

# CATHERINE

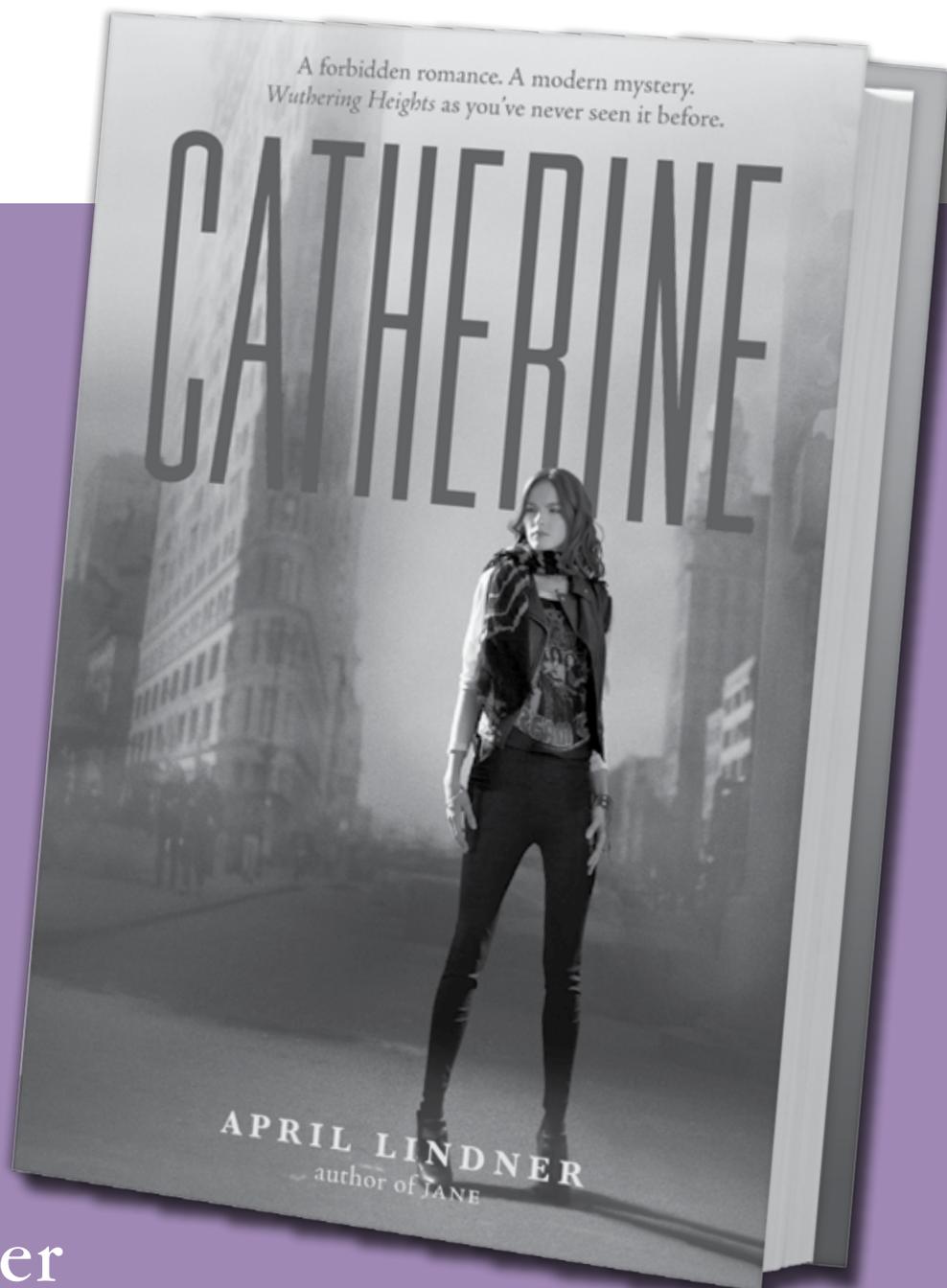
## Curriculum connections

- ❖ Literature
- ❖ Psychology
- ❖ Music

## Thematic connections

- ❖ Romantic love
- ❖ Suspense
- ❖ Family
- ❖ Grief

**Ages: 12 & Up**



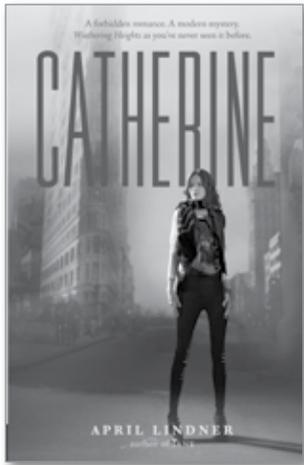
by  
**April Lindner**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- “Of all the lies a father could possibly tell his only daughter,” Chelsea thought (page 6), “this seemed an especially cruel one – letting me believe my mom was dead when she wasn’t.” Why did Chelsea’s father lie about her mother? What would you have done in his situation?
- Explore The Underground, the legendary Manhattan rock club once owned by Catherine’s father. Why was it such a lure for young people like Hence? How did growing up in The Underground shape Catherine’s childhood? How did it shape her brother Quentin’s childhood?
- What sacrifices was Catherine willing to make for Hence? Do you think he deserved them? What sacrifices was Hence, as a young man, willing to make for Catherine? Did he change over time?
- How does Hence treat Coop? Why does Coop put up with Hence’s moodiness? How does Chelsea and Coop’s romance differ from Catherine and Hence’s?
- Why did Catherine marry Chelsea’s father? Why did she leave him? How do you judge her behavior?
- Both Catherine and Chelsea lost their mothers at an early age. Compare and contrast the relationship each had with her father. Why didn’t Chelsea tell her father that she was going to New York? Should she have?
- “What kind of name was Hence?” (page 13), Chelsea wonders before meeting the man. What does the word hence mean? Assuming Hence chose it himself, why do you think he did so? What makes Hence such an apt name for him?
- “I’ve always like mysteries,” Catherine tells herself after first meeting Hence (page 28), “and now one has landed on my doorstep, just begging to be solved.” Why was Catherine attracted to mysteries? What are Hence’s mysteries? Does Catherine solve them?
- Is it possible to love too deeply? Did Catherine’s love for Hence change her life for the better, or for the worse? Why?
- Chelsea resembled her mother so closely that Hence was nearly overwhelmed by emotion when they first met. In what other ways were mother and daughter alike? How were they also quite different?
- “*This is truest book I’ve ever read,*” Catherine writes in her copy of *Wuthering Heights* (page 58). How much influence can a book have on a reader? Have you ever had a similar feeling after finishing a novel? If so, what novel?
- Late one night in New York, Chelsea sees a girl beckoning outside her window, asking to come in. She thinks it’s a nightmare, but Hence seems to have another idea. What do you think happened that night? At the very end of the novel, what do you think Chelsea sees by the woods?
- Take a closer look at the novel’s structure. Who are its narrators? What purpose does each serve? Could the story have been told without Catherine’s notebooks? Why, or why not?
- Why was Quentin so opposed to a romance between his sister and Hence? What turned him into a killer?
- Hence and Catherine never had the chance to build a life together, but try to imagine them as a married couple. Where would they live? How would they raise their children? How happy would they be?
- *Catherine* is a modern day retelling of Emily Brontë’s *Wuthering Heights*, first published in 1847. What keeps a novel timeless? If you’ve had the opportunity to read the original version, in what respects does it differ from *Catherine*?

# CATHERINE

## about the book



**CATHERINE**  
by April Lindner  
978-0-316-19692-5

True love never dies in this modern retelling of one of literature's most haunting star-crossed romances, *Wuthering Heights*.

**Catherine** is tired of struggling musicians befriending her just so they can get a gig at her Dad's famous Manhattan club, The Underground. Then she meets mysterious Hence, an unbelievably passionate and talented musician on the brink of success. As their relationship grows, both are swept away in a fiery romance. But when their love is tested by a cruel whim of fate, will pride keep them apart?

**Chelsea** has always believed that her mom died of a sudden illness, until she finds a letter her dad has kept from her for years—a letter from her mom, Catherine, who didn't die: She *disappeared*. Driven by unanswered questions, Chelsea sets out to look for her—starting with the return address on the letter: The Underground.

Told in two voices, 20 years apart, *Catherine* interweaves a timeless forbidden romance with a compelling modern mystery.

## about the author



Photo © Nick Belial

April Lindner is also the author of *Jane*, an acclaimed retelling of *Jane Eyre*. She lives in Pennsylvania with her husband and two sons and is professor of English at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

## also by April Lindner



HC 978-0-316-08420-8  
PB 978-0-316-08419-2

## Praise for *Jane*

**“Set against a vivid, well-drawn, contemporary world, this is a compelling adaptation of an ageless romance.”**

—Booklist

**“A fresh and addictive adaptation.”**

—Publishers Weekly



LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY  
BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Educator guide prepared by Anne Quirk.