



The Distance from Me to You

By Marina Gessner

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The Distance from Me to You By Marina Gessner

***Wild* meets *Endless Love* in this multilayered story of love, survival, and self-discovery**

McKenna Berney is a lucky girl. She has a loving family and has been accepted to college for the fall. But McKenna has a different goal in mind: much to the chagrin of her parents, she defers her college acceptance to hike the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia with her best friend. And when her friend backs out, McKenna is determined to go through with the dangerous trip on her own. While on the Trail, she meets Sam. Having skipped out on an abusive dad and quit school, Sam has found a brief respite on the Trail, where everyone's a drifter, at least temporarily.

Despite lives headed in opposite directions, McKenna and Sam fall in love on an emotionally charged journey of dizzying highs and devastating lows. When their punch-drunk love leads them off the trail, McKenna has to persevere in a way she never thought possible to beat the odds or risk both their lives.

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The Distance from Me to You By Marina Gessner **Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 10 Up—McKenna Berney and her BFF Courtney made a pact to defer college for a year to hike the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia. When Courtney bails on her, McKenna is determined to face the challenge alone. With miles of practice hikes under her belt, and top-notch gear, the protagonist sets off on her journey. While on the trail, McKenna meets Sam, who is a high school dropout and on the run from his abusive father. Their friendship quickly evolves into romance. Their journey on the trail is rigorous, with miles of choppy terrain and limited supplies until they reach a local town along the route. When Sam has the idea to go off the trail, something rule-following McKenna would never consider, she gives in, thinking it will be an adventure. That decision puts their love and survival skills to the test. Gessner's debut novel speaks volumes about what it means to truly survive in the wilderness, both alone and with the one you love. Situations including wild animal confrontations, starvation, dehydration, and near death are addressed with authenticity. The panic and fear that set in when they lose their way will strike a nerve with hikers and nonhikers alike. Gessner handles dishonesty (McKenna's parents think that Courtney is with her), first sexual experience, and survival with the utmost sensitivity, shedding light on the range of human emotions.

VERDICT A great add to YA collections, especially for those with a taste for the outdoors.—Erin Holt, Williamson County Public Library, Franklin, TN

Review

Praise for *The Distance from Me to You*

"A wilderness adventure dashed with romance and danger . . . readers should find it easy to relate to McKenna's desire to take risks, prove her independence, and finish the trail at all costs."--**Publishers Weekly**

"Gessner writes vividly of the trail and hiking . . . She brings McKenna and Sam to life as well-rounded characters, gradually building their relationship to a satisfying and realistic level. The star of the show here, however, is the Appalachian Trail and the adventures the teens experience on it. Good romance, great wilderness."--**Kirkus Reviews**

"Readers will enjoy the compelling, well-paced depiction of the adventure and lore of the AT, and they will be glad to find such a tough-minded, capable heroine in a realistic novel."--**BCCB**

" A great add to YA collections, especially for those with a taste for the outdoors."--**SLJ**

"[Gessner] has created a romance and adventure tale in one."--**VOYA**

"This story combines adventure and romance in a great read, especially for anyone with an interest in hiking. Readers will enjoy this page-turner.."--**School Library Connection**

About the Author

Marina Gessner (www.ninadegramont.com) is the pen name of Nina de Gramont. Nina is a writer, teacher, and mom, not necessarily in that order. Her work has appeared in *Redbook*, *Harvard Review*, *Nerve*, and *Seventeen*. She lives in North Carolina with her husband and daughter. Follow her on Twitter: @NinadeGramont

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