



This Is Your Afterlife

Vanessa Barneveld

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When the one boy you crushed on in life can't seem to stay away in death, it's hard to be a normal teen when you're a teen paranormal.

Sixteen-year-old Keira Nolan has finally got what she wanted—the captain of the football team in her bedroom. Problem is he's not in the flesh. He's a ghost and she's the only one who can see him.

Keira's determined to do anything to find Jimmy's killer. Even if it means teaming up with his prickly-yet-dangerously-attractive brother, Dan, also Keira's ex-best-friend. Keira finds that her childish crush is fading, but her feelings for Dan are just starting to heat up, and as the story of Jimmy's murder unfolds, anyone could be a suspect.

This thrilling debut from Vanessa Barneveld crosses over from our world to the next, and brings a whole delightful new meaning to "teen spirit".

This Is Your Afterlife Details

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From Reader Review This Is Your Afterlife for online ebook

Nan Dixon says

What a fantastic book! Of course I stayed up most of the night finishing the book! Wonderful debut. Cannot wait for more wonderful books from Vanessa.

Ely says

Originally posted at A Book So Fathomless

This book was sent to me for review by the publisher but this in no way alters my opinions of the book.

This Is Your Afterlife is a really fun, quick YA paranormal read. It's one of those books that is just so easy to read that it seems like you've only just started the book and then suddenly it's over.

Keira Nolan is the main character and she's just an easy character to read about. She was incredibly relatable as she's dealing with the grief of losing her grandmother. This couldn't have come at a better time in my life as it really helped me come to terms with a similar situation, so I liked that part of the book. However, the main part of this book actually focuses on Jimmy- the star of the football team who's just turned up as a ghost in Keira's bedroom. I loved Jimmy – he was incredibly funny so he really lightened up the whole book, but I was also really desperate to know how he became a ghost. Of course, there's also Dan – Jimmy's super hot younger brother that Keira has some unresolved history with. Not only was he super hot, he was just a really nice addition to the story.

I think parts of the book were a little bit predictable, but as a whole, the story was just a great light, fun read. I would definitely suggest it if you're looking for something nice and quick, especially if you're looking to bump up those Goodreads Reading Challenges.

Thank you to the lovely people at Bloomsbury for providing me with a copy of this book.

Tina says

I opened THIS IS YOUR AFTERLIFE with high expectations, having heard industry buzz and read an amazing review in USA TODAY. Often when the bar is set that high, there seems to be nowhere to go but down...but this was definitely not the case. All the praise for Vanessa Barneveld's debut novel held true. I adored it!

The premise—a teen helping her deceased crush to solve his own murder—grabbed me instantly. Main character Keira's authenticity and spunk drew me further in, as did the well-developed characters, brothers Jimmy and Dan. But overall, I think it's the surprising turn in the latter half of the book (no spoilers here, I promise!) that keeps my thoughts circling back to this clever and well-written story.

THIS IS YOUR AFTERLIFE is a wonderful read. I highly recommend it.

Abbie says

(I received a copy from Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.)

This Is Your Afterlife was an okay read.

Keira and Jimmy were both okay characters, but I didn't love them.

This started out alright, but I lost interest after a bit. The pacing was a bit too slow for me, and the storyline was so similar to other books I've read, that I felt slightly bored.

When the killer was revealed at the end, it wasn't a shock. I had my suspicions on who it was for quite a long time before it got revealed.

Overall, Alright read, but added nothing new to this type of book.

Marianne Curley says

You can't help but love Kiera with her flaws and kind-hearted nature. She has a genuineness about her that is completely real. She is grieving for the loss of her grandmother, and made a mistake that saw her lose the boy she loved. Then one day she discovers she has supernatural powers when the heartthrob from her school turns up in her bedroom, except Jimmy is dead and only she can see him. And Jimmy's brother is Dan, the boy that Kiera once loved. Together they set out to solve the mystery of Jimmy's murder.

But there is so much more to this book, like Jimmy's humour, his inability to lie, done so well it lit up the pages. His gorgeous brother Dan, and the rekindling of romance, which all added to my enjoyment of this read.

This is Your Afterlife is a clever, well-written book that deserves the high praise it is receiving in the United States. With the themes of friendship, loyalty, grief and betrayal handled with finesse, this book is a wonderful debut from Vanessa Barneveld, and I congratulate her and wish her all the best for her promising future career.

Julie Mulhern says

Charming.

Well-written. Well-plotted. Creative.

What would you do if you developed the ability to see ghosts? And if the first ghost you meet just happens to be the boy you've been crushing on? And what if he was murdered?

A wonderful story!

Kristi-The Book Faery says

This Is Your Afterlife by Vanessa Barneveld is a super adorable and quick read. I love a good ghost story and I wasn't disappointed. Kiera is 16 years old and solving a murder mystery with her ex-best friend, Dan. Thing is, the murder victim, Jimmy, Dan's brother, is helping!

What a good story! I really enjoyed the way everything unfolded – Dan and Kiera were best friends until Kiera confided she always had a bit of a crush on his more gregarious brother, Jimmy. After that, things were never quite the same. When Jimmy's murdered, they come together to find the killer and old feelings are rekindled.

The characters are great, easily relatable, affable and real. This is something that I look for in a good book, characters that I can relate to and as I read the last page of This Is Your Afterlife, I felt like I had made new friends. This is always a good thing!

Grief and loss is an issue that I think the author really did justice to in this book, not only did Kiera lose Jimmy but she had recently lost her grandmother. Delving into this heartbreaking topic is difficult under any circumstance but Ms. Barneveld handled the topic beautifully.

Great romance, thriller, mystery and ghost story! I highly recommend This Is Your Afterlife by Vanessa Barneveld!

Helen says

Loved this book! The story line and engaging characters drew me in from the start. The budding romance made me feel young again and the paranormal plot was a page turner! Thanks Vanessa Barneveld, I very much look forward to your next book.

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Bloomsbury USA Children's Books and NetGalley.)

Keira is shocked when her old crush turns up in her room, but she's even more shocked when she realises that he is a ghost.

Can Keira work out how Jimmy died? And can she bring his killer to justice?

This was an okay story, but I lost interest.

Keira was a helpful girl, and wanted to help Jimmy's family discover what had happened to him. I thought Jimmy was maybe a bit silly expecting her to go to his house and tell his family that she had talked to his ghost though. She would have sounded like a total nut case.

The storyline in this was okay, but it was a little predictable, and pretty much followed the same pattern as every book I have ever read about a girl who can talk to a ghost, who tries to work out how said ghost died. I also guessed quite early on who the killer was.

There was romance, and I was happy with the way that played out.

The ending was fairly happy, and there was no cliff-hanger!
6.5 out of 10.

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: This story was disappointingly underwhelming.

Opening Sentence: "Who died?"

The Review:

Keira's life isn't exactly normal. For one, she has the ability to read tarot cards and she keeps feeling the spirit of her dead grandmother close by. And secondly, the newest development, Keira is clairvoyant and can see ghosts: specifically, the most popular athlete in the school, Jimmy. When he shows up in her room bleeding from a massive head gash and not remembering his death, she doesn't know what to do, but as a friendship develops with him she feels obligated to find his killer. It's not easy, though, with his brother Dan (whom she's been crushing on like crazy since she made a huge mistake years before), his girlfriend Aimee, and the police chief, Charlie, suspicious. Can Keira solve Jimmy's death and bring him peacefully to the other side?

Keira was a decent character, a little cookie cutter in my opinion. She was pretty simple. She had compassion, empathy, bravery, blah blah blah, a very basic character within the throngs of YA female protagonists. I had one problem with her I'm going to nitpick at. It's probably the stupidest issue I could have but I could not let it go: her eyes always "teared up". The amount of times her eyes would get wet but she wouldn't actually start crying was substantial. In the first couple chapters, I feel like it happened five times. Obviously this isn't something that you need to not read the book because of, this is just something that caught my attention, and you can easily ignore it if you don't focus too hard.

Dan was an okay love interest. He was at least a more interesting character than Keira, with his artist skills and humor. Ever since *Becky's Closet*, Keira's relationship with him has been strained, to say the least. When they got chosen together for seven minutes in heaven, Keira made the mistake of letting slip she was hoping to be paired with his brother Jimmy. As soon as he got upset and left, she realized oh no! It's been him I wanted all along! Obviously that was awkward, and Keira definitely longs for the easy chatter and friendship they had BC (before closet). Eventually they regain that and though Keira makes a couple more dumb mistakes, they forgive each other.

The mystery in this book had two parts. One was where Jimmy was supposed to end up. Would he be stuck to roam the earth with Keira as his guide, without moving on, forever and ever? Or would he go to heaven, or the afterlife, or whatever really exists after death? If so, how will they get him there? This was resolved pretty cleanly and I didn't have problems with how it turned out. The other part of the mystery, however, I wasn't a huge fan of. Basically they want to find Jimmy's killer. There isn't a trail of clues. It's basically

Keira testing who she finds suspicious and hoping she ends up with the right person. She stumbled along in the dark ignoring what was in front of her all along. My suspicion was correct all along, it was pretty obvious, although I was annoyed that her/his real motives weren't revealed until the person was.

In the end, I found this book disappointingly underwhelming. It was enjoyable enough, I guess. It was paced well and the plot was solid. But the book didn't add anything unique to the genre at all. It was cookie cutter characters, cookie cutter plotline, simple writing style. Nothing really special. There was humor, and I liked that. It was nice to get the chance to laugh during the story. I think that this book will be more enjoyable to others, but I just wasn't feeling it.

Notable Scene:

Jimmy had everything – looks, brains, popularity. Those were the things that drew people to him. Those were also the things that made people insanely jealous.

And if that's the case, everyone's a suspect in Jimmy's death.

FTC Advisory: Bloomsbury Spark provided me with a copy of This is Your Afterlife. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

3.5 stars

This is Your Afterlife first came to my attention because of its beautiful cover and the person behind it – our very own Jenny from Seedlings and Supernatural Snark. The cover reflects the book perfectly: it is upbeat, sweet and light. Just what the doctor ordered. If you're looking for a comfort read, look no further. This book will make you laugh, swoon, and despite its title, it will leave you smiling ear to ear.

Keira's former crush and her school's football star shows up one day in her bedroom, but alas, he is no longer alive. Jimmy is Keira's first ghost, but she isn't surprised. Her recently deceased Grandma had the same gift. Keira and Jimmy have very little history between them, except in Keira's imagination, but an easy friendship develops fairly quickly and Keira is determined to find Jimmy's killer, regardless of the cost.

Unlike with Jimmy, she has far more history with his brother Dan. Jimmy may have been a safe infatuation, but Dan was the real deal – her best friend and confidant, until she hurt him terribly in eighth grade. Finding a way back from all the hurt isn't easy, but it's absolutely necessary if they're to help Jimmy and send him safely to his real afterlife.

I liked Keira a lot, and I simply adored Jimmy and Dan. The mystery part of this book is very predictable, which leaves the three main characters in charge of keeping us happily reading nevertheless, and these three do their job beautifully. Spending time in their company was so heartwarming and pleasant, I truly didn't want to leave them at all.

Stephanie Bentley narrated the story beautifully. Her voice sounds young, which is a definite advantage when you're borrowing your voice to a 16-year-old. I've been known to abandon YA audiobooks because the narrators sounded too old, but with Bentley, that's really not an issue. To make things even better, her voice characterization is fantastic. I've already checked out other books narrated by her on Audible and there are several I won't hesitate to buy.

This is Your Afterlife is a perfect book for those days when you find yourself tired of angst and unnecessary drama and you just want to relax with a sweet, undemanding read. It is a book about second chances and forgiveness, and while it may be slightly predictable at times, even that can be oddly relaxing.

Kim says

This is Your Afterlife is the debut novel from Vanessa Barnevald and I can't wait to see more from her. I enjoyed the characters and the story line was rather engrossing, although there were moments that were perhaps a little slow in pacing.

There were so many things to like about the main character, Kiera. I love flawed characters, characters not created to be anything more than a real person. That is Kiera. She is not the popular girl. She has made mistakes. She has real problems. That makes her someone I can relate to and understand. Her character is grieving for her recently passed grandmother, something I can all too easily understand. Her grandmother had her own special gifts, gifts that Kiera herself may finally be inheriting.

Dan and Jimmy are brothers and a source of contention for Kiera. The two brothers could not have been more different and the contrast and how Kiera relates to each of them is interesting. In a bittersweet twist, it was death that brought the three of them together in the ways that it did. There was definitely a touch of irony in that.

Even the antagonist, though this is a person that you are predisposed to dislike, was an interesting character. There were some deep issues there and it made for an interesting twist.

This story had a great blend of themes... friendship, betrayal, loss, adjustment, family, love, forgiveness, loyalty, right along with a little bit of humor.

My Recommendation: Barnevald's storytelling is quite nice and this is a story that touches on some very real issues without going overboard with the heavy emotional toll.

Amy Patrick says

This book grabbed me from the beginning and didn't let go. I literally read it in one day because I had to keep turning the pages. It was clever and funny with a great mystery element. The part where we learn what really happened between Keira and Dan hurt my heart, but I loved the way things turned out. Great YA read!

Barbara Gerry says

Once I started this book, I couldn't put it down. It's a fun, engaging read with just enough paranormal mixed with the romance. I totally enjoyed this book and will look for more from Vanessa Barnevald.

Abbie says

I am a non-believer of lost spirits and ghosts. It is my firm belief that when a person dies he or she leaves the Earth whether or not they still have any unfinished business. I think that when people say they can communicate with the dead it's not really the souls of the deceased but something dangerous. God claims His people and I believe that He wouldn't allow them to linger when He could take them to eternal paradise.

This is Your Afterlife is actually a quick and enjoyable read. I liked Keira and her spunky personality. She was a bit of a wallflower but her likable character, wit, and kind-heartedness just made me love her. The book is basically a tale about a geek girl developing supernatural abilities to communicate with spirits and trying to solve the murder of her school's Golden Boy. There was also a bit of romance sprinkled into the mix that I enjoyed. Jimmy Hawkins was a lovable ghost and I couldn't help but fall for his character. Even in the afterlife he still managed to be funny. I guessed the killer early on but it didn't make me like the book any less. I think this book would be perfect for middle school kids and I definitely recommend it.
