



If He Had Been with Me

By Laura Nowlin

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A New York Times Bestseller

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

I wasn't with Finn on that August night. But I should've been. It was raining, of course. And he and Sylvie were arguing as he drove down the slick road. No one ever says what they were arguing about. Other people think it's not important. They do not know there is another story. The story that lurks between the facts. What they do not know?the cause of the argument?is crucial.

So let me tell you...

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If He Had Been with Me By Laura Nowlin Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Autumn Davis and Phineas Smith grew up together; their mothers are best friends and next-door neighbors. Hand in hand, they experienced life's milestones until adolescence; that's when they grow apart as each one struggles to form an identity outside of their families. Autumn slips to the fringes of the high school hierarchy, while Finny skyrockets to the top. They both find new friends and romantic relationships. Autumn's boyfriend, Jamie, is smart, handsome, and patient enough to nurture her through her bouts with depression. Finny's relationship with his girlfriend, Sylvie, is complex. 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.—Mindy Whipple, West Jordan Library, UTα(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Finny and Autumn have been inseparable since before birth, when their mothers were best friends, pregnant, and living beside each other. As happens with too many friendships—especially boy-girl friendships—middle school takes its toll. Finny kisses Autumn, but Autumn is not ready for their relationship to change, and so the two part ways—he to the popular crowd and his girlfriend, Sylvie, and she to the weird but cool group and her boyfriend, Jamie. At weekly dinners, birthdays, and holidays with The Mothers, it's a strained normal, until the summer before college, when Sylvie goes to Europe and Jamie breaks up with Autumn. This sweet, authentic love story depicts 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. All are recounted through the eyes of budding writer Autumn. First-time author Nowlin keeps the story real and fast paced all the way until the last few devastating, though not unexpected, pages. Grades 9-12. --Frances Bradburn

Review

"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*

"Wonderful, beautifully written, haunting, heartbreaking and simply amazing! That's just the tip of the iceberg when describing my opinion of *If He Had Been with Me*. Ahhhh...although no words can truly describe how much I loved this book!! Months ago I knew I wanted to read it but never could have imagined how great it would be. I can honestly say this is already in my top ten reads of all time. I was sucked in from the first page and never wanted it to end. It's a story of love, friendship and fate. It will have you thinking about the what ifs and make you think if life really has us here for a certain reason. Pick up this read...NOW! Trust me you won't regret it!" - *A Southern Girl's Bookshelf*

"This book is a treasure; I can feel the printed words seeping through my skin and into my veins, rushing to my heart and marking it forever. I want to savour this wonder, this happening of a loving book and reading it for the first time, because the first time is always the best, and I will never read this book for the first time again" - *The Reader's Den*

"It's lovely and so beautifully written - I just wish I had a smidgeon of her talent. And the writing. Oh, the writing. So perfect and poetic. I felt like I was reading snippets of Autumn's personal journal and I couldn't put it down. Despite that I knew there was a *Romeo and Juliet-esque / tragic love story ending, I couldn't help but allow myself to be swept away by Autumn and Finn's story. I enjoyed *If He Had Been With Me* so much that I'm adding Laura Nowlin to my auto-read list. Her writing, you guys, is just that sublime. Definitely take a chance on this story - allow yourselves to be caught up in Autumn and Finn's lives and to root for two childhood best friends to fall in love." - *Rather Be Reading*

"If you're looking for an emotionally-charged teen read, this is your book-hands down. Fans of YA Contemporary Romance, New Adult, or Coming of Age will also enjoy this book." - *Literary Meanderings*

"There's something about Laura Nowlin's writing that reaches out and touches the heart in unexpected ways. It also has a more literary feel at times, perhaps because Autumn is a writer, and the way Nowlin meshes foreshadowing with Autumn's own quirks is a unique, captivating blend. I don't know what I was expecting when I initially picked this one up, but it wasn't the level of depth I found myself encountering. A strong debut from an author to watch!" - *A Backwards Story*

"Both breathtaking and heartbreaking, this novel will leave you completely stunned...you can rest assured that this will be one book in your life you will never regret." - *teenreads.com*

"[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*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mollie Walker:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or even read a book called *If He Had Been with Me*? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have different

opinion?

Ginger Amundson:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a guide your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand than other is high. In your case who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this kind of If He Had Been with Me book as beginning and daily reading book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Mary Crouch:

This If He Had Been with Me tend to be reliable for you who want to certainly be a successful person, why. The reason of this If He Had Been with Me can be among the great books you must have will be giving you more than just simple reading through food but feed you actually with information that perhaps will shock your previous knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed versions. Beside that this If He Had Been with Me forcing you to have an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you tryout of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

Dominick Tran:

Reading a book to get new life style in this yr; every people loves to learn a book. When you learn a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, because book has a lot of information on it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. In order to get information about your research, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, such us novel, comics, along with soon. The If He Had Been with Me will give you new experience in examining a book.

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