

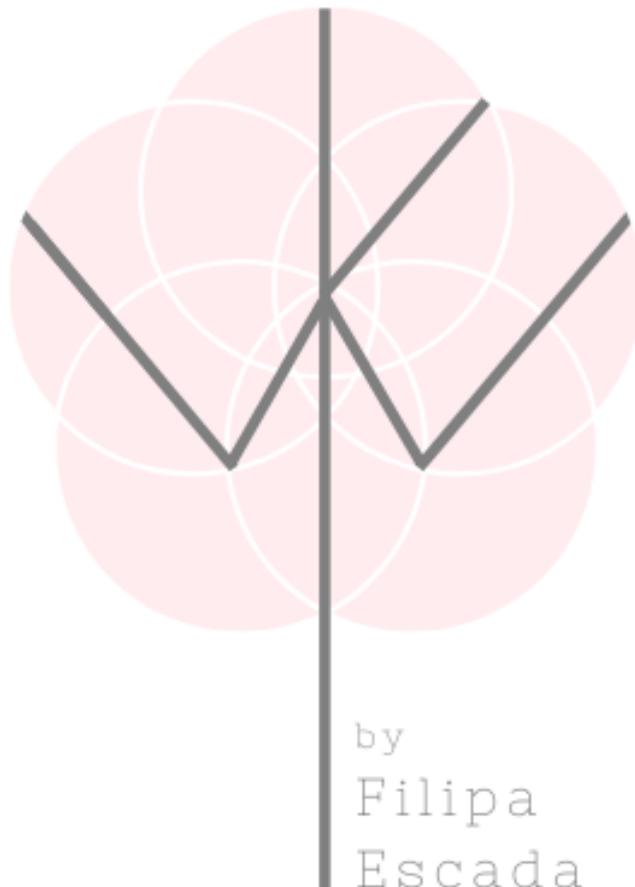
***IF I STAY* – Gayle Forman**

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by
Filipa
Escada

Well, I'm here today to present one of my favourite books, "If I Stay" from Gayle Forman. Many of you have already read this book, written in 2009, or watched its adaptation to film (in the background wallpaper and on the cover of this edition's book), which was made 5 years later, in 2014. But, before I start talking about the book, let me just give you some information about the author.

Gayle Forman, born in the 5th of July 1970 in Los Angeles, is an American young adult fiction author, best known for this novel, *If I Stay*, which topped the New York Times best sellers list of Young Adult, as it says here.

She used to be a journalist, since her first job was for *Seventeen* magazine and most of her articles focused on young people, specially teenagers, and social concerns. Later she started to release some of her articles to other magazines, such as *Details Magazine*, *The Nation* and *Cosmopolitan Magazine*. In 2002, she and her husband Nick took a trip around the world, which was converted into her first book, a travelogue (*You Can't Get It From Here*). In 2007, she published her first young adult novel *Sisters in Sanity* which she based on an article she had written for *Seventeen* magazine. And that was the beginning of her disclosure.

Years later, she published *If I Stay* (2009), *Where She Went* (2011), (sequel to *If I Stay*), *Just One Day* (2013), and many others.

Forman won many awards as well. For example, the British Fantasy Award in 2010. She was nominated for the South Carolina Book Award for Young Adult Book Award in 2011, among others.

Now, talking about this young adult novel, ***If I Stay***. The story follows Mia Hall (starred by Chloë Grace Moretz in the film), a 17-year-old cellist, that lives with her parents and her little brother, Teddy, in a small, contemporary Oregon town. On a snowy day, her family decided to go for a morning drive. But a catastrophic car accident changes her life completely, involving her family. Mia is the only member of her family to survive, and she finds herself in a coma. Through this coma, however, Mia has an out-of-body experience, where she can watch the actions that happen around her, as friends and family gather at the hospital where she is being treated. At the same time, during that day, we are able to follow Mia's stories about her previous life through a series of flashbacks and episodes, so we can know her past and some of her thoughts, which are truly necessary for her to make a decision for her future. Which decision?! Well, Mia finds herself stuck between two worlds; the world of the living, and the world of those who have moved on. She has two options: to stay with her grandparents, her best friend Kim and the love of her life, Adam Wilde; or to move on and avoid the pain of living without her mother, father, and little brother. That's when she starts getting some conclusions. "I realize now that dying is easy. Living is hard.>"; "If I stay. If I live. It's up to me." If you want to find out her decision, read the book and you'll discover the solution for this mystery.

The novel is divided by the hours of one 24-hour day, beginning on the snowy morning of the accident at 7:09 A.M. and ending at 7:16 A.M. the next morning.

The novel received positive reviews from the young adult audience and journals and magazines. I'm going to read two or three raves for this book: Los Angeles Times said "[A] beautiful novel.>"; Entertainment Weekly said "Beautifully written.>"; and Justice Magazine commented "A do-not-miss story of love, friendship, family, loss, control, and coping.". Summit Entertainment also liked the story, and as a result, they made a film adaptation.

To continue Mia's story, you must read as well *Where She Went*, told by Adam's point of view and published in 2011.

To finish, I would like to give my opinion about this fantastic book. From my perspective, this story is very emotional because it makes us feel like we are in Mia's situation and we have the same feelings as her. It also involves mystery due to the permanent and impossible choice she faces. Also, it makes us think that we should do everything we can right now because we don't know what's going to happen in the next minute. I agree with the *Wall Street Journal* as well, which said "The brilliance of the book is the simplicity.". It is not too complex but it gives us the necessary details so we can get into the story. And that was what the author made, and she made it with success.

Now I'm just going to give you a sneak peek of the film trailer.

I hope you liked my presentation and be sure to read the book *If I Stay* from Gayle Forman, it will be worth it.

