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***Ben Y and the Ghost in the Machine* by K.A. Holt**

Chronicle Books, 2021

9781452183213: (Hardcover)

\*Age Range: 10 and up (Suggested by Publisher)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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Ben Y's just about had it with school. Every corner she turns, she's being called "Benita," getting Dress Coded by Mr. Mann for some supposedly inappropriate item of clothing, or running into the ineffable, inescapable, indefinable Ace—who makes her feel weird, weirdly seen, and strangely at peace, all at once. Even her best buds—Ben B, Jordan J, and Javier; the kids under the stairs—are all far too content following the rules and making their school newspaper under the attentive direction of their beloved teacher, Ms. J. And home's no better. Last year, Ben Y's older brother died, and the family is still learning how to cope—if by coping you mean coming home to cry at lunch, or secretly building a friendship bracelet empire, or obsessively visiting a chatroom to talk to Benito's ghost. When Benito suddenly starts typing back, Ben Y must act. But what happens when those very actions make Ben Y's deepest secrets impossible to hide?

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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★ "Holt's sequel digs into Ben Y's journey grappling with grief and identity. The novel hits the important points of understanding and verbalizing what one is feeling. . . . An excellent addition to 'The Kids Under the Stairs' series and one that kids and adults alike will supremely enjoy."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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[Educator Guide](#)

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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Chronicle Books

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