



And We Stay

By Jenny Hubbard

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A Michael L. Printz Honor Award Winner

“A gentle, lyrical story of incomprehensible sorrow faced with quiet courage.”—ELIZABETH WEIN, *New York Times* bestselling author

“Hubbard treats tragedy and new beginnings with a skilled, delicate hand.”—JOHN COREY WHALEY, author of *Where Things Come Back*, winner of the Michael L. Printz Award

Senior Paul Wagoner walks into his school with a stolen gun, threatens his girlfriend, Emily Beam, and then takes his own life. Soon after, angry and guilt-ridden Emily is sent to a boarding school in Amherst, Massachusetts, where two quirky fellow students and the spirit of Emily Dickinson offer helping hands. But it is up to Emily Beam to heal her own damaged self, to find the good behind the bad, hope inside the despair, and springtime under the snow.

A Boston Globe Best YA Novel of the Year

A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year

A Tayshas High School Reading List Selection

A North Carolina Young Adult book Award Nominee

* "As **graceful** as a feather drifting down, this lyrical story delivers a deep journey of healing on a tragic theme."—*Kirkus Reviews, Starred*

* "*And We Stay* is a **little gem of a book**. . . . there is certainly something for anyone looking for a good read with a strong, believable female lead who is working her hardest to overcome tragedy."—*School Library Journal, Starred*

“Hubbard’s writing is **elegant** and emotional.”—*Publisher’s Weekly*

“This novel is accomplished, polished, and mixes prose and poetry to **stunning** effect.”—*Booklist*

“Hubbard . . . **captures perfectly** the turbulence of young love, the bonds of friendship, and the push-and-pull dynamic between teens and adults.”—*VOYA*

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Emily Beam is a new student at Amherst School for Girls. There are rumors, of course, about why she has entered the school in January of her junior year, but none of them come close to reality. The truth remains only for Emily to replay over and over, each time revealing a bit more about the circumstances leading up to the day when her boyfriend entered the school library where she was working with her class, lured her into the stacks to talk, and then shot himself in the head. (By the way, If you're wondering why no one simply Googled Emily's mysterious past, her story is set in 1995, perhaps for that very reason.) As the teen acclimates to boarding-school life, she keeps her story close to her chest, but reveals herself little by little through the poems she writes and ultimately shares. Emily feels an affinity for her namesake, Emily Dickinson, who lived and wrote just down the street from ASG, and draws on her spirit to pour her emotions onto paper. And We Stay is a little gem of a book. Readers learn as much about Dickinson's beliefs and poetry as they do about friendship, first love, teen suicide, and even abortion—not an easy balancing act. Yet despite the heavy topics, the book feels sweet and poetic and never gratuitous. Budding poets may particularly appreciate Emily's story, but there is certainly something for anyone looking for a good read with a strong, believable female lead who is working her hardest to overcome tragedy.—Jill Heritage Maza, Montclair Kimberley Academy, Montclair, NJ

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Like Paper Covers Rock (2011), Hubbard's sophomore novel has a boarding-school setting and a main character who writes poetry and draws inspiration from a famous writer. And also like Paper Covers Rock, this novel is accomplished, polished, and mixes prose and poetry to stunning effect. After Emily Beam discovers that she is pregnant and breaks up with her boyfriend, he walks into the school library, threatens Emily, and then shoots himself. After an abortion, Emily is sent away to the Amherst School for Girls, in Amherst, Massachusetts, which is located in the hometown of Emily's idol, Emily Dickinson. The spirit of Dickinson is everywhere—even her voice echoes in Emily's head—and as Emily immerses herself in Dickinson's 1,775 poems, she writes her anguish into poems of her own, which flood her brain constantly. Emily's path to healing involves moving back and forth in time, to memories of Paul, and sharing her poems with empathetic roommate, K. T. The third-person, present-tense voice is compelling. Sounding almost like stage directions ("Emily Beam is sighing all the time"), Hubbard's narrative tone will only make readers want to lean in closer. The poems themselves are insightful and poignant, illuminating the dark corners of Emily's psyche. And though Emily may be damaged and the winter of 1994 is long, happier times—and spring—seem on the horizon. Grades 9-12. --Ann Kelley

Review

Starred Review, Kirkus Reviews, November 15, 2013:

"Teasing out strands of the past and the present, Hubbard masterfully twines together a story of one girl's journey to self-identity...As graceful as a feather drifting down, this lyrical story delivers a deep journey of healing on a tragic theme."

Starred Review, Booklist, November 15, 2013:

"This novel is accomplished, polished, and mixes prose and poetry to stunning effect...Hubbard's narrative tone will only make readers want to lean in closer."

Starred Review, School Library Journal, January 2014:

"A little gem of a book...Despite the heavy topics, the book feels sweet and poetic and never gratuitous.

Budding poets may particularly appreciate Emily's story, but there is certainly something for anyone looking for a good read with a strong, believable female lead who is working her hardest to overcome tragedy."

Publishers Weekly, October 21, 2013:

"Hubbard's writing is elegant and emotional...Mature readers who enjoy a bit of melancholy and might spark to Dickinson will be in good company on Emily's journey."

BookPage, February 2014:

"Hubbard is an accomplished poet as well as a novelist, and Emily Beam's poems are remarkably good. Writing these poems leads Emily out of the darkness of a New England winter and into a fragile spring—out of tragedy and into something resembling hope."

Shelf Awareness, February 21, 2014:

"Most poetry comes from a place of deep emotion. That's certainly true for Emily Beam, Jennifer Hubbard's (*Paper Covers Rock*) sympathetic protagonist in *And We Stay...* Hubbard convincingly integrates Emily Beam's poems alongside her recollections of Paul and her life before boarding school."

VOYA, December 2013:

"[Hubbard] captures perfectly the turbulence of young love, the bonds of friendship, and the push-and-pull dynamic between teens and adults...Definitely recommend this book to your introspective patrons who relish romantic tragedy, poetry, and intricate relationships among girls and their boyfriends, friends, and teachers."

TeenReads.com, January 22, 2014:

"This book is truly beautiful both inside and out. Within the story, Hubbard elegantly navigates the prose of Emily's life combined with the many poems Emily writes to cope with the misfortunes that have befallen her...The way Hubbard writes AND WE STAY is both attractive and exquisite."

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mark Gatling:

The book *And We Stay* has a lot of information on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was authored by the very famous author. The writer makes some research prior to write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after scanning this book.

Lorraine Woodward:

Why? Because this *And We Stay* is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap that but latter it will distress you with the secret this inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such amazing way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book possess such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking way. So , still

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Charlsie Sprouse:

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