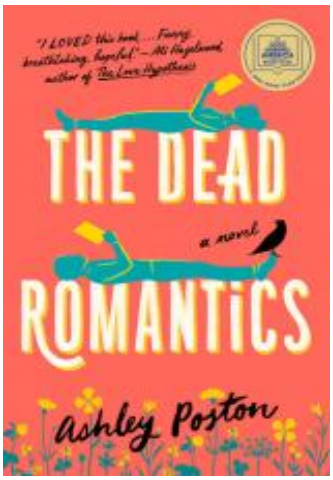
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The Dead Romantics

by Ashley Poston



About the Book

A disillusioned millennial ghostwriter who, quite literally, has some ghosts of her own has to find her way back home in this sparkling adult debut from national bestselling author Ashley Poston.

Florence Day is the ghostwriter for one of the most prolific romance authors in the industry, and she has a problem --- after a terrible breakup, she no longer believes in love. It?s as good as dead.

When her new editor, a too-handsome mountain of a man, won't give her an extension on her book deadline, Florence prepares to kiss her career goodbye. But then she gets a phone call she never wanted to receive, and she must return home for the first time in a decade to help her family bury her beloved father.

For 10 years, she's run from the town that never understood her, and even though she misses the sound of a warm Southern night and her eccentric, loving family and their funeral parlor, she can?t bring herself to stay. Even with her father gone, it feels like nothing in this town has changed. And she hates it.

Until she finds a ghost standing at the funeral parlor?s front door, just as broad and infuriatingly handsome as ever, and he?s just as confused about why he?s there as she is.

Romance is most certainly dead...but so is her new editor, and his unfinished business will have her second-guessing everything she?s ever known about love stories.

Discussion Guide

1. Florence is a ghostwriter for Anne Nichols. Do you think books written by ghostwriters are just as important to an author?s legacy as those written by the author themselves?

2. Usually, keeping secrets can shake a person?s trust in someone else. But Florence?s dad kept the secret that he knew who Florence ghostwrote for and had read all of those books. Do you think some secrets can actually build trust once revealed?

3. Throughout the novel, Florence struggles with trying to find the perfect ending. If you could write any sort of happily ever after, how would it go?

4. Both Ben and Florence find comfort in romance novels. What are some of your favorite comfort reads?

5. There are many depictions of afterlives in the media --- ghosts, reapers, spirits --- from all different cultures. Why do you think the theme of death is so universally explored in stories and the concept of life (or some semblance of it) after death?

6. What is a book you loved that you believe more people should read? What did you love most about it?

7. Death, and how a person handles it, is a big part of the novel. If you could leave a list behind for your loved ones, like Xavier does in the story, what would be on it?

8. If Ben and Florence were put in a punderdome, who do you think would win? Kidding --- but in truth, do you think humor and tragedy go hand in hand? Why or why not?

9. Do you feel Lee Marlow was justified in writing *When the Dead Sing*? Do you think original ideas exist? Or do we all pull inspiration --- knowingly or not --- from the experiences we?ve had and the people we?ve met throughout our lives?

10. If Ben and Florence had a sequel, what do you think it would be about? How do you think Ben will handle his new-found power of seeing dead people?

11. What do you think Florence will write next?

Author Bio

Ashley Poston is the *New York Times* bestselling author of THE DEAD ROMANTICS, THE SEVEN YEAR SLIP, A NOVEL LOVE STORY, SOUNDS LIKE LOVE and THE SOMEDAY GARDEN. She writes full-time from her little gray house and spoils her three cats. When not writing, she bides her time between South Carolina and New York, and all the bookstores between.

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