



## I Was Here

By Gayle Forman

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**I Was Here** By Gayle Forman

**The newest heartwrenchingly powerful novel from the bestselling author of IF I STAY.**

When her best friend Meg drinks a bottle of industrial-strength cleaner alone in a motel room, Cody is understandably shocked and devastated. She and Meg shared everything—so how was there no warning? But when Cody travels to Meg's college town to pack up the belongings left behind, she discovers that there's a lot that Meg never told her. About her old roommates, the sort of people Cody never would have met in her dead-end small town in Washington. About Ben McAllister, the boy with a guitar and a sneer, and some secrets of his own. And about an encrypted computer file that Cody can't open—until she does, and suddenly everything Cody thought she knew about her best friend's death gets thrown into question.

*I Was Here* is Gayle Forman at her finest, a taut, emotional, and ultimately redemptive story about redefining the meaning of family and finding a way to move forward even in the face of unspeakable loss.

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## I Was Here By Gayle Forman Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Cody and Meg have been inseparable since childhood. They planned to leave their small town in Washington and move to Seattle to go to college, but that changed when Meg got a full scholarship to a small, prestigious private college in Tacoma, WA. Having no scholarships or money saved, Cody is now stuck in town, cleaning houses to have a little bit of money to give to her mom toward living expenses and to take a couple classes at the local community college. Those classes have gone by the wayside, though, since news came of Meg's suicide. Meticulously planned, her former best friend ordered a poison that had a high fatality rate, and sent emails to friends and family on a timed delay so that no one could interfere with her fatal decision. Cody struggles to figure out why Meg took her own life and puzzles over a suspicious line in her friend's suicide email. The distraught but determined teen begins to encrypt files on Meg's laptop, which lead her to a suicide support group and posts from All\_BS, a Pied Piper-type character who encourages suicide as a way out. As she goes further down the rabbit hole, Cody comes to the realization that she needs to forgive Meg, and, more importantly, herself. Reminiscent of Nina LaCour's *Hold Still* (Dutton, 2009), Anna Jarzab's *All Unquiet Things* (Delacorte, 2010), and Jay Asher's *Thirteen Reasons Why* (Penguin, 2007), teens will clamor for this latest offering from the author of *If I Stay* (Dutton, 2009). Have multiple copies in your collection.—Suanne B. Roush, formerly at Osceola High School, Seminole, FL

Review

#### Praise for *I Was Here*:

"*I Was Here* is a pitch-perfect blend of mystery, tragedy, and romance. Gayle Forman has given us an unflinchingly honest portrait of the bravery it takes to live after devastating loss." —**Stephen Chbosky**, author of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

"Irresistible tear-jerker" —*New York Times*

"A heartbreakingly honest novel about coping with loss from the bestselling author of *If I Stay*" —*People*

"As she did in *If I Stay*, Forman offers an introspective examination of the line between life and death, and the courage it takes to persist." —*Publishers Weekly, starred review*

"Forman sifts through Cody's shifting psychological landscape with a sure and delicate hand, developing a character that readers will recognize themselves in. . . a relevant book as well as an absorbing one." —*BCCB, starred review*

"Part tautly paced mystery, part psychological study of suicide and its aftereffects. . . An engrossing and provocative look at the devastating finality of suicide, survivor's guilt, the complicated nature of responsibility and even the role of the Internet in life-and-death decisions." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Suicide has always been a subject in YA literature, and to her credit, Forman handles it sensitively and gracefully, raising important issues of the ethics and morality of the subject. The combination mystery and love story is sure to reach a wide readership and excite essential discussion. . . This latest offering should generate massive teen interest." —*Booklist*

"Cody's struggle with grief and complicity is intense and affecting up until an emotional gut-punch of a

conclusion. Once this compelling case is closed, what remains is a haunting, elegiac tale about enduring and understanding loss. "—*The Horn Book*

"Teens will clamor for this latest offering from the author of *If I Stay*." —*School Library Journal*

"Hugely popular Forman, author of the acclaimed *If I Stay* among others, has another best seller here. This novel's strength lies in its depiction of main character Cody, a young woman torn by conflicts but sustained by her own sense of purpose." —*VOYA*

"Takes tragedy, guilt, friendship, inspiration, heartache, and bravery and mixes them all up in a blender of feelings" —*Bustle*

#### **Praise for *If I Stay* and *Where She Went*:**

"Beautifully written." —*Entertainment Weekly*

"An achingly gorgeous portrayal of rejection and rekindled love." —*USA Today*

"A page-turner, tearjerker and romance all in one." —*BookPage*

"Pitch-perfect...a moving, skillfully crafted novel." —*VOYA, starred review*

#### **Praise for *Just One Day* and *Just One Year*:**

"Offering mystery, drama, and an evocative portrait of unrequited love, this open-ended novel will leave fans eagerly anticipating the companion story." —*Publishers Weekly, starred review*

"Readers were enthralled with Forman's *If I Stay* books, and now she's captivated them again as they fall in love with her characters in *Just One Day*." —NPR's *The Roundtable*

"As satisfying as both of these books are, readers are going to wish for a third." —*Booklist*

#### **About the Author**

Gayle Forman is an award-winning, internationally bestselling author and journalist. She is the author of *Just One Day* and *Just One Year*, and the companion e-novella *Just One Night*, as well as the *New York Times* bestsellers *If I Stay*--which was made into a major motion picture of the same name--and *Where She Went*. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband and daughters.

## **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Barbara Cook:**

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**Robert Robertson:**

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