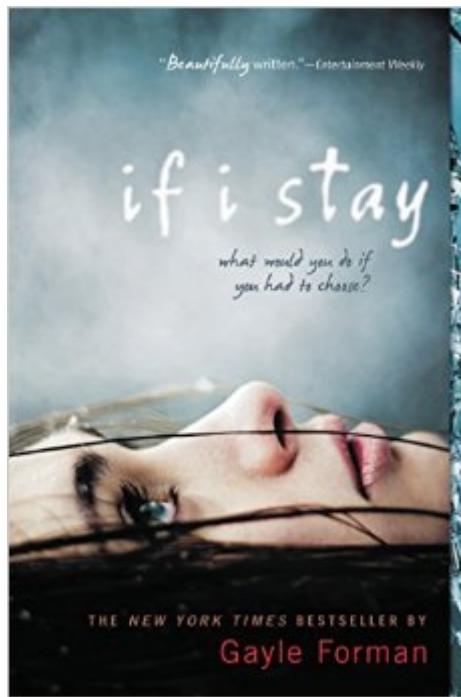


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# If I Stay



## 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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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6,520 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,806 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Music](#) #4 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences](#) #9 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings](#)

## Customer Reviews

If *I Stay* is a bittersweet memory of a family and their loved ones. It's told through the eyes of Mia, who watches herself being treated in the hospital as her loved ones surround her. And she has to make the toughest choice of all...I really love the way the story was told, while Mia is watching over her own body in the hospital she is reminded of memories of her family and friends and through that we got to know them better. It was beautiful how the story of her life unfolds. I absolutely adored her family and friends, everyone was their own character with specific traits and quirks, and what a loving family as well! That made me that much more emotionally invested in the story, they seemed so real. For as much as this book falls into the heartbreaking and sad category it was actually rather funny at times! It made the book so much easier for me to read. I also loved how much music

played a part of the story, Mia with her cello, her boyfriend Adam with his band and her father's days in a band as well. Music was a beautiful background for this story. All in all a bittersweet and rewarding book! I'm not always one for sad books but recently I've been finding out that there are some I actually really love and this is definitely one of them!

After reading all the reviews here, I was expecting to read a beautiful, masterful, moving story. Instead, what I got was the distinct feeling that I was reading a Young Adult book geared towards the 12-16 year old female demographic. Warning: This may be the harshest review I've ever written about anything. Ever. So don't read on if you've decided you're going to feel personally offended by an opposing viewpoint. I understand that this tale is being told through the voice of a teen girl, hence the naive and youthful tone, but I really feel it could've been done in a more lyrical, artistic way. I was expecting something along the lines of Alice Sebold's "The Lovely Bones" -- which was literary art. It was transcendent. However, listening to Mia's "thoughts" was like nails on a chalkboard for me. Listening to a pretentious 17-year-old girl who lacks any real depth because her life has been SO charmed really grated on my nerves. I didn't care about any of the characters -- none were particularly likable because they were all so cliché'd and caricature-ish. I was irritated to the point of exhaustion by constantly hearing how awesomely fun and rad and liberal the parents were (it's like, WE GET IT ALREADY! The parents were ex-rock star hipsters! How surprising and unexpected!). And Mia's boyfriend is a handsome and famous rock star himself who -- gasp! -- surprises everyone by actually falling in love with her even though she's just a "nerdy" Juilliard-bound classical musician! Wow, what a hip dichotomy! Mia's backstory reads like a condescending junior-high romance novel, or a very bad Nickelodeon sitcom. The whole story came off as juvenile, amateurish, one-dimensional, incredibly cheesy (especially the parts that were meant to tug at the heart strings), way too obvious, and full of tired stereotypes. I couldn't get into it but forced myself to get to the last page, because I held out hope 'til the bitter end that this story might somehow redeem itself and resolve in a beautiful or unexpected way. I was sadly mistaken.

I had such high expectations for this book. I just couldn't connect with this book past the accident. I felt the author baited us with the vivid unfolding of the crash then switched. I was there with Mia in the early events of the accident. Then she lost me. The book lost me. I couldn't invest emotionally into any of the characters because not much was expounded upon besides what the author kept beating into the dead horse; mom and dad are punk rockers who slid without a fight into parenthood. Dad was a slacker who woke up one day and decided to be the polar opposite of a

slacker. Mom was the tough cookie who loved the Peter Pan Dad until she made him change. Mia was so alone, even with such a present and accepting family, that she made problems where there were none. 'I'm the misfit because I don't look like my family. I'm odd man out because of my preference of music. My boyfriend likes me just the way I am. My best friend is honest with me. I'm a promising cellist who may go to Juilliard.' Her problems just felt so forced. And not teen angst forced, just forced. More than once I wanted to put the book down because of the emotional jails Mia confined herself to. The only time I teared up was when her Gramps cried. Other than that, this book does nothing but give YA readers the ammunition they need to feel that the world should revolve around them even when they've lost their entire family. Or that their parents aren't nearly as cool as Mia's. Who let her smoke, drink, have sex, and stay out with her drunk boyfriend until the wee hours of the morning. I also felt the back and forth of the flashbacks were too unnecessary. It made the tempo of the story 'sticky'. I never experienced the gut wrenching decision Mia had to make because there weren't enough heartfelt back stories between she and her family. I just wanted it to pull me in and it didn't.

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