

NOT IF I SEE YOU FIRST by eric lindstrom



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Parker Grant doesn't need 20/20 vision to see right through you. That's why she created the Rules: Don't treat her any differently just because she's blind, and *never* take advantage. There will be no second chances. Just ask Scott Kilpatrick, the boy who broke her heart.

When Scott suddenly reappears in her life after being gone for years, Parker knows there's only one way to react—shun him so hard it hurts. She has enough on her mind already, like trying out for the track team (that's right, her eyes don't work but her legs still do), doling out tough-love advice to her painfully naive classmates, and giving herself gold stars for every day she hasn't cried since her dad's death three months ago. But avoiding her past quickly proves impossible, and the more Parker learns about what really happened—both with Scott, and her dad—the more she starts to question if things are always as they seem. Maybe, just maybe, some Rules are meant to be broken.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. As the novel is told from the perspective of a blind narrator, the characters are not introduced with the usual physical descriptions that authors often rely upon. What are some unconventional descriptors that Eric Lindstrom uses?
2. How do people intentionally and unintentionally break Parker's Rules? How does Parker's reliance on her Rules change over the course of the novel??
3. Rule #11 is: "Don't be weird." Why is this Rule important to Parker, and why might it be a challenging one for the people in Parker's life?
4. Parker claims that she "tells it like it is" and practices tough love, but sometimes her opinions come across as abrasive or mean. How do you differentiate between being honest and being kind?
5. What factors contribute to the tension in Parker's relationship with Aunt Celia? What might Celia's perspective be on their situation?
6. Why does Parker wear blindfolds? What do you think the blindfolds symbolize?
7. Once Parker learns the truth about Scott's middle school "prank," she second-guesses her initial reaction to the incident. Do you believe the depth of Parker's anger was justified at the time? Should she have forgiven Scott sooner, or did she make the right decision?
8. Even after Parker has forgiven Scott, he doesn't want to be friends with her. Do you believe his reasoning is justified?
9. What insights did you get from the novel about the life of someone navigating the world as a blind person? What insights did you get about navigating the world as a typical teenager?
10. The title on the book jacket is *Not if I See You First*, but the Braille says something different. Decipher the Braille. Now that you've read Parker Grant's story, what does this second message mean to you?