



Pluto's Ghost

Sheree Fitch

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"Murderer. It's one kick in the belly of a word isn't it? Has a taste, too. It tastes like barbed wire and has wild hyena eyes. Murderer. Murder-her. Did he? Did I? That's when I remember what I want to forget."

Jake Upshore has loved Skye Derucci since before he can remember. Volatile, complex and frustrated (he's got a label disorder from all the labels he's been given) at the best of times, Jake's on a desperate quest to find Skye before she aborts the baby he believes is his. As he hurtles headlong toward certain tragedy, Jake relives the fatal choices he's made and the powerful forces that have led him to this to end. A gripping thriller and a heart-wrenching love story, **Pluto's Ghost** is a raw and powerful novel about anger, escape, and redemptive love.

Pluto's Ghost Details

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Author : Sheree Fitch

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From Reader Review Pluto's Ghost for online ebook

Natalina says

Even though people reviewed this book to be predictable, I thought it was just the right about of obviousness and surprise. A little slow in the beginning, following Jake's fast-paced mind and the run-on and choppy sentences to describe what he's hearing or feeling kept me reading the entire time. I thoroughly loved the book.

Oh yeah - and I loved the relations to The Wars and Robert Ross. It's one of my favourite books.

The one negative I have: character development. There was a good amount for Jake, given that he's the main character, but there wasn't enough detail for me to get a proper picture of Skye or Mrs. Derucci or Jake's dad.

Rachel Seigel says

At the heart of this book is a bad boy who isn't really as bad as people think he is, and who is really a sensitive, confused and misunderstood boy. This might sound cliched, but Sheree Fitch writes him so beautifully that I liked him from the start, and could easily see how various bad breaks in his life and certain circumstances would have created this. For every teen who likes a slightly edgy book about kids on the outside, this is a perfect read. Adults who just enjoy the power of Fitch's writing will also enjoy this.

Chloe says

I actually didn't quite get into this book. I just couldn't really get into it. I found it really slow. I did enjoy the drama spectrum of it - the part where he actually finds Skye. The book just seemed to take forever! A girl who works at Chapters recommended it to me, and I usually like these kinds of reads, but something never clicked.

Belinda says

Once I got used to the "voice" of the main character I was completely taken in by the story, desperate almost to know the ending. Jake was completely unique, and his internal monologue struck me as genuine right until the very last word. I basically finished it in one sitting.

Kaleigh says

I wish I could give this two and a half stars. I liked the main character enough - but the story was predictable, and I didn't like Skye who was such a focal point. I did, however, like the look into the mind of the troubled young man, and I did see a tiny bit of Holden

Caulfield in Jake, but not profoundly, and certainly not as endearingly, but I'm not here to compare with Catcher in the Rye, because that's not the point.

I liked the book the best about halfway through - or maybe 2/3, and then I found it petered off again. That was when I really noticed the prose in which I was written - the rhyming. That was lovely. Ultimately, I ended up liking the come-by-chance characters the best.

Chris says

The pacing is perfect in this and the protagonist is believable, compelling and sympathetic - a troubled teen and one readers will root for.

Yolanda Ridge says

Right from the start, I was put off by the voice. It was interesting to read from the teenaged male point of view, especially a character as unique as Jake, but I couldn't relate to him and I didn't really get why he did any of the things that he did. I kept reading because I needed to know what happened - the storyline is very well crafted.

Lucille says

Jake Upshore dyslexic. He also has some serious anger management issues, doesn't function well in conventional classes, and has been branded a trouble-maker by local law enforcement and his principal. But there are people that believe in him. his father, despite all of the trials of raising a difficult son by himself, loves Jake and tries to help him overcome his problems. Shep, one of his teachers, defends Jake against those that label him and treat him differently from the other kids. And of course, there is Skye. Beautiful, wealthy, stuck-up Skye. She embraces his darkness and tries to bring out the good that she knows is in him. Except, Skye decided that they should keep their relationship a secret. To Jake, her motivation for secrecy seems to be rooted in embarrassment. She's at the top, and he's at the bottom. Jake thinks that she's too good for him. She's the type of girl more likely to be going out with the football star than the trouble-maker, especially since her father is a policeman.

Pluto's Ghost is told by Jake, I believe as an auto-biographical work to explain to others what he went through. It jumps around between the past and the further past, giving snippets of information and then returning to the main story line. Sometimes, the style makes him dyslexia and quirks more apparent, but Fitch loses his voice from time to time. I imagine that it would be hard to write a story in a voice that disregards conventional grammatical structure. In a way, Fitch covers for this by saying that Jake's story was edited by Shep.

Essentially, Jake finds out that Skye and her mother have left suddenly for Halifax without telling anyone. The rumour mill starts churning, and then everyone is telling Jake that Skye is pregnant, and their secret relationship is out in the open. Jake is shocked. He tries repeatedly to get in touch with Skye, but she never answers her phone. Jake finds her binder with her diary in his locker. He is extremely impulsive and decides that he must go and find her. He has heard that she is going to get an abortion. He doesn't know what he wants or what he should do, but he knows that he has to find her. A lot of his decisions and fits of rage come back to bite him, but all that he can think about is Skye. No matter what, he is determined to find her, and he goes through a lot on the way to get there.

Rosanne says

Very well told story, unfolding at just the right pace with a seriously dramatic twist at the end.

The thing that struck me immediately is that this is a difficult voice to get right. Jake is a teenage boy with dyslexia, who has also been diagnosed with several other disorders as well as having significant anger issues. With a few minor exceptions, Fitch does an excellent job voicing Jake, and also does a great job of conveying what the inner life of a smart person who has been 'written off' would be like. The real strength of this novel lies in the exploration and expression of Jake's character.

We take a journey with Jake as he writes about his experiences as part of a school assignment. His 'good girl' girlfriend and her mother have left town and rumours are flying that she is pregnant and has left for the city to have an abortion. Over the course of two days Jake tries to understand what has happened, and we get flashbacks to different parts of their relationship and understand what it has meant to him.

Although the subject matter is intense, there are a lot of funny moments, mostly because of Jake's self-deprecating sense of humour and what I think are realistic insights into how teenage boys think. There is also a sense of hope that permeates this story. We meet Jake at a time where he is in the process of putting himself back together, he is getting better, and you just know he has the potential to be 'OK'. The ending is realistic and hopeful, but also bittersweet.

Kaylee says

I really like this book even though I wasn't sure of it at first. It's slow paced at the beginning and then picks up a bit more, so don't quite reading! You won't be disappointed in the end! The writing was definitely something to marvel over, it was funny and touching.

I just want to hug Jake (main character). He's so sweet and thoughtful, despite his anger issues.

It was amazing to read and be able to see that Jake was serious when he meant he would do anything for the girl he loves, Skye, anything!

It's not a sappy love story, it's not fairy-tale like, so don't expect that. It's a mature read, and Jake's story will stay with you for a long time.

Gabrielle says

Pluto's Ghost is a raw, twisty, colourful book filled characters you can't help but love (and a few you can't help but hate). Sheree Fitch's style of writing is unmistakable-poetic without taking itself too seriously and sprinkled with the occasional made-up word. Skye and Jake's relationship was realistic and sweet and imperfect. It always seems like relationships in books get so serious and intense and married-couple-y so

fast, there isn't any room for flaws or quirks or actually human behaviour, which is just weird, especially when the book's aimed at teenagers. Its so much better when there's actually emotional development and real problems and feelings and non-vampiric angst, especially because it makes you care so much more about the story. This book nails it. And it also happens to have not only the whole childhood-crush element, but also the super-secret-hidden-love thing, both obviously key ingredients in any angst teenage love. That last one will probably make you hate a certain character at first, but I can't actually explain anything about it without being really spoilery and am probably being spoilery enough right now anyway so if you read the book just keep at it and DON'T LOOK AHEAD. Don't make the mistakes I've made. I know you will be tempted from the very first page, and probably every page after that, but it's the greatest reading sin you can commit. Fight the evil.

There are so many characters in this book that there is bound to be one you really like. Most of the adults are pretty cool and supportive and actually there (all of which is rare in YA), but there are also lots of terrible parenting/decisions in general if you really hate good role models. There is also cool, witchy woman and a possible prostitute and a guidance counsellor and and a best friend and about a million others. And it's mostly set in and outside of Halifax, which probably doesn't mean anything to you if you aren't Canadian/Nova Scotian but might be a really good selling point if you are. And there is a school trip where ROMANCE IGNITES (I am so sorry). There are no slow chapters or weird pacing issues and you will never be tempted to fall asleep because even if there's something you don't like, it is never boring. Maybe a tiny bit predictable at some points, though I will never know because I'm a terrible person and looked ahead (see above).

I highly recommend this book. And if nothing here makes you want to read it, at least give it a try for its beautiful cover.

Rebecca McNutt says

Written in kind of a confusing yet poetically angry sort of style, *Pluto's Ghost* is a Halifax-based YA novel that deals with serious issues and the point of view of a teenage boy who, as the rumors go, got his girlfriend Skye pregnant. It was definitely suspenseful and had a lot of interesting thoughts from Jake. I didn't really like that the author inserted texts into the book, it was kind of annoying, but it can be overlooked.

Debbie says

Another great read.

PLUTOS GHOST DEFINITION: It is a huge swirling pearlized column of rock, almost human shaped. A sculpture carved by time and mother nature. "It is said that some spectators still fall under the spell of Pluto's ghost. (This is where Sky and Jake have their first kiss.

This is a story about a teenage boy named Jake Upshore who has a hard time dealing with his dyslexia. It is just Jake and his dad Timothy in their family. Jake's mom died when he was five and he could only remember little bits about his mom. This tortured Jake. Jake had a lot of anger issues dealing with the loss of his mother and trying to get through life with his dyslexia. Jake had a teacher that he really respected named Mrs. Sheppard. She seemed to understand and work with Jake unlike his other teachers. He had a deep respect for her. He even did chores for her around her house in the yard during the summer and winters.

Jake has an intimate relationship with a girl named Sky Derucci. One day Sky ends up disappearing from their town of Poplar Hills Nova Scotia, and everyone thinks that Jake has something to do with her disappearance. The gossip around school was that Jake had gotten Skye pregnant and she went off to go get an abortion, which Jake didn't even know she was pregnant and sends him into a whole lot of confusion. Jake leaves tons of text messages for Skye but he never receives any replies back from her so he goes to look for her. He finds out that she had an aunt in Halifax and figures that is where she would go so he heads off to go find her.

This is why we should never listen to rumors, through a whole lot of trouble and e mails, Jake finally here's from Skye through e mail. She ask's Jake to meet her in a graveyard and she would explain everything. As it turns out everything that Jake heard and thought to be true was completely false. Skye was never pregnant. What was really going on was Sky's father Dalton was a police officer to everyone in Poplar Hills, but a mean abusive man to Sky and her mother. Sky and her mother feared for their lives and so they left town so that Dalton couldn't hurt them any more.

Dalton had been following Jake through out his travels to find Skye, and when Jake finally met up with Sky, Dalton was there to hurt them. Being a police officer Dalton of course carried a gun. Dalton goes after Jake in the hopes that he could do him real harm is what Jake thinks, but also I think it was so Jake could kill Dalton and Dalton would end up looking like a fallen "hero" instead of what he really was. Jake fights with him but is able to get away from Dalton. Dalton then ends up pulling the trigger and kills himself.

The police think that Jake killed Dalton, but after Skye and her mom tell the police what really was going on Jake is released from their custody.

Jake and Skye have a changed reality of their new lives. Skye and here mom end up moving out west and though Skye loves Jake still she loves where she is. They both hoped that they could be together some day forever.

Jake is able to finish school, and have a productive life.

kris says

This book surprised me - in a good way. I thought I had figured out the ending from very early on but I was wrong. The ending did live up to the rest of the story and the author tied up several loose ends. The main character's voice was unique and kept me rooting for him throughout the story.

Kerri says

I love a book that is written in a mind-set so different than my own. The main character Jake is so real and so exposed right down to his core that you can't help but find yourself wanting to calm him and cheer for him. I loved this book. Like the cover says "Masterfully crafted... destined to be a classic."
