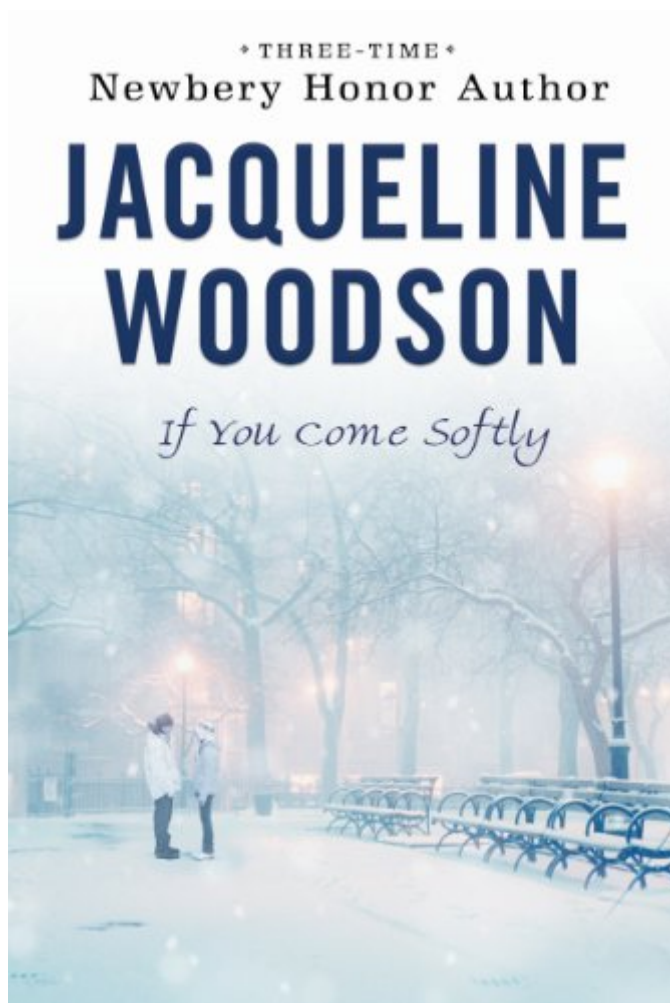


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# If You Come Softly



## Synopsis

Celebrating its twentieth anniversary, Jacqueline Woodson's beloved, lyrical story of star-crossed love is as timely as ever. Jeremiah feels good inside his own skin. That is, when he's in his own Brooklyn neighborhood. But now he's going to be attending a fancy prep school in Manhattan, and black teenage boys don't exactly fit in there. So it's a surprise when he meets Ellie the first week of school. In one frozen moment their eyes lock, and after that they know they fit together--even though she's Jewish and he's black. Their worlds are so different, but to them that's not what matters. Too bad the rest of the world has to get in their way. Reviewers have called Coretta Scott King Award-winning author Jacqueline Woodson's work "exceptional" (Publishers Weekly) and "wrenchingly honest" (School Library Journal), and have said "it offers a perspective on racism and elitism rarely found in fiction for this age group" (Publishers Weekly). In *If You Come Softly*, she delivers a powerful story of interracial love that leaves readers wondering "why" and "if only . . ."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm hiding in the bathroom at the barn crying, again. As the only dude here I was just asked to haul a 50 lb bag of feed. And due to my newly acquired farm strength I was convinced it was the wrong one because it felt more like 20 pounds. So I don't want to ruin my country rep of unadulterated machismo with a keen fashion sense to boot. I was totally caught off guard this time because Jacqueline usually makes me cry on the first page, not the last. Trust me, this is a new level of embarrassment to be caught sobbing in vintage mod shorts, a crisp tie dye from the '91 tour and muck boots (made in the USA of course), while surrounded by tough horse moms in wranglers.

I brought this book for my teenage daughter for Christmas. She read it before and talked for weeks about how she loved the story. I decided to give it to her as a gift.

This book makes my list of favorite books of all time, so much so that I've purchased it 5 times, yes FIVE. I lend it out and never get it back because its that good. Its a quick read, but a necessary one that pulls at your heart strings. Buy it, read it, love it. But don't lend it out because you won't get it back.

I've been a huge fan of Jacqueline Woodson every since I discovered a slim, sweet book titled *The Notebooks of Melanin Sun*. *If You Come Softly* has got so much heart it hurts. Woodson beautifully captures the magic, uncertainty, & dizzying effect of love in one's teens, complete with a strong dose of reality pie. I'm an aspiring young adult writer & Woodson is the author I'd like to be when I grow up.

good

I loved this story. It was beautiful and very sad. I was a bit disappointed that the author didn't delve more into how the characters handled the negative reactions from people who didn't agree with their relationship but overall, the story told an important message.

This book is another winner by Jacqueline Woodson, who seems very in-tune with her inner teen. It is especially timely as it covers a wide range of current kinds of teen issues like split families, siblings, class-ism, and inter-racial dating. Covering both the girl's and boy's points-of-view made it especially intriguing to me. I like Woodson's ear for dialogue, as well.

I chose a rating of 4 stars because the book was wonderful up until the last two chapters I thought Jeremiah died and they had a funeral but the last chapter it ended with Ellie telling where she was and Jeremiah wants to meet her family. Otherwise it was a very amazing book.

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