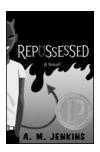
Books by A. M. Jenkins A Bibliography



Repossessed

Tr 978-0-06-083568-2 • \$15.99 (\$18.99) Lb 978-0-06-083569-9 • \$16.89 (\$19.89)

★ "Funny and clever. A quick, quirky, and entertaining read."

-KLIATT (starred review)

- Michael L. Printz Honor Book
- · ALA Best Book for Young Adults
- New York Public Library Book for the



Beating Heart

Tr 978-0-06-054607-6 • \$16.99 (\$18.99)

Lb 978-0-06-054608-3 • \$16.89 (\$20.89)

"Intriguing and certainly haunting. A winner.

—Kirkus Reviews

- ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
- New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age



Pb 978-0-06-447255-5 • \$7.99 (\$8.75)

- ★ "A brave, truthful, stylistically stunning young adult novel."
- —School Library Journal (starred review)
- ALA Top 10 Best Book for Young Adults
- ALA Booklist Editors' Choice
- Bulletin Blue Ribbon
- Los Angeles Times Book Prize
- New York Public Library Books for the
- Teen Age

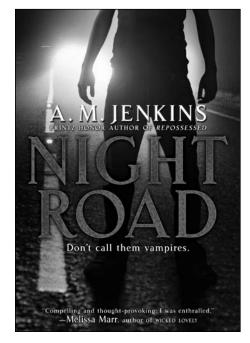


Out of Order

Pb 978-0-06-447374-3 • \$6.99 (\$8.99)

- ★ "A very funny portrait, without ever lapsing into stereotypes . . . a dead-on look at high school."
- —School Library Journal (starred review)
- · ALA Best Book for Young Adults
- New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age

New from A. M. Jenkins!



Night Road

Tr 978-0-06-054604-5 • \$16.99 (\$19.99) Lb 978-0-06-054605-2 • \$17.89 (\$20.89)

"A dark reimagining of a popular genre . . . multilayered, textured as a tapestry, and-alwaysexpectation-defying and vividly original."

-Michael Cart

"Read this as a tense thriller about vampires on a road trip or read it as a metaphorical tour de force about a boy becoming a man. But read it!"

-Robert Lipsyte, author of The Contender

"Compelling and thought-provoking: I was enthralled." -Melissa Marr, author of Wicked Lovely



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Prices and availability subject to change.

Guide prepared by Jonathan Hunt, a member of the 2008 Printz Committee and a library media teacher at three elementary schools in Modesto, California.

Reading Group Guide

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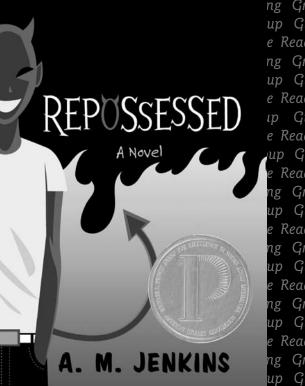
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Printz Honor Book Repossessed

By A. M. Jenkins

Rea Group Guide Reading Gi Guide Reading Group G Reading Group Guide Rea

in the USA 6/08 978-0-06-168928-4

About the Book

When Shaun, a typical suburban teenager, steps in front of a moving truck, the demon Kiriel sees an opportunity to take a vacation from his tormenting duties in hell. As Kiriel takes possession of Shaun's body, his new experiences fill him with wonder and awe. He comes to realize that being human is a lot different than he thought it would be, and the more he learns, the more he resolves to make the most of his short time on earth by leaving his mark on the lives of Shaun's friends and family.

Discussion Questions

- **1.** Although Kiriel reminds readers that humans have free will, he often feels like a cog in a vast machine subject to the whim of the Creator's plan. How do fate and free will play out in the novel?
- **2.** How does Kiriel's unique perspective—the eternal perspective—color his view of human relationships? How does it color his view of things that human beings often take for granted?
- **3.** How does Kiriel experience the seven deadly sins—envy, sloth, pride, greed, gluttony, wrath, and lust—over the course of the story? What conclusions does he come to about sin and punishment?
- **4.** Do you agree with Kiriel when he says, "Knowing doesn't hold a candle to doing" (p. 22)? What is the difference between knowing and doing?
- **5.** Kiriel wonders about punishment: "Why would an all-knowing One create a being and give it a nature—give it desire, give it need—and then reject that being for doing what its nature called it to do?" (p. 44). How would you answer this question?
- **6.** Compare and contrast Shaun's hopeless, superficial attraction to Emily with Kiriel's more realistic, pragmatic attraction to Lane. What is the relationship between love and attraction?

- **7.** Jason tells Bailey, "You're blinded by the prejudices of this tiny little society called high school" (p. 65). How does peer pressure effect popular opinion?
- **8.** Reed McGowan is a classic bully. How does Kiriel deal with him? How does his understanding of the psychology of bullying help him?
- **9.** What does Kiriel hope to accomplish before Shaun's body is repossessed? He often speaks of "leaving his mark" or "sowing the seed," but perhaps the most powerful metaphor for his legacy is the biblical account of the creation, which is alluded to in the three brief chapter interludes. What do these images suggest about people's ability to influence others for good or ill during mortal life?
- **10.** When Mr. Collins suspects Shaun of cheating, Kiriel responds by reminding him that "sometimes students *do* make a commitment to work harder" (p. 117). Who else is skeptical about Shaun's change in behavior? What does this skepticism say about human nature?
- **11.** Shaun's mom asks, "Who stole my son and replaced him with an angel?" (p. 161). Why does Kiriel act more like an angel than a demon? How would the story be different if it were narrated by one of the Unfallen?
- **12.** Kiriel tells Lane, "You're confusing beauty with this society's current idea of perfection of visual form" (p. 195). What is the difference between the two things? How does Kiriel help Lane to understand this difference?
- **13.** How is Kiriel like a first-person narrator? How is he like an omniscient third-person narrator?
- **14.** Religion and spirituality have been described as the final frontiers in young adult literature. What contribution does *Repossessed* make to the exploration of those frontiers?

Extension Activities

- **I. A Moment in Time.** Though Kiriel has existed for eternity, this novel captures him at a very specific moment in time. Draw a picture of Shaun and label his various body parts and articles of clothing with captions about how they are relevant to the story. Bonus points for using quotes from the book in your captions.
- **2. Acrostic Poem.** Write the title of the book vertically on a sheet of paper. Then use each letter in the title as the first letter of a line in an acrostic poem. Your poem should synthesize the plot, character, setting, style, and theme of the book as succinctly as possible. Bonus points for using poetic devices, such as imagery and alliteration.
- **3. Author Study.** A. M. Jenkins has written two other books with supernatural elements, *Beating Heart* (ghosts) and *Night Road* (vampires), and is also the author of realistic fiction, including the novels *Damage* and *Out of Order*. After reading one of these books, use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast it with *Repossessed*. What do the books have in common? How is each one unique? What patterns, trends, or themes do you see in A. M. Jenkins' books?
- **4. Mythology and Religion.** Research the Judaeo-Christian thought that A. M. Jenkins plays with in this novel. For example, investigate some of the biblical stories and compare them with contemporary retellings, such as *The Garden* by Elsie Aidinoff (the garden of Eden) or *Not the End of the World* by Geraldine McCaughrean (the flood). With its more subtle allusions to the creation and the war in heaven, does *Repossessed* belong in this category of retellings? Or is it better compared with *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis?
- **5. Reader's Theater.** Much of the action in *Repossessed* is relayed through dialogue that is crisp, funny, and memorable. Adapt some of the passages as monologues, dialogues, or scenes with multiple characters. Perform them with expression for an audience.

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