



Afterimage

Naomi Hughes

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A horrific explosion levels part of the city and Camryn Kingfisher is the sole survivor.

Amidst controversy, conspiracy theories, and threats from government officials, Camryn longs for the truth. But the only person who she can turn to is a transparent boy in a lab coat named Quint. Unsure whether he's a hallucination or a ghost, Camryn has no choice but to trust him as they become embroiled in a plot that is bigger than either of them realize.

In a race where the fabric of time and space is at stake, they must figure out who caused the explosion before the culprit comes back to finish Camryn?and her city?off for good.

Afterimage Details

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From Reader Review Afterimage for online ebook

Roxanne says

Thank you to Page Street Publishing for a copy of the ARC in exchange for a fair review.

Camryn is working through her panic disorder, and her mom is talking it her through it when she finally makes it on base to pick her mom up from work. However, Camryn never makes it into the building. A massive explosive happens and before Camryn falls unconscious she sees a boy who is shocked that she can see him.

She spends weeks asleep before finally waking up and realizing that she is the only survivor. The agency threatens her by telling her if she doesn't cooperate they will imply that she had something to do with the bombing just like her mother. Camryn knows something is off, especially when Quint tells her the password to the Agent's tablet.

Camryn is determined to prove that her mother is innocent. Soon she is caught up in a conspiracy and a massive cover up. She keeps seeing a boy that no one else sees, but it becomes clear that she has to work with him in order to save space and time.

This really wasn't on my radar until I received the book. I was pleasantly surprised, I don't read too much sci-fi anymore, but this appealed to me. There is something about time travel, wormholes, and ghostly boys that is extremely interesting. I found that Camryn was compelling and interesting, not sure I completely understood how everything that happened, but it was different from anything I have read lately.

I also tend to read a lot of series, so it is super nice to read a good standalone, even if I did want more by the end of the book.

Mandy says

I received an ARC of this - thank you so much to Page Street Publishing but it didn't change my opinion at all

There was nothing really wrong with this book, but I think a lot of things compiled together to make it a bit messy and cliché and something that I wasn't vibing with. There were some good parts, but there were a lot of parts that I wasn't feeling and it kind of put me in a slump since I didn't want to pick it back up.

I have to say that I was really feeling the twists and turns. They were for sure my favorite thing of the novel. There was a big twist/reveal that happened about halfway through the story, and I vibed it hard. I thought it was super cool, and it was really the big thing that kept me going. Let's just say, there are a lot more things going on then you realize and when you realize it, it becomes super cool and intriguing. I really didn't count

on it being a thing, and I loved the little twist that brought this book to another level for me.

The characters were okay? I mean, I didn't hate them or anything. They just felt...like...Idk nothing? I mean, I really had nothing for Quint and I'm really grappling here, trying to think of something that could describe our main character and narrator, but I've got nothing. There was no traits that I could really pull out to describe them other than...strong? Mentally, emotionally, and more? That's all I got.

Romance was eh. I thought for the longest time that we weren't going to have a romance, and I was totally down with it, but it did pop its head up at the end that had me rolling my eyes. It felt a little forced and I was good with it not happening at all.

The plot had a pretty fast pace, and I was into it for parts. It got really intriguing and everything was always moving, but it did have parts where it would slow down and I wouldn't want to pick it back up. There were also parts where it was so unbelievable that I was giving major side eye to it. Like, really, how cliched shady was this government agency really was? And like, how easy she was able to slip into said secret government agency??? Like, I can't even sneak out of my own house, so how was she able to sneak into a top secret government agency with the random mysterious boy in her head's help. And this part of the plot seemed way too cliched for me. I felt like I was watching a Bourne movie with a little sci-fi twist.

Overall, there wasn't anything really terrible about this book, but it just really was lacking for me in certain parts. I thought the characters were okay, and I was HERE for the twists and turns that Hughes created, but overall, I wasn't vibing this book too much. 2 crowns and a Cinderella rating!

Sher-May Loh says

A cataclysmic explosion destroys Camryn's world; she survives when she's not supposed to, and the only constant in the chaos is a bespectacled boy who may or may not actually exist.

AFTERIMAGE, Naomi Hughes' debut sci-fi thriller, is a page-turner with twists and turns that will leave you racing through the pages way past your bedtime to find out what happens next. Hughes demonstrates incredible mastery over plot and pacing; subtle hints are peppered throughout the story, which add layers as the reader delves deeper into the mystery of Camryn's ability to alter the past--and the future.

Hughes excels at interiority, handling first-person present POV with deft skill. We feel what Camryn feels, but it never comes across as melodramatic. Camryn also struggles with panic disorder, which makes her especially empathetic and relatable to readers who deal with anxiety. The supporting cast is also great: Camryn's brother leaves a memorable imprint, and an unexpected romance unfolds without slowing the pace as the plot hurtles forward at roller-coaster speed.

This is one of my favorite books this year, and I eagerly look forward to more from this author!

destiny ? [howling libraries] says

To me, the hardest part about being a book blogger is when you find a book that feels like it *could* have worked for you, but somehow, it just didn't quite make it—and then trying to review that book in actual, coherent words and phrases, when all you really know how to do is kind of shrug and go, “Eeeeehhhh...?”

Like an afterimage: the ghost of light that's left behind when you've been staring at something too bright for too long.

That's my issue with *Afterimage* in a nutshell. It isn't a bad book by any means—I didn't find it to be hurtful, or problematic, or even poorly written—it just didn't do anything for me! So, I'm going to try to be as fair and just as possible in this review, because it's absolutely the sort of book that has an intended audience who could probably love this a lot more than I did.

I want him to hurt the way I've been hurt. I know it's not really his fault, I know he might not even be real, but at the moment he's all I've got.

I want to get the negative aspects of this review over with: first and foremost, I know the synopsis even mentions a time/space issue, but it felt so forced and out of place. The book starts off as what feels like it should be a solid government conspiracy thriller/mystery, but when the sci-fi aspects were thrown in, it totally lost me. Even though I like space/timeline plots, in this instance, I would have enjoyed the story so much more without any of that. The other, smaller complaint that I have is the character writing. Camryn, the narrator, is annoying: she's a jerk and doesn't think things through at all for the first 100 pages or so, but she does progress as the story goes on. The side characters, however, really felt flat and uninspired from start to finish, so I couldn't seem to connect with anyone.

Panic Disorder: a self-fulfilling prophecy of suck.

On the other hand, let me just say that I genuinely enjoyed the representation of Camryn's panic disorder. As a reader with an anxiety disorder and panic attacks as a real aspect of my own mental health, I was able to relate to a solid amount of what she described. In particular, there's a scene in the beginning where she explains that because she had a really bad panic attack at this one location, she now gets anxious when she tries to return there, because she's scared she'll trigger herself into a repeat event—that is *such* a legitimate fear that I struggle with, and I've never seen it put so specifically into words in a story, so I definitely related to that and appreciated Naomi Hughes adding it in!

So, yeah—all in all, not a bad read, it just didn't work for *me*. That said, if the synopsis sounds interesting to you at all, I would one hundred percent suggest picking this one up and giving it a try, because I honestly believe Naomi Hughes' writing has major potential to thrill a lot of people, and I would definitely be willing to check out future releases from her.

All quotes come from an advance copy and may not match the final release. Thank you so much to Page Street Publishing for providing me with this ARC in exchange for an honest review!

Kathryn Tate says

This book had me intrigued from the very beginning. It is full of action, twists and turns. I just kept needing to know what would happen next. I also loved the mystery surrounding Camryn and Quint.

Caitlin McCurley larue says

Naomi Hughes weaves a powerful thriller that kept me on edge the entire time. I'm not necessary a huge fan of science fiction, but it was the perfect amount that I could follow/understand and held my interest.

Hughes puts us in the narrator's head so well, that it is truly hard to know what is real and what isn't at points. As the plot slowly unravels and the reader discovers the twists and turns with Camryn, I found myself completely immersed in the book. The pacing is fantastic and there is a never a moment where I was bored or skipping pages.

Quint is delightfully untrustworthy and the twists from his character alone literally made me go, "No Way" out loud.

Hughes has crafted a wonderful blend of thriller and sci-fi that absolutely ensnared me.

Jessica Bayliss says

I loved this YA thriller! Calling it a thriller is oversimplifying. Whether you're a fan of ghost stories and the paranormal, a science-fiction fan, or a reader of conspiracy thrillers, this book is for you. A very original take on the YA thriller genre, very smart, and full of unanticipated twists. I highly recommend this.

Lisa Cassidy says

This one had me from the first page. The standout for me was the character of Camryn, who has some real obstacles to both overcome and manage, but confronts each of them with gusto and spirit and a touch of vulnerability. Loved the writing--again, Camryn's voice!--but the plot was equally engaging. Each turn of the page totally kept me guessing. I started the book mid work-week, but once I reached the weekend I inhaled it in a matter of hours. If you love YA with an awesome but real heroine and a complex, twisty plot, definitely read Afterimage!

Paige Dan says

THIS. BOOK.

I was obsessed with this book from about 10 pages in. The story is thrilling and there may in fact be a new twist in every single chapter. Our main character Camryn deeply loves her mom, dad, and brother Kyle. She

deals with true Panic Disorder and works so hard for that not to run her entire life. Quint is a mysterious guest that Camryn finds herself tied to after a huge explosion causes the death of Camryn's mom- along with thousands of other people. Camryn deals with guilt, grief, anxiety, and panic attacks in this absolute adventure thriller.

I'm still having trouble forming coherent thoughts around this novel, so I'll do it this way. Here are a few things I loved about this story/characters/concept:

-Hughes describes grief in SUCH an authentic way. The guilt, the remorse, the 'what ifs'...they all resonated deeply with me.

-I won't say much on this but the romance developed through the storm these characters fight through is lovely.

-The Panic Disorder- WOW. Again, it is so realistic. Readers who have suffered through this will immediately identify and be inspired. Hughes didn't write a character who somehow miraculously overcomes her Panic Disorder to save the day at the end. She created a character who bites and claws and fights her way through the panic that gnaws on her at every moment. She wrote a character who gives hope to those who also face this challenge.

-Camryn and Kyle's relationship- So I'm a sucker for a sibling relationship 100% of the time. This one is rocky with the highest of highs and some pretty intense lows. It's beautiful.

-There IS a science fiction element to this story. Sci-Fi is absolutely not my cup of tea, and Hughes still brought me along throughout the entire novel. Even a complete novice to the genre can access this story without feeling lost.

-Did I mention there's a twist every time you turn a page?? Maybe not quite that frequently, but this story kept me on my toes the entire time.

- THE. ENDING. - Go ahead. Try to predict how she will end this novel. You will be wrong! The ending is more perfect than anything I could have hoped for. It's...please just read this book.

-The imperfections are so perfect. Every single character is so complex and deep and well developed. I loved that even the characters I was meant to fall for weren't perfect. OH! And nobody escapes this story without significant scarring. Again, the imperfections in each character just make this story so authentic and relatable.

In short, BUY this book. READ this book. SHARE this book. I've never read anything like it- I devoured it in about 4 hours! My library WILL hold multiple copies of this special new author.

Alright, Naomi. When's the next book coming out???

Mackenzie says

I absolutely loved this book! I read it through an ARC program and will definitely be buying myself a copy when it comes out.

The storytelling and writing style captures the reader and draws you in. Because neither Quint nor Camryn know what is happening, and the suspense and life or death scenario surrounding their situation, the reader is desperate to know what's going to happen next. When you do find out, not only is it a satisfying explanation, it one that makes you only more invested in the plot. (view spoiler)

The same goes for the ending, I loved it and yet I crave more. When I finished I was speechless and could only gush to my friends about this book and how much they needed to read it.

The way scenes, characters, and thoughts are described makes them, not only a delight to read, but also paint a crystal clear picture in your head.

When I started the book, I wasn't a big fan of the characters, but soon they grew on me. From Kyle's snark to Quint and Camryn's bluntness, I fell in love with them all. They all felt real.

(view spoiler)

The level of thought and effort Naomi Hughes poured into Afterimage is highly apparent and definitely make it worth the read and then some. This book is not only on my list of favorite books I've read this year but possibly of all time, with the author ranking high also among my favorites.

Barb says

I really enjoyed this book and actually finished it last week -- I thought I had added it here, but apparently not. Afterimage was one of those books for me that sucked me in from the first chapter and held my attention to the very end. It was different, exciting, and the overall story felt unique.

I highly recommend it!

Kim Chance says

I don't read a lot of sci-fi, but after reading the synopsis of this gorgeous book, I just had to check it out! I'm so glad I did! From the very first page, I was hooked, and I found myself reading this gem of a book in almost one sitting. All of my theories were completely wrong and as the story unraveled, I found myself on the journey to discovery and truth along with the main character--it was quite a ride! I'm a huge Doctor Who fan, so the best way I can really describe my enjoyment of this book is to say this: There is A LOT of Wobbly Wobbly Timey Wimey stuff and it's AWESOME!

Naomi Hughes's debut is not one to miss! A true page-turner that will keep you guessing the whole time! I loved it and highly recommend!

N.K. Traver says

A heart-pounding thrill ride that explores how far we'd go to fix our mistakes - and what it means to face them. Beautifully written and hauntingly real, this book is one that stayed with me long after I turned the last page.

**I read an early copy of this, and cannot WAIT to see it in print!

Casey Lyall says

Oh, my gosh - this book.

I had the pleasure of reading an early version of AFTERIMAGE and it killed me dead.
Then I got to read the ARC which also killed me dead.

The ghost of my ghost is writing this review for you.

AFTERIMAGE is teeming with fast-paced, heart-pounding action and adventure. Any time you manage to catch your breath, you'll be busy screaming at the latest twist, turn, or reveal.

The voice of Camryn leaps off the page, drawing you into the crumbling world she's desperate to save. It's a book that you instantly want to start reading again once you finish because you know you'll get even more out of it the second time around.

I don't want to say much else for fear of spoilers so just read it, join me in the ghostly realm, and we'll chat.

Carolyn O'Doherty says

I really loved this book. The story kept me on my toes, every time I thought I knew what was going on, the author took a turn I did not expect. I was intrigued straight through to the end. It's an imaginative original story with a great, believable protagonist. Highly recommend!!
