

## *If I Stay*

Gayle Forman

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Wow, I've got to say this is definitely another tear-jerker; however very unique. Mia, a sweet and innocent 17 year old, that had a burning passion for playing the cello. She lives with a family close-knit family; her parents were former punk rocks who decided to give up that lifestyle when her little brother, Teddy, was born. Mia has a boyfriend named Adam, who is part of a very popular local band, so basically Mia's life is surrounded by nothing but music. Julliard, one of Mia's dream schools accepted Mia's request to come and audition to try and get into the school. She is then faced with the ultimatum – stay in Oregon with Adam and her family or go off to be at the school of her dreams. This is where things take a turn. During a snowy day, Mia and her family get into a tragic car accident, where her parents immediately die on impact. Her little brother is then pronounced dead at the hospital, but Mia's situation is a different story. The accident put Mia into a coma, which caused her to have some sort of out-of-body experience. Seems crazy? It gets better. Throughout her out-of-body experience not only was she able to relive memories but she also was able to see things into her future; she even saw Teddy grow up. She soon realizes that her survival depends on her and herself only. She knew she had to make a decision quickly – waking up and being an orphan or dying and being able to be with her family. I don't want to spoil too much, but I think I have written enough for a little teaser.

This book is about strength, courage, heartbreak and love – all combined into one. I honestly don't think I can put into words how much I enjoyed this book. It brought me waves of sadness, but yet happiness all at the same time. The author did such a great job not giving everything away as soon as the book started, even at the end I feel like things were still very mysterious. I can't say one bad thing about *If I Stay*. It left me speechless, emotional, and almost numb. The movie made from the book is also something I would definitely recommend watching!

I believe that *If I Stay* is aimed towards young adults, but still a great read for anyone at any age. This book would definitely be a great gift! Some similar books I would recommend; *Where She Went*, *Thirteen Reasons Why*, and *Just One Year*.