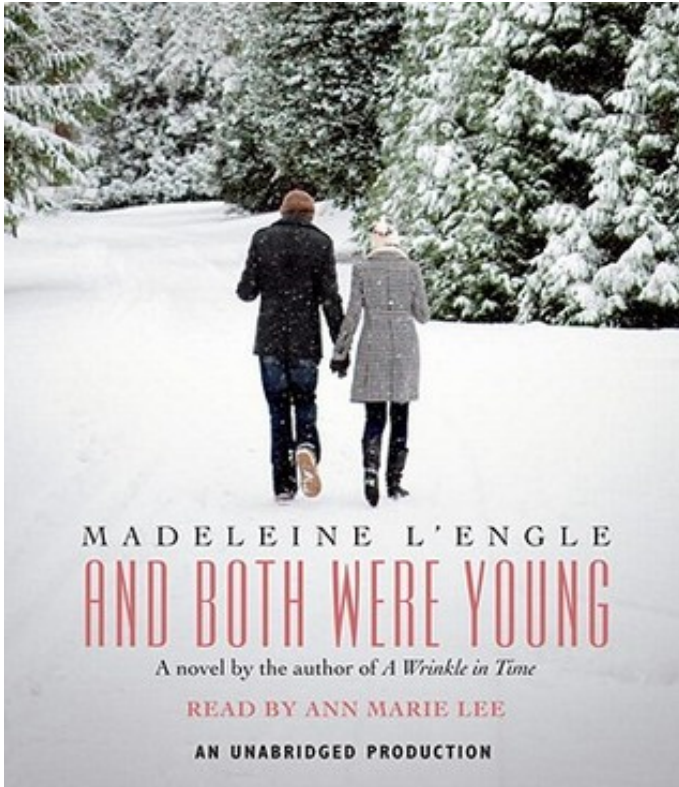

Madeleine L'Engle

And Both Were Young



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Author: Madeleine L'Engle

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Description

Flip doesn't think she'll ever fit in at the Swiss boarding school. Besides being homesick for her father and Connecticut, she isn't sophisticated like the other girls, and discussions about boys leave her tongue-tied. Her happiest times are spent apart from the others, sketching or wandering in the mountains.

But the day she's out walking alone and meets a French boy, Paul, things change for Flip. As their relationship grows, so does her self-confidence. Despite her newfound happiness, there are times when Paul seems a stranger to her. And since dating is forbidden except to seniors, their romance must remain a secret. With so many new feelings and obstacles to overcome in her present, can Flip help Paul to confront his troubled past and find a future?

From the Paperback edition.

Insightful reviews

Susannah Henning: I personally loved this book. I felt like the character Flip was someone that I really could identify with. Flip is a teenage girl who is sent off to boarding school in Switzerland because of her nasty potential stepmother convinces her father to do so. Before she leaves, she meets a boy and in an emotional rage tells him about her feeling toward her step mother. Unbeknownst to her he is staying in a little guard tower just up the way of her new boarding school. Paul, the boy, has a very mysterious past that she has to go to great length to uncover. This is a truly incredible book and I recommend it if you're looking for a mystery/romance.

Rachel Bergman: *And Both Were Young* by Madeleine L'Engle is a fabulous book that has easily deserved its four-star rating. The story begins with a young Philippa, Flip, who is being sent to a Swiss, all-girl boarding school. Here, she finds herself an outcast, being made fun of and having no friends. Flip is only at her happiest when hiding from the other girls in the chapel or wandering in the mountains. However, when wandering, Philippa sees a boy, Paul, who she has met before leaving for boarding school. They agree to meet regularly afterwards, and soon a relationship blooms. However, Philippa is not supposed to leave the school so late, go past school borders, or date until she is a senior. Flip finds herself in trouble with the school and her favorite teacher, and has to find a way to keep her visits with Paul and help him figure out who he is. The story is a lovely, middle-school love story, but is rather boring and dry on occasion. This is the reason for rating it highly, but not a complete five. I would suggest anyone to read this novel by Madeleine L'Engle, for it is a sort of romantic comedy that will even touch your heart with sympathy for both Philippa and Paul.

Jadzia: I remember reading *A Wrinkle in Time* when I was young, and loving it so much. I recall watching the movie, and it taking a special place in my heart, as well. So when I saw this book (though its cover first appealed to me), I was really eager to read it.

This book was completely different from the tone and style of *A Wrinkle in Time*—at least, this is my opinion. So I was thrown off there. Also, it didn't really feel like the voice came across right for the period it was based in. It felt like it could be any time at all, and it would fit, and it wasn't unless they were talking about the war or the consequences and results of it that I felt like it couldn't have been a girl, living in my time.

Now, the story was pretty basic and bland. I did get a little bored with some of the school scenes and the chittery, little roommates of hers. I craved the chapters with Paul, because at least there was something interesting going on and a little bit of mystery as well, since I wanted Flip to get to know Paul, was anticipating their romantic interest in each other, and also wondering why he acted strange at times.

Although I was not a fan of the boarding school setting, it did feel realistic, and I could almost picture most things. All the characters felt interesting, unique, and real, for the most part, except for those that were seldom mentioned, mentioned in passing, or that Flip never really got to know so that, even though I knew their names, I knew nothing about them nor liked them.

The skiing thing got boring real fast. That's all I have to say about that.

The relationship that developed between Flip and Paul was super sweet and I felt like it was rich and genuine. I really liked it and admired the true friendship they had that then became a little bit of something more.

However, I felt like the further I got into this book, the more I got to know Flip and Paul, and the closer they grew, the more like children they became. I read this book at the end of June, and I already can't remember how old they were supposed to be. I think Paul was intended to be two years or so older than her. But it felt like they were ten-year-olds. I am not kidding. I liked them less and less and felt like they became increasingly immature. That may be why I loved their relationship, because it was like two sweet three year old kids holding hands for the first time and not even knowing that it meant anything.

Also, though I believe that Flip was childish, I don't believe it was her fault she was having a hard time at school, as Madame Percival claimed. She told Flip that she took the girls teasing jabs and jokes too personally, and that because she didn't act lighthearted about it, they continued to make the jokes. But they were JUST JOKES, and they shouldn't upset Flip. No. I think some of these girls were rather rude and childish themselves. There's no reason they should have treated Flip the way they treated her sometimes. Not that they were evil or abusive, but they were not kind, and it obviously hurt Flip's feelings, but no one cared to notice. The teachers didn't even care. Madame Percival, whom Flip adored to the point of thinking of her like a mother, didn't even care. Every time Flip started to think or act in a self-pitying manner, she scolded Flip. I think they were all a bit too harsh on Flip. She did need to grow up, but they were not helping. Even though Flip matured a bit in the end and learned not to be such a cry baby, I don't buy it. I don't think it was fair at all on Flip.

The book was easy to read, when I skipped some portions of the boarding school scenes that I found boring. But it was a letdown, because there was nothing extraordinary about it, even books whose ordinariness can be appealing, because though crazy stuff may not happen, the characters experience growth, learn something, or develop a relationship, I didn't feel that way about this book. Because I don't feel like Flip learned a good lesson.

She learned to be less whiny, but I don't think she learned it properly, fairly, or fully (she was still a big baby about Eunice, her dad's sort-of girlfriend—Eunice mostly just "lusted after" Flip's father). She learned to help people, the way she helped Paul, but when she wasn't helping Paul, she immediately lost her maturity and reverted back to that little, whiny girl again.

Aside from that, I don't feel like her experiences taught her much. Maybe I am being harsh, maybe I am not seeing something here but, though I did enjoy the book to a degree, I didn't enjoy it like I thought I would and, honestly, I didn't enjoy it enough.

Fade: Charming, with nice voice, yet marred via a number of ordinary plot twists and a minimum of one completely improbable plot convenience. now not certainly one of L'Engle's best, yet nonetheless rather well worth the read.

Lisa Vegan: no longer my favourite L'Engle yet nonetheless worthy reading. a couple of teenage woman whose mom has died who will get despatched to a Swiss boarding institution and her adjustment to her new life: her relationships with a brand new boy, her lecturers & fellow scholars on the school, her father and his girlfriend. i like L'Engle's mistaken yet talented lady characters. much the following that rang true, specially how a teenager lady could think whilst a father dates after the mummy dies. Important to learn the reissue with Madeleine L'Engle's poignant notice approximately how whilst she initially released this book, writing approximately dying and intercourse needed to be toned down, and the way with the version reissued/published within the Nineteen Eighties she was once in a position to make it extra as she'd initially envisioned.

Kirsten: The L'Engle re-reading project. This one is beautiful strong - Philippa is going off to boarding university and has to accommodate all these icky boarding tuition girls. Fortunately, she meets a adorable mysterious man who occurs to be staying nearby, and he is cool. And eventually, she learns to do away with that chip on her shoulder and take a joke, or now not take every thing the women say as a pointed attack, or.... Written within the past due 40s and set in Switzerland, it does have a few fascinating stuff concerning the post-war period, as whilst the Sympathetic instructor issues out to Philippa that the German ladies have had a troublesome time of it, socially - yet such a lot of them appear to get through (and so why cannot you?).

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