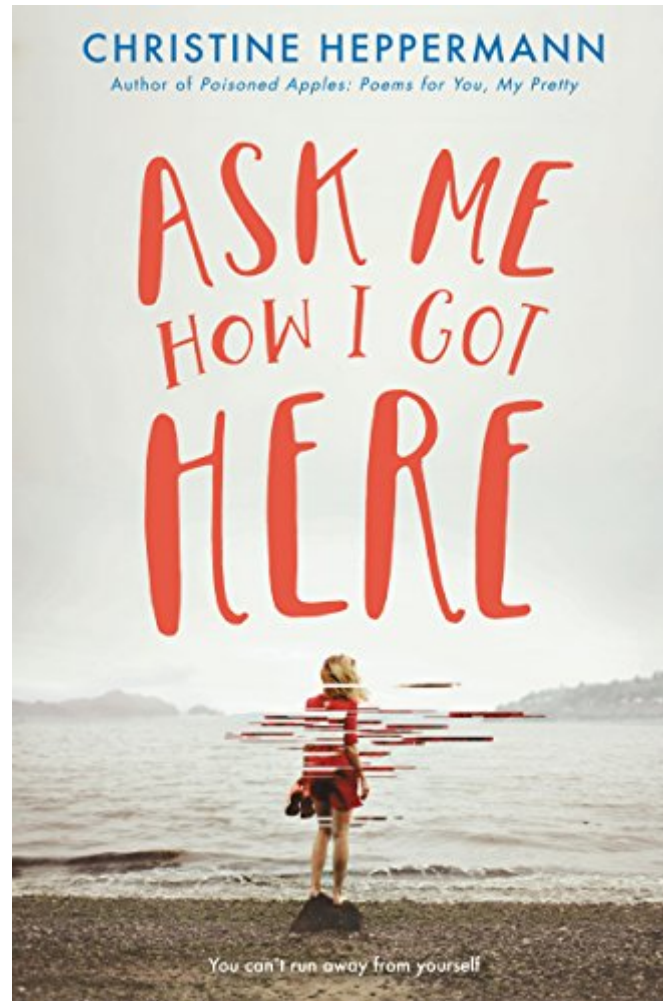




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Ask Me How I Got Here



Synopsis

How do you define yourself? By your friends? Your family? Your boyfriend? Your grades? Your trophies? Your choices? By a single choice? From the author of the acclaimed *Poisoned Apples* comes a novel in verse about a young woman and the aftermath of a life-altering decision. Fans of Laurie Halse Anderson and Ellen Hopkins will find the powerful questions, the difficult truths, and the inner strength that speak to them in *Ask Me How I Got Here*. Addie has always known what she was running toward, whether in cross country, in her all-girls Catholic school, or in love. Until she and her boyfriend—her sensitive, good-guy boyfriend—are careless one night, and she gets pregnant. Addie makes the difficult choice to have an abortion. And after that—even though she knows it was the right decision for her—nothing is the same. She doesn't want anyone besides her parents and her boyfriend to know what happened; she doesn't want to run cross country anymore; she can't bring herself to be excited about anything. Until she reconnects with Juliana, a former teammate who's going through her own dark places. Once again, Christine Heppermann writes with an unflinching honesty and a deep sensitivity about the complexities of being a teenager, being a woman. Her free verse poems are moving, provocative, and often full of wry humor and a sharp wit.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

GRADE: C-TWO WORDS: wrong formatCatholic school student Addie gets pregnant and chooses to have an abortion, but doesn't receive counseling to help her process the experience and she becomes depressed.POSITIVES:-Strong, intelligent, humorous and likable main character-Crisp writing-Abortion as a choice, without angst and regret-Supportive boyfriendNEGATIVES:-Missing connection between feelings and insight-Much too short-Non-ending endingASK ME HOW I GOT HERE touches on some very important feminist issues in a very effective manner--sexuality, sex, abortion, friendship, family, sexual orientation. Unfortunately, due to the verse format, these surfaces of these issues are barely scratched. I felt like there was so much more to Addie and her experiences. I wanted to know her better, to feel some of her pain. I interpreted that pain to having gone through a traumatic experience, but not processing the emotions involved with her boyfriend, parents, friends or a professional. Her best friend seems like she would have been empathic, understanding and nonjudgmental.I enjoyed Christine Heppermann's writing and the story very much, but I think she could have either written more or used prose because Addie was a great character with a great story. Unfortunately, that story felt incomplete, like an outline needing more detail.

This was a short read but very powerful. Addie is a cross-country runner who is forced to reconsider who she is -- to herself, to her boyfriend, to her parents, to the world -- after she gets pregnant. It's a verse novel, and I think it's one of my new favorites of the genre. The poems are short, but full of strong images. And fans of LGBTQ+ YA should take note of this one -- no huge spoilers, but there are hints of f/f attraction about halfway through the book.

DNF.I didn't realize this novel was written in free verse poetry when I purchased and the format simply didn't work for me. I couldn't get past page 10 and thus the one star rating.

Public School Kids Always AskHow do you meet guysif you go to an all-girls school?Immaculate Heart Academyis named for the pure love of Godthat flows through Mary's heart.But here's the real reason whyour logo is a hunk of dripping muscle:five

hundred girls in red plaid skirts. Even if we brushed with garlic toothpaste we couldn't keep the vampires away.### Mary's Parents Sure, they tried their best not to treat her any different. What choice did they have? After all, she was still their daughter, and they had promised God to love her no matter what crazy s*** her body could do.### The summer before her junior year of high school, Addie becomes pregnant and decides to have an abortion. In a refreshing twist, her parents and boyfriend are wholly supportive of Addie, and her decision: Nick accompanies her to the appointment, and mom and dad sign off on it without argument (Addie lives in Minnesota, a state that requires parental consent). She isn't conflicted about her choice, but Addie does slip into a bit of a depression or malaise after the fact. Worried about disappointing everyone yet again, she mostly keeps to herself. She withdraws from Nick and loses interest in classwork. She quits the cross-country team which was supposed to fund her college education and starts spending her afternoons at Java Joes, so her parents are none the wiser. There she runs into Juliana, another former track star from Immaculate Heart Academy, who is dealing with her own capital-s S***. And then, slowly, Addie finds her way back to normal: her new normal. As much as I believe that abortion needs greater representation in popular culture, stories dealing with the procedure make me nervous: will they be too preachy? Anti-choice? Slut-shaming? Misogynist? But the synopsis for ASK ME HOW I GOT HERE looked fairly reassuring, and Book Riot's glowing review sealed the deal for me. As it turns out, ASK ME HOW I GOT HERE is pretty effing great. Although Addie does withdraw after her having an abortion, she never second-guesses herself; she knows, 1000%, that it was the right choice for her. Yet there's no escaping society's conflicting views on abortion especially when you attend a Catholic school. In lessons on compassion, Addie's forced to listen to her classmates' ideas of how women who have had abortions should react: with shame, guilt, and remorse. Addie feels none of this, though her peers' conservative leanings do force her to keep it a secret: she doesn't even tell her best friend and teammate Claire, which only adds to her feelings of isolation. It isn't difficult to imagine that Addie's experience might have been more positive or at least neutral or if everyone around her was as accepting as her parents. ASK ME HOW I GOT HERE is a novel written in verse, which I know some readers find gimmicky; but I enjoy the change of pace, and I think it works quite well here. Many of the poems are works of art or sly feminist masterpieces on their own, and they all come together to create a lovely story

worthy of multiple readings. You can fly through the book rather quickly, but why would you want to? These verses are meant to be savored. Addie's poems are even tied to the story's ending, which made my heart swell. Also, there's a really great #WNDB twist that I won't mention because spoilers, but you'll know it when you see it. ** Full disclosure: I received a free electronic ARC for review through Edelweiss. **

Addie has a great life. She's good at running and will certainly be able to go to college on a scholarship, she has a kind boyfriend and she has good friends. Then she gets pregnant and things start to unravel. A heartbreaking decision will change her life forever and she's lost. Even though her parents and boyfriend are supportive nothing can prepare her for what it makes her feel. Will someone be able to find her again so she can start to heal? Ask Me How I Got Here is a beautiful heart rending story about a girl who loses her sense of self and the good in her life when she has to make a terribly difficult decision. Christine Heppermann describes the emotions in such a fantastic moving way that it left me speechless. This is a novel in verse and her writing is excellent. I had tears in my eyes while I was reading about Addie and everything she was going through. Sometimes nothing can prepare you for the kind of feelings you will have after a life changing experience. Addie's story is an example of what that's like, when nothing seems to be right any longer and everything that used to be normal has become alien all of a sudden. I could feel what Addie was feeling, I saw what she was seeing and I understood her pain. That made this story so beautiful. It's a sad story, but one that had has to be told and read. It's about a sensitive topic and Christine Heppermann deals with it in a touching and thoughtful way. I highly recommend this book, it's really amazing.

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ALEXA: 2000 BEST AND FUNNY THINGS TO ASK ALEXA: LONGEST LIST OF TOP QUESTIONS TO ASK ALEXA Æ NEVER RUN OUT OF QUESTIONS TO ASK ALEXA Ask Me How I Got Here Ask and It Is Given - Part 1: The Law of Attraction (Ask and It Is Given) (Pt.I) How the Sphinx Got to the Museum (How the . . . Got to the Museum) When Fish Got Feet, Sharks Got Teeth, and Bugs Began to Swarm: A Cartoon Prehistory of Life Long Before Dinosaurs The Ask: How to Ask for Support for Your Nonprofit Cause, Creative Project, or Business Venture Amazing Questions Kids Ask about God (Questions Children Ask) Game Of Thrones: 10 Most Memorable moments from Game of thrones & 23 Facts about GOT you should Know, 26 Jokes only people who've finished GOT Season 5 Will understand (Game of Thrones Secrets) Got 'Em, Got

'Em, Need 'em: A Fan's Guide to Collecting the Top 100 Sports Cards of All Time The Ask Suze Financial Library, Comprehensive Answers to Essential Financial Questions - 9 Book Set, Ask Suze About Social Security, Love & Money, Stocks & Bonds, Mutual Funds & Annuities, Insurance, Real Estate, Planning Future, Debt, Wills & Trusts (9 Book Set) Ask Elizabeth: Real Answers to Everything You Secretly Wanted to Ask About Love, Friends, Your Body... and Life in General Financial Shock (Updated Edition), (Paperback): Global Panic and Government Bailouts--How We Got Here and What Must Be Done to Fix It What Got You Here Won't Get You There: How Successful People Become Even More Successful Taking Your Church to the Next Level: What Got You Here Won't Get You There Bill Bryson Collector's Edition: Notes from a Small Island, Neither Here Nor There, and I'm a Stranger Here Myself Making Places for People: 12 Questions Every Designer Should Ask The Ticket: Full Disclosure: The Completely True Story of the Marconi-winning Little Ticket, A.k.a., the Station That Got Your Mom to Say 'Stay Hard' Leading Roles: 50 Questions Every Arts Board Should Ask Finally Got the News: The Printed Legacy of the U.S. Radical Left, 1970-1979 The Ultimate Guide for Gay Dads: Everything You Need to Know About LGBTQ Parenting But Are (Mostly) Afraid to Ask

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