



Something Like Gravity

Amber Smith

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For fans of *Love, Simon* and *Eleanor and Park*, a romantic and sweet novel about a transgender boy who falls in love for the first time—and how first love changes us all—from *New York Times* bestselling author Amber Smith.

Chris and Maia aren't off to a great start.

A near-fatal car accident first brings them together, and their next encounters don't fare much better. Chris's good intentions backfire. Maia's temper gets the best of her.

But they're neighbors, at least for the summer, and despite their best efforts, they just can't seem to stay away from each other.

The path forward isn't easy. Chris has come out as transgender, but he's still processing a frightening assault he survived the year before. Maia is grieving the loss of her older sister and trying to find her place in the world without her. Falling in love was the last thing on either of their minds.

But would it be so bad if it happened anyway?

Something Like Gravity Details

Date : Expected publication: June 18th 2019 by Margaret K. McElderry Books

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Author : Amber Smith

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From Reader Review Something Like Gravity for online ebook

Adalee Gellar says

A beautiful, bittersweet young love story that examines the challenges of grief and otherness that face teens. This novel opens up human experiences and teaches compassion and understanding throughout its pages.

I was given the opportunity to read the final draft of this novel and I highly recommend it to all readers. The overall book follows thematic lines of kindness, understanding and self-exploration that are so vital to the young growing older and the older seeking to understand the younger. In her true fashion, Ms. Smith does not shy from challenging and unsettling content, but in this work it is tempered toward a message of hope and happiness--resulting in a beautiful takeaway that avoids the sap and histrionic content so common in love stories.

A major driving element in 'Something Like Gravity' is the impressive strength of character. Maia and Chris are both equally unique and relatable. Their humanity is inherent in every page and I found pieces of myself in both of them as I turned the pages. They are the kind of characters you root for, the kind you care about, the kind you find yourself thinking of randomly days later after reading the book. Chris is a charming and honest example of a teen accepting his trans identity--and Ms. Smith makes a strong choice to skip the typical 'coming out' story and instead works with a kid who knows who he wants to become and is working toward becoming his true self. Maia is not a typical griever full of tears and aimed for pity, but a strong woman growing into an unknown identity that is compelling and at times scandalous.

The backdrop of this book, Carson, is a backwater Southern Town that creates a wonderful blend of isolationism and pastoralism for the characters to grow within. At times the setting almost takes on the role of a character, driving themes and scenes with the unique experience of a rural run-down single stoplight town. Instead of leaning into stereotypical scenery, Ms. Smith develops a unique and compelling world that has new surprises around each turn in the road.

As for plot, I won't spoil any for readers, but Amber Smith shows her usual skill at keeping the reader so engrossed in the story that the pages practically turn themselves. Within this she blends thematic and metaphorical content via astronomy and photography that clench the artistic edge of this novel.

Overall, I'd say it is her definitive work. She has really blown me away with this book and I can't wait to grab the final published version and meet Chris and Maia all over again.

Nia says

reads *For fans of Love, Simon* and immediately adds to TBR

also, a trans main character

Mari Yeung says

This is not a book I would normally freak out to read based on the synopsis but IT IS AMBER SMITH.

I can't freaking wait aaaaaahhh!

Elsa Frost says

LGBT+ rep? Particularly representation of a transgender person who's the **main character** of this book?? I repeat: **the main character??** I'm down! It's about time the wide diversity of the LGBTQ+ community (among all of our marginalized communities) is represented in literature, movies, etc.

ellie says

love, simon + amber smith = the way to my heart tbh

Bookworm LLC says

I LOVE AMBER SMITH!

Something Like Gravity is a book about transgender and how it affects family as well as friendships, but especially the individual themselves.

I feel Ms. Smith caught the emotions well of what it's like for a transgender person to live in today's world. The bullying they go through and how they handle it whether it be taking things with a grain of salt because you are who you are or if it gets as bad as suicide.

People are who they are and should not be judged because they are different than what others perceive.

Thank you for writing this story Amber Smith!

Christine Stamper says

Meh

Ivy says

(I have not read this book. The description just kind of sparked something in me, and then I read the reviews and got a tiny bit more frustrated, so I'm using this space to rant, just a little. Basically, this is more @thecispeoplewhoaregoingtoreadthis than @theauthor)

I'm only adding this book because I've got to say: There's a lot of really great, positive, own-voices genderqueer YA lit coming out this year. This book, in my opinion, doesn't seem like it's going to be included in that category. The fact that the book makes sure we know Chris is Transgender (with a capital T) in the first sentence of the description is discouraging, and no shame to the author (her other books seem fantastic!) but a cis woman writing a transmasculine character almost never goes well. (It's rare to see cis women writing transfeminine characters, even though they have much more in common with them than

transmasc characters. Huh. It's almost as if they see transmasc characters only as their past forced identity as a girl and therefore can never truly write an authentic transmasc story because they can't process the guy's gender correctly!)

Sorry. That was a bit of a rant. On a different note, I saw that at least one other of this author's books had a plot that involved a character being assaulted or attacked. This is great, and we need this representation... but I'd prefer such a sensitive story to be own voices piece, or at least written by someone of the same minority as the victim. Also, there is a trend, in popular media, similar to the "Kill Your Gays" trope. I guess it could be called the "Assault Your Trans" trope. It's rarely necessary and I've seen it so much, it's pretty discouraging.

I guess all I want to get across is: **To the cis people out there who see this book and immediately think "Ah, trans boy falling in love! So cute, great representation, yay!"... just be aware that while I'm sure this author is a fantastic writer, and hopefully did her best to write an authentic story: there are so many other trans stories out there that you should reach for instead of letting books like this check the "trans-rep" box in your conscience.** Stories by Own Voices authors about the struggles of being genderqueer, but also about genderqueer kids thriving! Falling in love and not being afraid! Being tough and cool and funny and passionate and ANYTHING but soft and confused. 2019, more than any other year, is The Best Year Ever for genderqueer, YA, authentic representation. So, read this book if you want, but please, please, please remember: This is not the genderqueer experience. There is so much own voices representation out there that you should explore if you're looking for authentic representation.

And in conclusion, even though this isn't really related directly to this book, but still important: You shouldn't **EVER** read something because it has a "cute trans boy." and *especially* not because it has a "cute trans boi" You should read it because it has a cute boy. **Period.**

It's 11 o'clock at night and I should probably get to bed.

Maggie says

amber smith writing about a trans boy falling in love for the first time???

please just throw this book at my face i need it

Kelsie Pates says

For Maia, Summer means working at her crappy job, dealing with her divorced-but-still-live-together parents, and trying to reconnect with the memory of her older sister, Mallory, who passed away unexpectedly. But then Chris shows up, moves in next door, and makes her fall in love with him. Or at least, that's how it seems. Chris is staying with his aunt for the Summer because living in a small town for a few months is definitely easier than facing his parents who can't seem to fully accept the fact that he is transgender. Pulled together by more than just proximity, Chris and Maia have a summer full of love, laughs, and secrets, some of which change their lives in unexpected ways. This is a heartfelt, tender novel that touches on some difficult topics while also exploring the joy and uncertainty that comes with first love.
