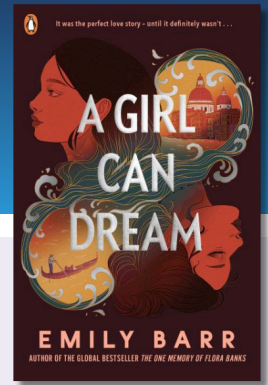




BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Toxic relationships • Identity • Friendship
Grief • Mental health • Recovery

A Girl Can Dream

by Emily Barr

17-year-old Hazel is on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Venice with her two best friends to celebrate her escape from a toxic relationship with an older man. But strange events keep occurring as she recalls her troubled past, and they seem to be tied to the appearances of a mysterious girl.



OUR THOUGHTS

“A challenging and emotionally intense read, with vivid characters that feel authentic, sympathetic, and realistically flawed. A difficult topic, well handled and innovative.”

TIME TO TALK

- 1 In the flashback scenes, what do you think was the earliest sign that Hazel's relationship with Freddie was unhealthy?
- 2 Phoebe and Enzo try to support Hazel through her troubles, even when she pushes them away. Can you list some of the ways in which they are supportive to her? Are all of them obvious?
- 3 Freddie's friends disapprove of his relationship with Hazel. What do you think their reasons are? Do you think there are reasons that they don't explicitly say?
- 4 Barr's descriptions of Venice make it seem magical and timeless. What sort of words and phrasing does she use? Could you try writing about a place you know in a similar style, to make it seem magical for somebody who has never been there?
- 5 The supernatural elements of the story are introduced very gradually. What do you think was the first obvious sign that something fantastical was happening? Did you work out what was going on before it was revealed?
- 6 Hazel is confused about her identity in various ways throughout the book. What elements of her identity does she question? What outside factors influence her image of herself?
- 7 Finding out the truth about Freddie's late brother is the final straw that convinces Hazel to end their relationship. What would it feel like to find out something about somebody you were close to that changed your perception of them? Can you think of any examples?
- 8 Imagine you had a friend who was going through similar problems to Hazel. Can you write them a letter offering support and encouragement? What would you advise them to do about their unhealthy relationship?

TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:

