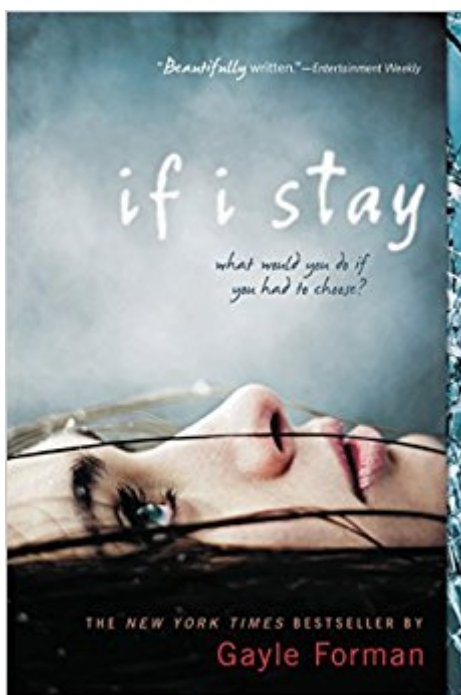


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# If I Stay



## Synopsis

The critically acclaimed, bestselling novel from Gayle Forman, author of *Where She Went*, *Just One Day*, and *Just One Year*. Soon to be a major motion picture, starring Chloe Moretz! In the blink of an eye everything changes. Seventeen-year-old Mia has no memory of the accident; she can only recall what happened afterwards, watching her own damaged body being taken from the wreck. Little by little she struggles to put together the pieces- to figure out what she has lost, what she has left, and the very difficult choice she must make. Heartwrenchingly beautiful, this will change the way you look at life, love, and family. Now a major motion picture starring Chloe Grace Moretz, Mia's story will stay with you for a long, long time.

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #4,635 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Music #9 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences #12 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying

## Customer Reviews

An Interview with Gayle Forman Q: You started your career as a journalist and your first book is a travelogue about going around the world. Is YA literature a departure for you? Gayle Forman: Actually, it's more of a homecoming. My first writing job was at Seventeen, where I spent five years on staff and as a contributor reporting the magazine's social-issues stories. I loved writing for teens then because—contrary to popular opinion—they really care about serious issues (from child soldiers in Africa to kids embroiled in the drug war here) and they engage in their reading with such passion. So, now that I'm writing young-adult literature, it feels like I've come full circle. Q: This book explores some serious themes. Why is this a book for kids and not adults? GF: It's a book for kids precisely because it explores serious

themes. Teenagers are grappling with choices about life and love as much as adults, so why shouldn't their reading reflect that? I don't set out to write YA. It just seems like I'm drawn to stories about young people. That said, I think *If I Stay* is for adults, too. I love the idea of teens reading this book and then handing it off to their parents. Q: Many key characters are serious musicians, and songs are referenced throughout the book. Are you a musician? GF: No. Except for piano lessons when I was a kid and a brief spate of guitar playing in my teens, I've never played an instrument. I am, however, a huge music fan. And my husband is a musician; he was playing in a punk band when we met, so I've spent a lot of my life ensconced in that scene. I seem drawn to writing about musicians, though I've never been all that interested in the cello until Mia popped into my head. Q: What inspired you to write this book? GF: Music. Oregon. People I have loved. And unfortunately, the book is inspired by a real-life tragedy that happened several years ago. Q: This is a book about death, but it's not depressing. Why is that? GF: Maybe because it's really about the power of love of family, friends, music and therefore it ultimately affirms life. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Starred Review. The last normal moment that Mia, a talented cellist, can remember is being in the car with her family. Then she is standing outside her body beside their mangled Buick and her parents' corpses, watching herself and her little brother being tended by paramedics. As she ponders her state (Am I dead? I actually have to ask myself this), Mia is whisked away to a hospital, where, her body in a coma, she reflects on the past and tries to decide whether to fight to live. Via Mia's thoughts and flashbacks, Forman (*Sisters in Sanity*) expertly explores the teenager's life, her passion for classical music and her strong relationships with her family, friends and boyfriend, Adam. Mia's singular perspective (which will recall Alice Sebold's adult novel, *The Lovely Bones*) also allows for powerful portraits of her friends and family as they cope: Please don't die. If you die, there's going to be one of those cheesy Princess Diana memorials at school, prays Mia's friend Kim. I know you'd hate that kind of thing. Intensely moving, the novel will force readers to take stock of their lives and the people and things that make them worth living. Ages 14 & up. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

*Where She Went* - Gayle Forman This is a beautiful story - told from Adam's POV. However the story begins after a period of time - I think 3 years has traversed. Ut I stand to be corrected. Adam

has/was supportive of Mia. This is Adam's story and here we find a confused, hurt and very vulnerable young man trying to traverse the pressures of fame and the media attention. Thankfully even at Adam's weakest moments Mia finds her way back to Adam, magically seeing that he has attended her concert in New York. This happens to be three years down the track. A period of long separation that has left Adam floundering and trying to find himself and his reason for being. This is deeply saddening because as you travel through their travels going forward I felt that Mia deserted Adam. However the reasons for this are for you, the reader to find out, I do not wish to be a spoiler here. However, what I will say is that I was more camp Adam than Mia at this point in the story, Read their epic discovery, the feelings they hold deep down will make you cry, so be warned. I hope you have read the first book because this had me in tears for most of the duration of Mia's story but I am going to say Adam's version was, for me by far the better read. I was invested in his version because he truly loved Mia. I didn't like her accusations in the least. - Adam was supportive at the very least! Enjoy cos it is an emotional roller coaster ride with an epic ending. If there was a movie then I would have elected to see Adam's version first because you will see and hear her extremely unfair accusation. I am more camp Adam! Gayle Forman has written 2 beautiful stories about two people, their love of music and the tragedy that changed everything for both Mia and Adam. Mia's story is painful but truly beautiful however sorry for me Adam rocked the whole way in his version of events. Lesley S

T & G Book Boutique Reviews: <http://tgbookboutique.blogspot.com> "Love, it never dies. It never goes away, it never fades, so long as you hang on to it. Love can make you immortal." "Ok well let me start off with how I felt before I read this book. I had heard so much about this book and it was recommended to me and I was really eager to start. The only problem was I put it up there at the top of my reading list but once I started, it wasn't what I was expecting. I didn't like the book as a whole and I don't know what it was (probably the writing style) but it had some good parts to it. I liked how I could connect to some things the character said and how the memories would play throughout the book. I liked that Adam and Mia had a complicated relationship. This made the book seem real because in other books you see how all the couples have such a perfect relationship with just one problem and that is unreal while Mia and Adam started off with an uncomfortable start to their relationship. I found this endearing, as well as how they would feel towards one another, their doubts, their differences, and how their relationship developed through time. Even through all that they still fell in love with each other. That's why I found it really sweet that Adam

tried everything he could to get in to see Mia at the hospital. It was quite sad that she saw the accident and her family dead right in front of her eyes. Overall, it was an okay book but I think that in this case (which for me is almost never) the movie will be better than the book.-Love T

This is a real journey. These were the first books I read after 6 months of catharsis. But this duality (if this word exists, I think the correct one is duality) it was a real wake up call to this catharsis. We all can do a matchmaker of our lives through both, or better all of the characters in the books. The parents, the grandparents, the close friends, the tragedy, the healing, the recovery, the recounting of yourself through the loss/healing/ reborn. Of course for Mia and Adams the first and ending point was the love for music. Which was at some point an issue of division for their love, their existence, but at the end still the glue of their lives, their love, their future. I particularly loved the paranormal way you can experiment in both, a lot of stories to tell in the real life can be reaffirmed the truth in the "named" paranormal stuff. Very well written. I read "If I Stay" in a midday, I think it was 3 hours and a half to be more accurate. I've been trapped in this world of magnificent words that even I was post third shift (you know nurse, anesthesiologist in a Trauma center, shift from 11p-7a), with just a bit of sleep hours, I wasn't able to quit it and even started this one right away I finished the first. I think 5 stars are tamed to rate this both masterpieces. I'll recommend it with my eyes closed indeed. Standing ovation Gayle. Looking forward to read your other works.

The follow up to If I Stay, Where She Went brings you back to Mia and how life looks after her decision to fight and stay on Earth rather than pass on with her family that she lost in a terrible car accident. My heart broke for Mia and how hard it must have been to go through each day without her family. She understandably leaves her town and continues on with her music but still only seems like the shell she once was. You also get to see how the accident not only affected her but the life of those closest to her as well. How Adam fights to not lose her and try to bring her back to him. Such an emotional read but is written so well that you never want to put it down.

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