



Goodbye Stranger

By Rebecca Stead

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This brilliant, *New York Times* bestselling novel from the author of the Newbery Medal winner *When You Reach Me* explores multiple perspectives on the bonds and limits of friendship.

Long ago, best friends Bridge, Emily, and Tab made a pact: no fighting. But it's the start of seventh grade, and everything is changing. Emily's new curves are attracting attention, and Tab is suddenly a member of the Human Rights Club. And then there's Bridge. She's started wearing cat ears and is the only one who's still tempted to draw funny cartoons on her homework.

It's also the beginning of seventh grade for Sherm Russo. He wonders: what does it mean to fall for a girl—as a friend?

By the time Valentine's Day approaches, the girls have begun to question the bonds—and the limits—of friendship. Can they grow up without growing apart?

“Sensitively explores togetherness, aloneness, betrayal and love.” —*The New York Times*

A Boston Globe–Horn Book Honor Book for Fiction

Named a Best Book of the Year by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Guardian*, NPR, and more!

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6–9—Ah, seventh grade! A year when your friends transform inexplicably, your own body and emotions perplex you, and the world seems fraught with questions, and the most confusing ones of all concern the nature of love. Stead focuses on Bridge Barsamian, her best girlfriends, and her newest friend Sherm—a boy who is definitely not her boyfriend (probably). They're navigating the shoals of adolescence on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Emily has suddenly developed a figure that attracts a lot of attention, Tabitha is an increasingly committed human rights activist, and Bridge has taken to wearing a headband with black cat's ears for reasons that are unclear even to her. The seventh graders aren't the only characters working out relationships. There are married parents and divorced parents and then there's Sherm's grandfather who has suddenly left his wife of 50 years and moved to New Jersey. There's also a mysterious character whose Valentine's Day is doled out in second-person snippets interspersed within the rest of the story. Love is serious, but Stead's writing isn't ponderous. It's filled with humor, delightful coincidences, and the sorts of things (salacious cell phone photos, lunchroom politics, talent show auditions) that escalate in ways that can seem life-shattering to a 13-year-old. The author keeps all her balls in the air until she catches them safely with ineffable grace. VERDICT An immensely satisfying addition for Stead's many fans.—Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Library, NY

Review

A *New York Times* Bestseller

An ALA-ALSC Notable Children's Book

An ALA-YALSA Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults

A Junior Library Guild Selection

Named a Best Book of the Year by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Guardian*, NPR, *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *School Library Journal*, *The Horn Book Magazine*, *Booklist*

Named to Multiple State Award Lists

"Winsome, bighearted, and altogether rewarding." —*Booklist*, Starred review

"...Stead's writing [is]... filled with humor, delightful coincidences... An immensely satisfying addition for Stead's many fans." —*School Library Journal*, Starred review

"... [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." —*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred review

"This memorable story about female friendships, silly bets, different kinds of love, and bad decisions is authentic in detail and emotion—another Stead hallmark." —*Publishers Weekly*, Starred review

"The handing-down of advice and wisdom from older girls and women is a welcome theme throughout the book and far too rare in female coming-of-age stories; it's just one of many reasons this astonishingly profound novel is not your average middle-school friendship tale." —*The Horn Book*, Starred review

"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-recognition...” —*Bulletin*, Starred review

“Stead can brilliantly summon what it feels like to be a young adolescent ... [*Goodbye Stranger*] is full of fun and generosity, and ... it is beautifully balanced.” —*Wall Street Journal*

“This novel not only sensitively explores togetherness, aloneness, betrayal and love, it also acknowledges something crucial to the business of growing up: how anyone’s personal ‘we of me’ might look different a little while from now, and later still, different again.” —*Meg Wolitzer for New York Times Book Review*

“Absolutely relatable and full of heart.” —*Bustle.com*

“Beautifully written and perfectly paced ... Stead doesn’t talk down to her intended audience (ages 10 and up) or even to adult readers long past seventh grade who may well be surprised by the flood of real-life memories her fictional world dislodges ... *Goodbye Stranger* will remind you of who you are.” —*Houston Chronicle*

“A moving blend of present-day and historic, romantic love and familial love, deep questions and just-for-fun pursuits.” —*BookPage*

“[Stead] can see into the souls of young people as they begin to grow conscious of how others view them from the outside and how they feel on the inside, and she has the skill to illuminate how they grapple with these gaps and overlaps in perception.” —*Shelf-Awareness*

“[A]s authentic as it gets ... This is a landmark in literature on the friendships of young women ... *Goodbye Stranger* packs a wallop of emotion that’s a true pleasure to be leveled by.” —*The Brooklyn Rail*

“Stead manages to infuse her book with a timeless quality, particularly in the way she so accurately taps into universal feelings of trying to nail down exactly who one is supposed to be. Stead’s humble story is one that is deeply felt, and perhaps one of the strongest children’s novels of 2015 so far.” —*National Post*

“This marvelous, life-affirming novel, told from three perspectives, explores the unsettling, pivotal changes of adolescence as three best friends start seventh grade.” —*Buffalo News*

“A school story of substance and literary finesse.”—*The Toronto Star*

About the Author

REBECCA STEAD is the author of *When You Reach Me*, which was a *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the Newbery Medal and the Boston Globe–Horn Book Award for Fiction, and *Liar & Spy*, which was also a *New York Times* bestseller, won the Guardian Prize for Children’s Fiction, and was on multiple state master lists and best of the year lists. Her most recent book, *Goodbye Stranger*, was a Boston Globe–Horn Book Honor Book for Fiction and a *New York Times* bestseller. She is also the author of *First Light*, which was nominated for many state awards. She lives in New York City with her family. Visit her online at rebeccasteadbooks.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lewis Lin:

Do you one of people who can't read satisfying if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys this specific aren't like that. This Goodbye Stranger book is readable by you who hate the straight word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to offer to you. The writer regarding Goodbye Stranger content conveys objective easily to understand by most people. The printed and e-book are not different in the written content but it just different by means of it. So , do you even now thinking Goodbye Stranger is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

Melissa Hopkins:

This Goodbye Stranger is great publication for you because the content that is full of information for you who else always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it details accurately using great organize word or we can declare no rambling sentences included. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but difficult core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having Goodbye Stranger in your hand like having the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no e-book that offer you world within ten or fifteen moment right but this book already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt this?

Teresa Laureano:

That publication can make you to feel relax. This particular book Goodbye Stranger was vibrant and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book Goodbye Stranger has many kinds or category. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Investigation company Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. Therefore not at all of book usually are make you bored, any it offers you feel happy, fun and chill out. Try to choose the best book for you personally and try to like reading which.

Joan James:

Reading a reserve make you to get more knowledge from this. You can take knowledge and information originating from a book. Book is composed or printed or outlined from each source that filled update of news. On this modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for anyone. From media social including newspaper, magazines, science book, encyclopedia, reference book, new and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Are you hip to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just trying to find the Goodbye Stranger when you necessary it?

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