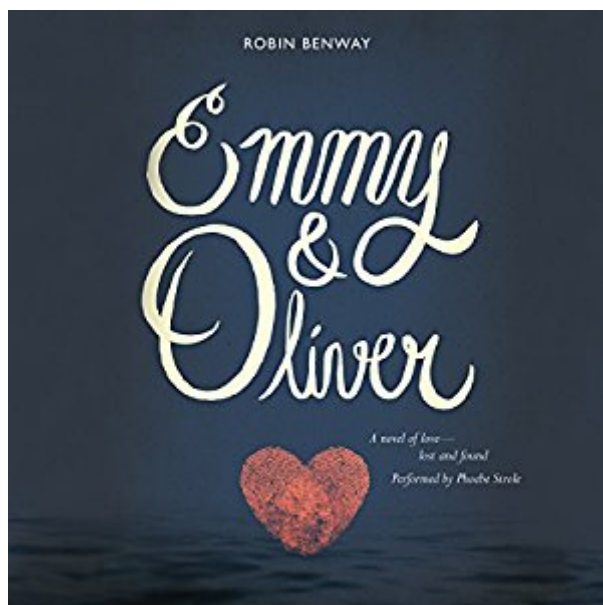


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# Emmy & Oliver



## Synopsis

Emmy and Oliver were going to be best friends forever, or maybe even more, before their futures were ripped apart. In Emmy's soul, despite the space and time between them, their connection has never been severed. But is their story still written in the stars? Or are their hearts like the pieces of two different puzzles - impossible to fit together? Emmy just wants to be in charge of her own life.... She wants to stay out late, surf her favorite beach - go anywhere without her parents' relentless worrying. But Emmy's parents can't seem to let her grow up - not since the day Oliver disappeared. Oliver needs a moment to figure out his heart.... He'd thought, all these years, that his dad was the good guy. He never knew that it was his father who had kidnapped him and kept him on the run. Discovering it and finding himself returned to his old hometown all at once has his heart racing and his thoughts swirling. Listeners who love Sarah Dessen will devour this program with hearts in throats as Emmy and Oliver struggle to face the messy, confusing consequences of Oliver's father's crime. Full of romance, coming-of-age emotion, and heartache, these two equally compelling characters create an unforgettable story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A heartfelt tale of love lost and second chances, EMMY & OLIVER kept me reading through the night, savoring the heartwarming reunion with the main character, Emmy, and her childhood sweetheart/bestie, Oliver, who was kidnapped in second grade, only to suddenly return back into their lives ten years later. The characters were eloquently written and ripe with development. EMMY

& OLIVER is just what I want out of a contemporary YA or coming of age novel. Not only were the characters real, but I loved all of them. None of them were overly mature or whiny as you sometimes get in YA, nor were they unbelievable in their maturity. Simply put, they were just right. I loved how Emmy and Oliver reconnected after his return. Oliver's feelings were portrayed in a very real light. He felt torn between knowing that his father committed this horrible crime by taking him years ago, yet he still loved him and missed him just the same. He felt so torn between his feelings. I think one of the most profound things he said about his situation was that being returned to his mother's old life felt like being kidnapped all over again. He was so human, and I'm so glad Benway didn't try to sweep those feelings under the rug and make Oliver unrealistically happy. I loved that this book really showed all the angles of Oliver's kidnapping, how it didn't only destroy his mother's life, but also his friends and neighbors, as well. Especially Emmy. Her parents reacted by becoming extremely overprotective and conservative to a fault. As a result, Emmy is struggling. She has a secret passion she has to hide because if she told them, they would ban her from doing it for fear that she might get hurt. She has a secret college she wants to go to, but can't tell them because they won't possibly let her go away to school. Emmy is struggling in the aftermath of Oliver's disappearance just as much as he is, and toward the end of the book, circumstances finally push her over the edge and make her confront her parents. Overall, this is the kind of YA I could read over and over. I loved it! \*See this and more reviews on My Crazy Bookish Life

Emmy and Oliver are neighbors and best friends until one day Oliver never returned home. Ten years later, Oliver returns home and is confused about his life. At first everyone tells Emmy that Oliver needs space but then all of a sudden, they want her to hang out with Oliver. Emmy takes him under her wing and helps him adjust to his new life. Both Emmy and Oliver are trying to figure out each other since there has been a ten year gap within their friendship. It must be hard for Oliver to come back home to find that he has a step dad and two half-sisters. Also, when Oliver is in New York, he goes by Colin. When he returns to California, everyone calls him Oliver. No wonder he is confused. It doesn't help that news reporters are always trying to set up a televised interview and how he is trying to find out who he is in peace. I found it refreshing that Emmy takes Oliver surfing. Although Emmy keeps surfing a secret from her parents, she feels like surfing would help Oliver break through his shell. Oliver hasn't had much fun for a long time and he does admit that he enjoys

surfing even though he has a hard time learning. I love how Caro and Drew are always there for Emmy. Caro and Drew are the perfect best friends one can ask for. Robin Benway writes about parents realistically. The parents care about their children and the relationship between parent and child is authentic. It's nice to read about supportive people in a teen's life. Also, I love how Emmy and Oliver continue their relationship from where they left off. Even though it takes awhile for Oliver to adjust to the new changes, he seems the happiest when he is with Emmy. There is no insta-love which is great. The slow burning romance is perfect! Benway does an excellent job with the different struggles teens deal with. Emmy's parents don't approve her doing certain things like surfing and is very strict about the curfew. Drew is struggling with figuring out his self and having his family accepting who he is. Caro receives little attention from her parents since she is one out of six children. Oliver doesn't learn he was kidnapped until he returned back to California. He is learning to adjust to life before New York. His mother is remarried and he has two half sisters. The variety of different family dynamics definitely will appeal to readers. Emmy & Oliver is honest coming-of-age novel about friendship, love, family and trust. I definitely recommend this novel for those who enjoy reading YA contemporary.

Grade: B After Emmy's next door neighbor and best friend Oliver is kidnapped by his father when they're seven, their whole small town changes. Her parents become controlling and overprotective, and Emmy feels an emptiness that nothing can fill. When Oliver returns ten years later, different yet the same, she wonders if their friendship can resume, or maybe something more. I only purchased EMMY & OLIVER because I had the novel on sale for \$1.99, thinking it would be a meh read, but finished this delightful story in a day. Although there were few surprises and not much happened, I enjoyed the characters' growth and maturation. I loved Emmy's voice, the writing felt organic and held my interest. Even though I cringed when she constantly lied to her parents, I could understand her motivation since they treated her more like she was ten than seventeen. Oliver was very sympathetic and all of his emotions and thoughts made sense. Their sidekicks were interesting as well. The adults felt a little cliché. The ending, while possible seemed unlikely but I can't say more without spoiling. THEMES: friendship, romance, LGBT, kidnapping EMMY & OLIVER is a compelling story about how one boy's disappearance and return as a young man rocks two families. I will look for other Robin Benway books in the future.

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