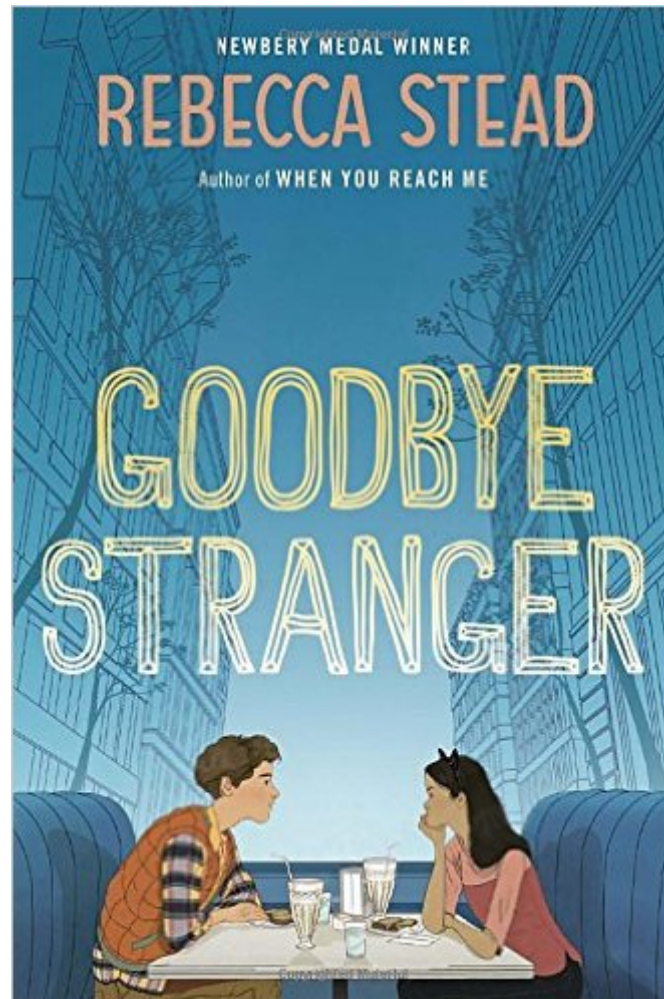


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# Goodbye Stranger (Boston Globe-Horn Book Honors (Awards))



## Synopsis

â œMasterly. . . . Sensitively explores togetherness, aloneness, betrayal and love.â • â "The New York Times Book Review 2016 Honor Book in Fiction, Boston Globe Horn Book Award A NYT Editors' Choice and NYT Notable Children's Books of 2015 This brilliant novel by Newbery Medal winner Rebecca Stead explores multiple perspectives on the bonds and limits of friendship.â • â Bridge is an accident survivor whoâ • â 's wondering why sheâ • â 's still alive. Emily has new curves and an almost-boyfriend who wants a certain kind of picture. Tabitha sees through everybodyâ • â 's gamesâ • â "or so she tells the world. The three girls are best friends with one rule: No fighting.â • â Can it get them through seventh grade?â • â â • â This year everything is different for Sherm Russo as he gets to know Bridge Barsamian. What does it mean to fall for a girlâ • â "as a friend?â • â â • â On Valentineâ • â 's Day, an unnamed high school girl struggles with a betrayal. How long can she hide in plain sight?â • â â • â Each memorable character navigates the challenges of love and change in this captivating novel. Praise for Goodbye Stranger Six Starred Reviews Publishers Weekly Best Books of 2015 School Library Journal Best Books of 2015 Booklist Editorâ • â 's Choice 2015 The Horn Bookâ • â 's Fanfare: Best Books of 2015 The Washington Post Best Books of 2015 The New York Times Notable Childrenâ • â 's Books of 2015â • â œThis astonishingly profound novel is not your average middle-school friendship tale.â • â â • â "The Horn Book, Starredâ • â œStead shows how strongly love of all kinds can smooth the juddering path toward adulthood. Winsome, bighearted, and altogether rewarding.â • â â • â "Booklist, Starredâ • â œ[Stead] captures the stomach-churning moments of a misstep or an unplanned betrayal and reworks these events with grace, humor, and polish into possibilities for kindness and redemption. Superb.â • â â • â "Kirkus Reviews, Starredâ • â œThis memorable story about female friendships, silly bets, different kinds of love, and bad decisions is authentic in detail and emotion.â • â â • â "Publishers Weekly, Starredâ • â œFilled with humor [and] delightful coincidences. . . . An immensely satisfying addition for Steadâ • â 's many fans.â • â â • â "School Library Journal, Starred" The author as usual deftly interweaves her plot strands into an organic whole, and between the multifocal plot and the exploration on growth and self-recognitionâ • â . . .â • â deeply explores mistakes, and forgiveness, and growing away from people as well as toward them."â • â "The Bulletin, Starredâ • â œThis eloquent story of friendship, first love, and identity will resonate powerfully with readers.â • â â • â "VOYA, Perfect Ten" Stead raises questions about whether a relationship can survive change. If someone makes a mistake, can you forgive the person, if not the act? Can two people reconcile, if they are both willing to process what happened? Or is the change more systemic--has one of you become a stranger? . . . It's a question all of the characters ask themselves at some point in Stead's perfectly synchronized

novel." à "Shelf Awareness

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0560 (What's this?)

Series: Boston Globe-Horn Book Honors (Awards)

Hardcover: 304 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (75 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #35,934 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Peer Pressure #430 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings #994 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Rebecca Stead writes great books that at first glance, seem like light little stories about friends hanging out and having some fun adventures together. There's usually an interesting mystery involved and her well developed characters learn new things about themselves, and where they fit into the world they live in. Happily this book, *Goodbye Stranger*, follows the same format. It is set in a 7th and 8th grade school in New York City, it is about friendship and loyalty and the meaning of life (really!) It's about making good choices, trusting, supporting and forgiving your friends when they do something stupid. There is an, appropriate for middle grade, cautionary tale plot line related to internet safety and what can happen if you text pictures that you wouldn't want others to see, to a boy. it doesn't delve deeply into these topics and it never goes dark. The kids learn the right lesson without suffering any long lasting, traumatic scars. All in all I enjoyed this book, but since my twelve yr old daughter is more the target reader than I am, I also put it in her hands. Her thoughts: She read it in a day and liked it a lot. She thought the friendship between the three main girls was believable

but she thought some of the plot would be more likely to happen in a high school than a middle school. The developing relationship between Em and the 8th grade boy seemed, to her, too advanced compared to the fellow 7 and 8 graders that she knows. She is speaking from her own current personal experience of living in exactly that world, probably not true of every middle school though.

After much consideration, I think I'm going to begin this review with what has to be the hoity-toity opening I have ever come up with. Gird thy loins, mes amies. In her 2006 book *Betraying Spinoza: The Renegade Jew Who Gave Us Modernity* (don't say you weren't warned), philosopher Rebecca Goldstein wrote the following passage about the concept of personal identity: "What is it that makes a person the very person that she is, herself alone and not another, an integrity of identity that persists over time, undergoing changes and yet still continuing to be " until she does not continue any longer, at least not unproblematically?" In other words, why is the "you" that you were at five the same person as the "you" at thirteen or fourteen? Now I don't know that a lot of 10-14 year olds spend their days contemplating the philosophical meanings behind their sense of self from one stage of life to another. But if they hadn't before, they're about to now. *Goodbye Stranger* by Rebecca Stead has taken what on the surface might look like a fluffy middle school tale of selfies and first loves and turned it into a much more layered discussion of bodies, feminism, the male (and female) gaze, female friendships, relationships, and betrayals. And fake moon landings. And fuzzy cat ear headbands. Hard to pin this one down, honestly. By all logic, Bridge should have died when she was eight years old. She skated into the street and got hit by a car, after all. Yet Bridge lived and with seemingly no serious repercussions. Recently she's been taking to wearing little black cat ears on her head, but her best friends Emily and Tab don't mind. It's their seventh grade year and there are bigger things on their minds.

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