

Jodie by Hilary McKay is a book that totally surprised me. I thought it was going to be just another ghost story, but it's way deeper than that. It's about this girl, Jodie, who's kind of a loner at school. She doesn't really fit in, and she spends most of her time just observing everyone else. It's like she's on the outside looking in, which I think a lot of us can relate to sometimes.

Then, her class goes on this trip to a field centre near this massive salt marsh. Seriously, this marsh is like something out of a movie. It's all muddy and creepy, with these weird little creeks and tons of birds. Hilary McKay describes it so well; you can practically feel the dampness in the air and hear the squawking. It's kind of beautiful, but also eerie, which is a perfect match for how Jodie's feeling inside.

At first, Jodie's not exactly thrilled about the trip. She'd rather just stay home and read a book. But the marsh becomes her own little world, a place where she can escape all the drama at school. She explores it on her own, and that's when things get interesting.

One minute she's just walking along, and the next thing you know, she's trapped by the tide! It's a total nail-biter moment. And while she's stuck there, something weird starts happening. She feels this presence, like someone's there with her, but she can't see anyone. It's like a ghost, but not a scary, boo-in-your-face ghost. It's more like a feeling, a whisper from the past.

The ghost part isn't cheesy or anything. It makes you think about the history of the marsh and the people who used to live there. It's like Jodie starts to connect with them somehow, even though they're long gone. It's kind of spooky, but also really cool.

What I really liked about "Jodie" is that she's not some helpless character who needs to be rescued. She's actually really smart and resourceful. She figures things out on her own, and she doesn't give up, even when things get really scary. She learns to face her fears and discovers that she's way stronger than she thought.

Hilary McKay is an amazing writer. She makes you feel like you're right there with Jodie, experiencing everything she's experiencing. She's really good at describing the marsh and how Jodie's feeling. It's not just a ghost story; it's about friendship, finding yourself, and realizing that everyone has their own special strengths. I'd totally recommend this book to anyone who likes a good mystery with a bit of a spooky twist, but also a story that makes you think. It's one of those books that sticks with you after you're done reading it.