to please herself; and find out the truth of her gift. When she hears a stray Whisper from her sister, Joy automatically feels that something is not right and that Icka is in danger. From the very beginning, she attracted attention from an unknown follower. Always there, wondering. Then when Joy unexpectedly and indirectly knows she needs his help to find her sister, he's there along for the ride; to save her sister from killing her Whispers.

When I first started reading Whispers, I cannot deny that I had low expectations. I'd been reading one star- to two star-reviews of Whisper for a while now. When it was finally my turn to read it, I knew I was determined to see why such negative buzz was generating in the blogosphere. What I didn't expect to find was the hidden comical, slash hip referenced heartfelt read Whispers turned out to be. Frankly, I don't know what some reviewers were thinking (though I respect their opinions) but this was a brand new view between a not-so-hidden family struggle that still had problems underneath mom's bubbly exterior. Whispers centered around a gift/curse that came with spontaneous headaches when someone was trying to block their Whispers from others. The constant issues between the sisters was extremely enticing to my senses of being an only-child. And the frequent flashbacks in the beginning were a bit disturbing when I wished the book to move forth with main action of Joy's story, but really were building up the history of of Joy and Icka's relationship through their years. Having a seventeen-year-old sister who knew how to ruin Joy's birthday parties, left some mystery when she was really absent for her fifteen's. Through many people's Whispers, new and broken friendships, and heart wrenching memories, Whispers goes through a tale of one Hearer's new identity found when another stopped pushing it her toward it. By the end, you get to read for yourself Joy's new found bravery and her true love for her sister.

With funny phrases like "hiccough", and some really weird encounters with another being that may be dealing with something more wrenching than her own gift, Joy's tale will suck you in. So deep that you'll be screaming profanities at your front door when the ice cream truck drives by, vainly hoping they'll stop blaring their corny jingle so fng loud.

Recommended to all ages. Since I'd never forewarned any against this before, I'll start now: there is some

profanity in the novel, and a slightly crazed scene at the end. But if you're like me, you'll love every word of it! Buy this when it releases next month, and spread the word of what you think you'd Whisper about the most.

Grade: A

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