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Reviewer Name: Carol Hubler

If I Stay

GAYLE FORMAN:

A good story becomes all the more captivating when the written words are driven by a powerful force. The most powerful is love. The more a person loves, the more important it is to discover what truly matters in life. The main character who tells this story is a young woman named Mia. One ordinary afternoon as taking a road trip with her family, a devastating car accident leaves her awake and wandering around in an out of body experience. Mia is broken hearted and alone as gazing upon the bodies of her parents, her little brother and herself. She watches in disbelief as her body is put into an ambulance and before it drives away, she gets in and thus begins an extraordinary journey. At the hospital she watches a dedicated medical team give everything they have to save her. She hears them yelling out words of encouragement for her to fight with every breath remaining in her to survive. Mia asks herself if she should stay or go, to live or to die. She chooses to fight by going on a hunt to find good reasons to stay, like treasured keepsakes. She has a serious love relationship with a young man named Adam who continues to profess his love by remaining at her side as she struggles to live. The end of the story has Mia opening her eyes, causing the reader to ask, "is she staying?"

In reviewing this book, I find the subject matter appealing to everyone who has questions about life and death. Therefore, this book is worth having in our library collection of books. I believe one of the messages in this book is that love is stronger than death. There are many good reasons to be alive as we remember its often the little things that matter the most. It is also the people we find by our side as walking life's journey. There is a bit of foul language throughout the story but it does not take away from the meaningful message; Life is worth living.