

The Geography of You and Me

By Jennifer E. Smith

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Lucy lives on the twenty-fourth floor. Owen lives in the basement. It's fitting, then, that they meet in the middle -- stuck between two floors of a New York City apartment building, on an elevator rendered useless by a citywide blackout. After they're rescued, Lucy and Owen spend the night wandering the darkened streets and marveling at the rare appearance of stars above Manhattan. But once the power is back, so is reality. Lucy soon moves abroad with her parents, while Owen heads out west with his father.

The brief time they spend together leaves a mark. And as their lives take them to Edinburgh and to San Francisco, to Prague and to Portland, Lucy and Owen stay in touch through postcards, occasional e-mails, and phone calls. But can they -- despite the odds -- find a way to reunite?

Smartly observed and wonderfully romantic, Jennifer E. Smith's new novel shows that the center of the world isn't necessarily a place. Sometimes, it can be a person.

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The Geography of You and Me By Jennifer E. Smith Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Gr 7 Up—Lucy and Owen meet in a stalled elevator in their New York City apartment building when a blackout affects the northeast. The two are rescued and spend the remaining night wandering the dark streets, admiring the star-filled sky, and picnicking on the roof. The next morning the power returns and with it the reality of their situation. The two are pulled in opposite directions as Lucy and her family move to London and Owen and his father trek westward across the United States. Although they are separated by thousands of miles, the teens can't forget each other. Though fate initially brought them together, it is up to them to engineer a way to meet again. This contemporary YA novel focuses on themes of family, life after loss, and long-distance relationships. Readers will enjoy experiencing different cities and countries through the protagonists' eyes. Fans of Sarah Dessen, Elizabeth Eulberg, and Susane Colasanti will enjoy Smith's latest meet-cute romance.—Tiffany Davis, Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, NY

From Booklist
Starred Review The meet-cute master behind The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight (2012) and This Is What Happy Looks Like (2013) delivers her best book yet, a straightforward, old-fashioned swoonfest that, in another time, would be a film starring Audrey Hepburn. One sweltering summer day, Lucy and Owen get stuck on an elevator in their New York City high-rise. Well, it’s her high-rise, really—Owen is the superintendent’s son living in the basement—but class differences vanish with only a few feet of breathing room. They are freed, and the few hours of citywide blackout that follow become an enchanted fissure in time wherein the two establish a deep connection. The bulk of the book details their winding paths back to “the heat and spark and flame” they found in the dark, as Lucy is tugged around Europe by her successful parents while Owen and his newly jobless father hit the American highways in search of work. Yes, it’s another take on An Affair to Remember, and no, there’s nothing new here. But it’s a classic dish served up with style, heart, and a long-distance yearning immediately recognizable to anyone who has had to love from afar. And Smith makes it all look as effortless as the charmed rapport between Lucy and Owen. Grades 8-11. --Daniel Kraus

Review

Praise for *The Geography of You and Me*:
A *VOYA* Perfect Tens 2014 Selection
A YALSA 2015 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers Selection
A YALSA 2015 Teens Top Ten Nominee

* "The meet-cute master behind *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight* and *This Is What Happy Looks Like* delivers her best book yet, a straightforward, old-fashioned swoon-fest that, in another time, would be a film starring Audrey Hepburn."?***Booklist,* starred review**

* "Fans of Smith's previous works, namely *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight*, and other love stories like John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars* and David Levithan's *Every Day* will like this novel, which is a similar combination of head and heart...A welcome addition to any library."?***VOYA,* starred review**

"A heart-shaking exploration of a fragile long-distance relationship...Deftly romantic and anchored in an age when the Internet has made long distance a much more familiar concept for teenagers, this is a fantastic story."?***Vanity Fair***

"Truth about love always gets our attention, and this book will catch readers'."?***Kirkus Reviews***

"Smith has written a sweet, moody story that can also be deeply heartbreaking...There are plenty of romantic sigh-worthy moments, too, but it's Owen and Lucy's individual journeys that really hit home."?***Publishers Weekly***

"Smith captures the romantic sparks that fly in unusual situations and the way love can build even when circumstances keep people apart. If you like your romances with a bit of European adventure, some New York glamour, and a lot of honest heart, this one's for you."?***E. Lockhart, author of The Boyfriend List* and *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks***

"The greatest space between two people is measured in emotions, not miles. *The Geography of You and Me* is a true, tender long-distance love story guaranteed to strike a resonant chord in hopeful romantics everywhere."?***Megan McCafferty, bestselling author of the Jessica Darling series and Bumped***

"Jennifer E. Smith represents the absolute best in YA writing, and readers will carry this poignant love story in their hearts long after the last sentence is read."?***Susane Colasanti, bestselling author of When It Happens***

"*The Geography of You and Me* is a magic, magic book. It will take you to a place where we all want to live, where true love overcomes any distance."?***Huntley Fitzpatrick, author of My Life Next Door* and *What I Thought Was True***

"If it was just a travel story or just a love story, *The Geography of You and Me* would still be perfect, but it's both and more. I loved this book!"?***Lauren Morrill, author of Meant to Be* and *Being Sloane Jacobs***

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gary Sandler:

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Susan Tarin:

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Matthew Haley:

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