



Every Time We Say Goodbye

Jamie Zeppa

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1942: Her mother's death left Grace Turner detached from the world until she became pregnant. Now, she's fallen in love with her baby boy but is locked in combat with her sister-in-law over his care. Wanting an independent life for herself and her son, Grace leaves Sault Ste. Marie to find work, and a place of her own, in southern Ontario. But she worries: when she returns for her baby, will her brother and sister-in-law give him up?

1957: Teenaged Dean Turner breaks open a locked box and finds adoption papers with a birth certificate for Daniel Turner, son of Grace Turner and an unknown father. His parents deny that he is adopted, but four years later, Dean leaves home to find the mysterious Grace.

1961: Laura falls in love with Dean Turner soon after he sits down at her table in the Queen Street Eaton's cafeteria, but he disappears as suddenly and as devastatingly as he appeared. When she encounters him in Sault Ste. Marie three years later, she is determined not to let him slip away again.

1973: Eight-year-old Dawn Turner waits for her father one morning at the front door of her grandparents' house. Dawn and her little brother are finally starting a life with their father, Dean, and his new wife. But when the new beginning doesn't work out, she and Jimmy end up back with their grandparents. As Dawn grows up, she must work to understand her family's mysteries and disappearing acts before she loses track of herself completely.

Jamie Zeppa paints a tender and perceptive portrait of the unconventional, though not entirely dysfunctional, Turner family. Rich with mystery, broken promises and in the end, some mending of hearts, *Every Time We Say Goodbye* explores what it means to leave, to be left, to be absent; what connects parents and children, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives - and what drives them apart.

Every Time We Say Goodbye Details

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Author : Jamie Zeppa

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From Reader Review Every Time We Say Goodbye for online ebook

Vionna says

The novel is an age-old story of a family in crisis with a rich family history, shifting dynamics and a gentle voice that allows the novel to waft, rather than plod, as it pieces together its characters' disparate narratives. The dialog is quite sentimental, but her writing is redeemed by her characters. The female characters are very strong, especially the grandmother, Vera. At times, the events seems a trifle too good to be true, especially Grace entering business for herself after dream walking a good portion of her life. I could visualize the settings described since I know Sault Ste. Marie quite. For a first novel, I enjoyed her efforts.

Mary says

A poignant story of the quintessential dysfunctional family. The story jumps back and forth through time and is told (successfully!) from several different viewpoints in authentic voice. I was attached to the characters and intrigued by the storyline. As a parent, some parts of the story were uncomfortable, if not difficult, to read simply because I couldn't relate to that style of parenting (or lack there-of), but that was the point, I think. A fast read, and a moving and hopeful story.

Patricia says

I'm just not sure about this book.

Dianne Kaucharik says

My views of this novel are mixed. I enjoyed the Canadian settings (Sault Ste. Marie, Peterborough, Toronto) and particularly the story of Grace, a young woman who endured hardship and heartache after becoming pregnant out of wedlock, at a time that this brought much shame. The novel addressed a multitude of family issues: birth, illness, death, infertility, infidelity, adoption, addictions, abandonment, cults, drugs, crime and secrecy. Imagine Maeve Binchy writing about a dysfunctional Canadian family and you have it!

In this book, the changes in narration between the characters of Dawn, Grace, Dean and Laura, detracted from the story as did the non-chronological order - though I appreciate why it was done this way. In my view, Laura was introduced much too late (page 198 in my edition) and then became central. Conversely, Dean was predominant at the beginning but then seemed to fade away. In spite of its wanderings and mostly dismal storyline for most characters, the story miraculously gets tied up with a red bow at the end. Sorry to say but I can't give it more than a 3 out of 5.

Megan says

I didn't want this to end and was hesitant to bring it to book club because I hate the idea of someone not loving it the way I do. This is beautifully written. It's about families and loss and love and life. I'll read anything by Jamie Zappa after this!

Marlo says

I received a copy of this book from Goodreads.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and couldn't put it down. It follows the characters through the generations and every section is told from the point of view of a different family member. Even though some family secrets were revealed early in the book, the author still managed to hook me right to the last page with unanswered questions. I would rate this five stars except for some mature situations and language that I can't recommend to everyone.

Jenr says

I won a free copy of this book from Goodreads!!

This book takes a look at the relationships between children and their parents or caregivers. It explores the attachments formed by children for the people who look after them and how easily or difficult breaking those bonds can be.

The Author explores the role of a single unwed mother and the trials she faces when she chooses to keep her baby during a time when young single pregnant girls were whisked away to have their babies in secret, never to be spoken of again.

The book focuses on several generations and the different attitudes/morals held by each towards different challenges in life.

Certain aspects of depression are also touched upon by more than one character in this book, as well as the various ways that the characters deal with their depression and the effects it has on the people around them.

This book is very well written and hard to put down. The story is spun with skill and imagination as well as with an indepth knowledge of controversial issues that seems to inspire a certain amount of understanding in the reader for the trials of the characters portrayed.

I would absolutely recommend this book, infact I already have! It is a very entertaining, thought provoking read.

Sue says

"Every Time We Say Goodbye" by Jamie Zeppa.

This book takes a look at the relationships between children and their parents or caregivers. It explores the attachments formed by children for the people who look after them.

The Author explores the role of a single unwed mother and the trials she faces when she chooses to keep her baby during a time when young single pregnant girls were whisked away to have their babies in secret, never to be spoken of again.

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This book is very well written and hard to put down. The story is spun with skill and imagination. Very enjoyable read.

Mike Robbins says

This fine first novel from Jamie Zeppa is about families, and how their members mess each other around, and mess each other up. That isn't a new theme and it's hard to see how she could add anything new. Yet she has, through the warmth and understanding with which she has drawn her characters.

It's Zeppa's first novel, but not her first book. In the 1990s she taught in a remote location in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan. I was in Bhutan at the same time, but we lived at opposite ends of the country and rarely met. However, I liked her book about her experience (*Beyond the Sky and Earth: A Journey into Bhutan*), so I wanted to read this.

Every Time We Say Goodbye takes us through the lives of three generations of a fictional family over nearly 50 years in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. It starts with the death of a mother as seen by her young daughter in 1930, and goes on through that daughter's troubles and pregnancy, and her conflict with her sister-in-law, who has become the *de facto* head of the family. Some of the characters are irresponsible. Others are too far the other way. But even the least sympathetic character, the sister-in-law, is not a monster but someone the reader can understand and in some ways respect.

Zeppa's understanding of her characters is matched by the skill with which she has constructed the book. Instead of a simple narrative, there are a series of episodes seen from the point of view of one of the individuals. The length and depth of these episodes is nicely judged so that we understand who the characters are, and why they act in the way they do. At the same time, we don't get bogged down in one character or another; the pace of the novel is consistent and the reader stays involved.

At the end of the book there's a great segment where one of the youngest characters joins a cult; Zeppa depicts it not as sinister or frightening, but as a rather silly and squalid evasion of the family and its reality, and somehow it all makes sense.

I liked this book; it's readable and humane.

Canadian Reader says

This book didn't pass my 50-page test drive. I didn't find the characters particularly interesting or their situations compelling as far as I got. Not badly written...but slightly anemic. The story opens with children who have been living with their orderly "grandparents" and are to move in with their less than reliable father and his new wife. The story then moves into the back story of the father and the kids' "grand-parents" who aren't really grand-parents after all but great-aunt and uncle. I really was more interested in the kids and felt sorry that they got left behind while the author turned to unearthing the past. The writing is solid enough but, at the time I was reading, the story didn't feel new or fresh enough to draw me in.

Shonna Froebel says

This is a novel about the Turner family, based in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. The novel is told in several voices.

We have Grace, who was disconnected from life after her mother died. Grace who had a baby without a husband. While her brother Frank and his wife Vera supported her and the baby, there was a struggle for control. Grace left to make a new life for herself, and worried that when she went back for the baby, Frank and Vera wouldn't let him go.

We have Dean, raised as Frank and Vera's son, finding a birth certificate for Daniel, son of Grace Turner, and adoption papers. He is interrupted and next time he looks the papers are gone. Dean struggles with who he is and who his birth parents are. He runs wild and isn't an involved father himself.

We have Laura, who encountered Dean once on one of his sprees and can't forget him. When she finds him again, she won't let him go. Or will she?

We have Dawn, Dean's daughter, raised by Frank and Vera, having her own struggles for her place in the world. She wants to understand her family and why her parents weren't there for her, why she and her brother Jimmy live with Frank and Vera. As Dawn's actions finally bring the family together, there is hope for truth and a more positive future.

This book has sadness and happiness, death and birth. It is the story of a family with its ups and downs. Engaging and flowing, this book will capture you with its characters.

Carrie Marcotte says

I would have given this a 3.5 out of 5 if I was given the option.

This was a First Reads book that I won through GoodReads. I wasn't sure if I would like this novel, but once I got into it I was really interested in the characters and the family history. The characters are flushed out well and the plot moves along quickly. You become really attached to their stories, especially Dawn and Grace. I also loved the undercurrent of fractured family and mental illness. This is a great first novel for this author.

Colleen says

Spans three generations of one particular family, starting in the 1940's when Grace becomes an unwed

mother and her sister-in-law tries to keep the child. Successive generations all fall prey to parents coming and going, and all the missing links don't come together until the end. A bit of an unexpected twist at the end. Not your usual dismal Canadian lit. Not necessarily a great book, but I'm glad I read it.

Amalia says

Every Time We Say Goodbye arrived on my doorstep from goodsreads.com firstreads only a short week ago. I was so excited and started reading almost immediately. Well, I had to tend to the baby; take my son skating and guide him through his homeschooling day; and as the day wore on, drive carpools for the older kids; I had to make dinner, help with homework and get them all safely tucked into their beds - but then, I IMMEDIATELY started reading this book!

I was hooked almost from the get-go. For my initial reactions, please visit my blog at kidlit2011.blogspot.com and read the "A FREE Book!" entry. In every book, each reader tends to gravitate to and relate to a specific character. Every Time We Say Goodbye is inhabited by several well developed and interesting characters. My heart attached itself to Grace from the first moments. I was torn to pieces as I grew up alongside her. While I met many others along the journey, I was constantly wondering about Grace. Where was she? When would I see her again? It drove me to distraction. This is not to say that I didn't learn from my dealings with the other characters. On the contrary. I felt for Vera, even though I rarely saw eye-to-eye with her. I struggled along in frustration and annoyance with Dean.

Zeppa takes on an incredible journey of love and loss and rediscovery. Of family. As most of my family and friends already know, I am extraordinarily sensitive to my reading material; I get a little too attached. So, while I may have preferred to have heard the story from another, more cheery, perspective, I fully understand, respect, and support Zeppa's decision to tell from the viewpoint she did.

What struck me with this story is the sense of sadness that seemed to exist almost solely due to several serious miscommunications, or rather, chosen silences. What are we doing when we silence those around us, and within us? When we fail to listen, even to our own hearts? Every Time We Say Goodbye begins in the 1930s, maybe even a little earlier. It was in many ways a simpler time, in many ways more complicated. We have since removed many inhibitions and created new rules by which to live and raise our children. We like to think that we are there for them, we respect them and listen to them. But are we? Do we? We live in an age of constant and instant communication: we can text, facebook, call, email, almost anyone, almost anytime. Yet, we often fail to really communicate, fail to really listen. We are so enlightened, and yet so in the dark. Are we really listening, are we hearing? As I read this book, I was reminded of some of the many ways in which we can silence those around us.

This is a beautifully written and thought-provoking work whose characters come alive on the pages of our minds.

Thank you firstreads for this journey.

Natashya KitchenPuppies says

This is bound to become a Canadian classic, with pride of place between Ann-Marie MacDonald and Carol

Shields and other awesome Canadian writers. I read the whole book in about 24 hours; an emotional roller coaster to be sure, I felt totally invested in every character and page.
