



***If He Had Been with Me* by Laura Nowlin**

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9781402277825: (Paperback) – Out of Print

9781728205489: (Paperback)

9781464231025: (Hardcover) – Collector's Edition

*Age Range: 13-17 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: Gr 9 Up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

An achingly authentic and raw portrait of love, regret, and the life-altering impact of the relationships we hold closest to us, this YA romance bestseller is perfect for fans of Colleen Hoover, Jenny Han, and Lynn Painter.

If he had been with me, everything would have been different...

Autumn and Finn used to be inseparable. But then something changed. Or they changed. Now, they do their best to ignore each other.

Autumn has her boyfriend Jamie, and her close-knit group of friends. And Finn has become that boy at school, the one everyone wants to be around.

That still doesn't stop the way Autumn feels every time she and Finn cross paths, and the growing, nagging thought that maybe things could have been different. Maybe they should be together.

But come August, things will change forever. And as time passes, Autumn will be forced to confront how else life might have been different if they had never parted ways...

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"This sweet, authentic love story masks complex characters dealing with complex issues: single parents, divorce, only children yet ersatz siblings; high school, college, the pull of the clique; love, friendship, sex, and teen pregnancy . . . First-time author Nowlin keeps the story real and fast paced, avoiding the melodramatic." –[Booklist](#)

"The finely drawn characters capture readers' attention in this debut . . . Autumn's coming-of-age is sensitively chronicled, with a wide range of experiences and events shaping her character. Even secondary characters are well-rounded, with their own histories and motivations . . . Readers will relish the opportunity to climb inside Autumn's head." –[Kirkus Reviews](#)

"Friendship, love, secrets, hope and regret...this book has it all! . . . *If He Had Been With Me* by Laura Nowlin is a page-turner that you won't be able to put down." –*Girls' Life*

"Educators and librarians looking for fast-moving, interesting plots, in-depth characters, and meaningful themes need to add this one to their shelves." –VOYA

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"[Autumn and Finn's] romance is Shakespeare-worthy in its tragic dimension. Autumn's reflections on love's possibilities and near-misses will surely resonate with the unsettled teen soul, and readers will get exactly what they came for, and then some." —*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"The heart of this novel is an examination of an unresolved childhood love that is so pure and sweet that it seems too fragile to survive the turbulent years of adolescence. Using tender prose that makes it hard not to care about the main characters, this title chronicles four years of high school and the confusing post-graduation period. At the end, when Nowlin reveals why Finny should have been with Autumn all along, readers are sure to feel the ache of life's capriciousness." —[School Library Journal](#)

"This is a story of friendship, family, love, and regret. Readers know from the beginning that Autumn and Finny's story will end in tragedy, but that does not stop the reader from wanting to follow their journey. Recommended." —*Library Media Connection*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- More than ONE MILLION copies sold
- A BookTok Viral Sensation
- #1 New York Times Bestseller
- A *USA Today* Bestseller
- 2014 Society of Midland Authors Award
- 2013 Junior Library Guild Spring Selection

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [JeanBookNerd: Laura Nowlin Author Interview](#)
- [STL NPR: Take 5: St. Louis author Laura Nowlin talks about new young adult novel](#)
- [NY Post: The 30 best #BookTok reads](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- [Miami New Times: Updated List: Every Known Florida School District Book Ban, July 2021–June 2024](#)
- [Tallahassee Democrat: Hundreds of books pulled from Florida schools listed in new DOE release. Here are the titles](#)
 - "Once again, far left activists are pushing the book ban hoax on Floridians. The better question is why do these activists continue to fight to expose children to sexually explicit materials," spokesperson Sydney Booker told *The Guardian*.

AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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