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**Jennifer E. Smith**

**You Are Here**



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Author: Jennifer E. Smith

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## Description

Emma Healy has grown used to being the only ordinary one in her rather extraordinary family. But when she finds a birth certificate for a twin brother she never knew she had, along with a death certificate dated just two days later, she realizes why she never felt quite whole. She sets off on a trip to visit her brother's grave. Peter Finnegan, her neighbor, comes along for the ride. Emma thinks they can't possibly have anything in common, but with each passing mile, they find themselves learning more and more about themselves and each other.

## Insightful reviews

Steph Su: Jennifer Smith certainly knows how to write. Her narrative reads like one of those twelve-page character description exercises that writers occasionally do in order to get to fully know their characters. At the end of the book, we know Emma and Peter inside out. Neither one is without flaws, but all of their complexities, worries, passions, and dialogue simply sing through the pages. Jennifer is in real command of the language here.

I think that the book's weak point, the one thing that made me not like the book as much as I would've wanted to like it, was its plot. Road trips are a pretty common plot in YA lit, and so it's hard to redo the age-old plot without falling into a rut. Emma and Peter's road trip, while completely realistic, with things such as the New Jersey Turnpike and the Gettysburg battlefield described in a mesmerizing yet straightforward and thus believable way, was also unfortunately not very exciting or engaging.

They pick up a stray dog who never gets a name, they visit a bunch of random places and have conversations that sometimes run deep and sometimes turn into arguments...these are all nice things to think about, because they happen in everyone's lives, but when these incidents and family flashbacks make up the majority of the novel, something gets lost. Never mind the fact that this book has a strong message: family is not just about similarities, but also about staying together despite the differences. It's a great message...provided you don't get lost along the way.

I also wasn't much a fan of the Emma-and-Peter romantic coupling. I felt like I knew it was going to happen, and yet while reading the book I REALLY didn't want it to, I wanted the book to break the stereotypes of boy-girl get-togethers at the end of the novel, but alas. Maybe I didn't get a clear image of Emma and Peter as compatible human beings. They are great as individuals, yes, but together? I need more convincing.

Overall, however, *YOU ARE HERE* is far from being a bad and unenjoyable book. Jennifer Smith is definitely a strong writer whose talent deserves to get noticed. Readers who enjoy character-driven books will like *YOU ARE HERE*, and for those of us looking for a faster-paced read, well, you're going to have to wait for another book.

Hafshie: **Yeah, another J. Smith!**

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Be ready to be taken on a roadtrip!

To go on a trip is something, to go on a trip alone is another thing, but to go on a trip alone in a stolen car with the company of a stray dog is completely a different thing, not to mention scary, specially when you're just 16-turning-17. But to Emma Healy, it's something that she needed right now, something that might take her to find the missing piece in her life.

Peter Finnegan on the other hand, just wanted to get away from home (a home that never felt like home to him), to cool down things between him and his father probably, and to visit some historical places. But when he got a call from Emma, his next door neighbor needing a ride, the trip somehow became purposeful and exciting.

Emma, Peter, and the stray dog Emma found on the way, altogether they wander the path going to North Carolina in a convertible car Peter had stolen for his getaway trip, stopping only when they need a sleep or food.

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The story is more than just a trip to some historical battlefields. It's a tale of someone who feels incomplete, different, and alone. She / he searches for that missing piece only to find out that that last piece of the puzzle is within her already. It only needs your courage and spontaneity to come out.

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**Emma Healy** -she felt so different from her intellectual family who very much enjoy the company of books and knowledge of science & math. I think I understand how she feels. It's hard to feel that something isn't right about you, that something is missing, that somehow you don't belong in this world, that no one understands you. But there's just something different about her situation. She has a twin that she never seen and never known, not until she discovered it herself one week before her 17th birthday. I am starting to believe that part of her situation, is because of that mysterious twin brother. They were together when they were born, shared a lot of common things even physical features and identical DNAs. So probably because she hasn't seen or known her twin brother that it affected her life. Maybe her life will never be complete but it's not the reason to feel unhappy and alone.

Sometimes, I hate her moodiness and direct attitude and harsh tune, especially toward Peter who went all the way to her and gave her a ride, not to mention his company.

**Peter Finnegan** -Like Emma, he felt that something is missing in his life too. Someone he never seen or knew except in a photograph and a few information from his father. It's his mother, who died just after he was born. I pity Peter for the whole trip because, it seems like the people he cares for doesn't feel the same way about him. His father never bothered sitting in the living room and have chitchat with him. Emma is absorbed with her own misery that she doesn't seem to see Peter more than just a next door neighbor she happened to know. Then there's Emma's parents who Peter loves to talk to because of their welcoming attitude and

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their wide range of knowledge about the world. But when he learned that Emma has a twin brother, he somehow began thinking that maybe her parents treated him well because they can see in him the son taken so early from them. But I liked Peter. Actually beneath his glasses and alarmingly Civil war aficionado spirit, lies an amazing good-natured guy who appreciate simple things and who's really good at places. He could be an excellent tour guide.

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In conclusion, I liked the story. Sure it's not romantic or thrilling but that's not the story's theme. It's all about finding the missing piece or realizing that you have it already in you, you just need to dig deeper. It's also a family story. **It shows how a little but important thing when kept a secret could drive the family away from each other. But what's important is no matter what happen, when you need help coping with a difficult situation, you can see that your family is always there for you. :)**

**Happy Family Day Everyone! :) ( this is for everyday of your life with your family)**

Sara: After Emma discovers a birth certificate for a twin brother she never knew she had, she sets out on a road trip with her neighbor, Peter, heading for North Carolina where her brother was born (and supposedly buried a few days later), hoping to find answers about this unknown part of her life. Along the way, the two of them get to know each other, and I'm pretty sure a romance develops between them, although I stopped reading before that happened.

There was nothing particularly *wrong* with this book; it simply wasn't gripping. Road trips may be an overdone plot in all mediums, but this can be a great plot nonetheless - lots of sights, new adventures, exploring, etc. I think the problem in this book is that it felt like nothing major happened. Emma and Peter are both fairly average kids who feel like they don't fit in with their respective families. Their conversations didn't really interest me, and I never felt really invested in their plight. I thought the writing was good, and I certainly was interested in the story when I started it, but it kinda pattered out as it went along and they simply stopped at various places they wanted to see without anything really happening. I think I read about half of it before putting it aside.

Anine: genuine rating: 3.5The tale wasn't fast paced or action-packed however it was once nonetheless sorta interesting and a very fast read. you're here's approximately Emma and Peter occurring a street trip, either with their very own time table and someplace alongside the way, they locate what they really need. (ps. it is not a fluffy ya romance) i have lately began utilizing those post-it-notes-things and i've round eight caught within the ebook correct now. there have been a number of techniques (mostly Emma's) i may relate to and this is of my favorites: ".. and there has been not anything extra to be performed other than kick herself for regularly selecting the incorrect time to be silent and the incorrect instances to make a fuss.." So many of us (me included) are constantly babbling approximately something after one other yet then in these instances the place we actually are looking to say something, we simply remain silent. that is an issue Emma additionally confronted and it was once great to examine how she ultimately simply picked up the telephone and talked. Emma and Peter were not the simplest at speaking in any

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respect times, yet that was once truly fine. There wasn't the standard tense instalove, since you Are right here is not a love story. At it truly is middle it is extra of a discovering your self tale and that i loved that. It made me use my mind and imagine a little. "The factor approximately mom and dad is that you just continuously imagine they are presupposed to be stable at their jobs, simply because they're parents. yet they're frequently not." Not to throw significant color at my mom and dad (I do love you) yet as a toddler I used to imagine they did every thing correct and they may perhaps do anything. yet after all, our mom and dad does not regularly understand what to do or how one can do it. And whereas i'd rather get pleasure from writing extra approximately that, i feel i'm going to simply go away it right here with this: Emma is right. Her mom and dad possibly did not do their jobs more than enough or as they have been intended to, with her. And Peter's father convinced did not do this either, so it was once stable all of them came upon what had to be came upon and i am comfortable that they either ended up connecting extra with their families. Families have an incredible position in you're the following which used to be nice. not anyone has a kin who works completely forever and it really is nice Jennifer E. Smith is writing approximately that as well. I like Jennifer E. Smith's characters a lot. they are attention-grabbing and it is by no means the characters who weights the e-book down. probably it is the loss of a extra gripping plot or simply because her tales are too taken with the characters.

Michelle Ma: Emma Healy by no means felt like she healthy along with her clever family. She is the youngest of 4 and he or she wasn't super shut with any of her siblings. She uncovers a mystery whereas she used to be supporting her dad discover a quote for his e-book i the attic: she had a dual that passed on to the great beyond days once they have been born. pushed to profit extra approximately her brother, she unearths herself on a street journey to his cemetery. She asks her neighbor, Peter to come back together with her on her impromptu street trip. This trip all started as a look for her brother, yet ends with Emma studying extra approximately herself, Peter, and her family.

Chelsey Mbf: It was once a piece gradual to begin however it grew to become a truly considerate book. close to the tip i used to be chuffed with lots of the conclusion, how ever there has been anything that stuck my cognizance and that i wasn't all that enormous on it. in the direction of the top Emma admits to being a jerk and says she's primarily unsuitable approximately everything, in the meantime Peter used to be additionally an immense jerk and all he does is sulk, grandstand and be correct approximately things...all the time. the writer even says she's been fallacious and he used to be correct approximately everything. He attempts to kiss Emma and he sulks simply because he does not get a similar response for her and has his personal little pity party. i used to be like, "Dude....you're wrong. Admit your wrong, be sincere approximately it, be mature approximately it and do not make this her fault. She's unsuitable and you are wrong, now you are either even."

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