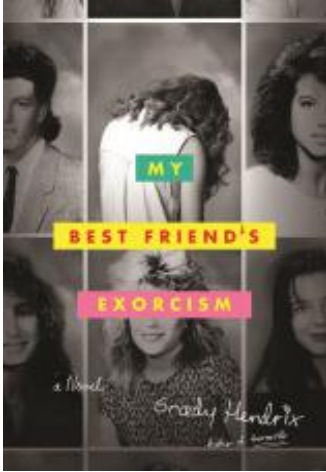


My Best Friend's Exorcism

by Grady Hendrix



About the Book

Abby and Gretchen have been best friends since fourth grade. Through the years, they have bonded over E.T., roller-skating and a shared love for pop music. But when they arrive at high school, things change. Gretchen begins to act different. As the strange coincidences and bizarre behavior start to pile up, Abby realizes there's only one possible explanation: Gretchen, her favorite person in the world, has a demon living inside her. And Abby is not about to let anyone or anything come between her and her best friend. With help from some unlikely allies, Abby embarks on a quest to save Gretchen. But is their friendship powerful enough to beat the devil?

Discussion Guide

1. Hendrix took inspiration from his high school experience to inform *MY BEST FRIEND'S EXORCISM*. Were there any aspects of the book that you recognize from your own high school experience?
2. The book takes place during the Cold War and era of "satanic panic" when there was a sense that the United States was vulnerable to just about any type of evil. How do you think this historical backdrop affects the behavior of the characters?
3. Music is at the center of Abby and Gretchen's friendship. What '80s song do you relate most with?
4. *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* is a large part of Abby's life. In what other ways does '80s pop culture inform Abby and Gretchen's friendship?
5. We're introduced to the friendship between the four girls --- Abby, Gretchen, Margaret and Glee --- fairly early on in the novel. What were your first impressions of the clique?

6. The girls' decision to drop acid is a turning point in the novel. How do you think this rite of passage affects the girls' relationships?
7. Abby and Gretchen come from different sides of the tracks. How do you think this affects their relationship as they grow up?
8. Gretchen, while under the influence of the devil, does a lot of terrible things. Which do you think is the worst?
9. Abby is a devoted friend. How far would you go if your best friend was possessed by the devil?

Author Bio

Grady Hendrix is a *New York Times* bestselling novelist and screenwriter living in New York City. He is the author of *WITCHCRAFT FOR WAYWARD GIRLS*, *HOW TO SELL A HAUNTED HOUSE*, *THE FINAL GIRL SUPPORT GROUP*, *THE SOUTHERN BOOK CLUB'S GUIDE TO SLAYING VAMPIRES*, *WE SOLD OUR SOULS*, *MY BEST FRIEND'S EXORCISM* and *HORRORSTÖR*. His books have sold over two million copies and have been translated into more than 20 languages. He also writes nonfiction and his history of the horror paperback boom of the '70s and '80s, *PAPERBACKS FROM HELL*, received the Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in Nonfiction.

Critical Praise

?If *The Exorcist* had been authored by Tina Fey instead of William Peter Blatty, it might have borne an uncanny resemblance to what Grady Hendrix has accomplished with *MY BEST FRIEND'S EXORCISM*.... Fans of satire, nostalgia, dark comedy and, well, demons should read this book.?

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