



Ages 12 and up
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A note from the author

What makes your book real?

"Genre doesn't matter. I don't care if a character is running from zombies, looking for love in a dystopian fantasy, or bolting down Eggos at the breakfast nook. What matters to me is what's 'real,' or not begins and ends with character, and a realistic rendering of the human heart."

—JAMES PRELLER

A note from the editor

What made you acquire this book?

"James Preller talked to me about the idea of writing a teen novel that started with a car accident and then turned back the clock for the main character, starting a few weeks before. I knew he would handle the story masterfully, and I knew this filled a void for relevant and deeply moving 'realistic' teen fiction. Adult gatekeepers sometimes don't give teen readers enough credit for running deep—BEFORE YOU GO speaks to a wide audience of readers who want to be moved, affected, and changed by what they read."

—LIZ SZABLA

START A CONVERSATION ABOUT . . . **. . . *regrets***

The summer before his senior year, Jude gets his first job and falls in love for the first time. But Jude's house is kept dark, and no one talks much—it's been that way since his little sister drowned seven years ago when Jude was supposed to be watching her. Now, Jude is finally, finally starting to live. Really live. And then, life spins out of control. Again.

Discussion Questions

- The author begins the book with a pivotal moment in the characters' lives. Why do you think he chose to place this scene at the start of the novel?
- Out of all the people working at the Jones Beach concession stands, why do you think Jude is drawn to Becka when he first meets her?
- Corey is funny and extroverted; Jude is more serious. What do you believe makes Corey and Jude such good friends?
- Jude is a runner; his dad is a runner. Why do you think the author chose this? What does each character get from running?
- Something terrible has happened to Jude in his past; and something terrible happens to him again. What do you believe Jude's future holds? Will he be okay?