



You Know Where to Find Me

Rachel Cohn

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Jamal said only, "Laura..." And I knew, just knew by the rip through my gut and the instant convulsion in my heart, knew by Jamal's uncharacteristically unsmiling face. I knew because Laura always did what I wished I could do.

First cousins Laura and Miles grew up like sisters. Miles thought of Laura as the golden one -- smart, beautiful, rich, and popular -- while Miles considered herself the unwanted one -- an unattractive, underachieving outcast. Laura's suicide shatters Miles and leaves her feeling completely alone, and sets Miles on a dangerous downward spiral. But in the strength Miles finds in herself and in those she didn't believe cared about her, she is able to rebuild her life in unexpected ways.

Rachel Cohn's emotionally powerful new novel views serious issues such as depression, suicide, prescription-drug abuse, and alternative family configurations through the lens of family love and survival.

You Know Where to Find Me Details

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Author : Rachel Cohn

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From Reader Review You Know Where to Find Me for online ebook

Lea says

I usually don't write reviews on books, but this one needed one. This book was AWFUL. I should have known I wasn't going to like it because I tried to read a book from this author once before and it bored me to death. This book felt like there wasn't much a point to it except that the sister/cousin girl over dosed and died. There was absolutely no climax or turning point in this book... my suggestion is to not waste your time.

Heidi says

I didn't like this book but I had my reasons. It's so boring, I didn't even finish it. Here are a couple of my reasons (besides the fact that I usually only ever write reviews for extremely horrible or extremely amazing books. There is no in between. And sadly, this book is the later.):

- 1.) I really tried to understand Miles. Really I did. But when a character is this negative it's hard to like her or the book. She's so full of pessimism it's hard to swallow.
- 2.) D.C., D.C, D.C it's like that's all she ever talks about. We get it your government is crap and you should have your rights but for the love of God don't make half of the book about that. It's boring me to death.
- 3.) I was let down....I expected romance. I didn't get any, plus (view spoiler)

Do yourself a favor, don't read this book.

Jennifer says

This book has amazing characters, Miles and Laura are like sisters but they really are cousins. Miles was left with her uncle which is Laura's dad he natures Miles while her father gets better and her mother comes back. While living most of her life with Laura they become very close. Laura is a very beautiful smart popular girl and Miles looks at herself as unattractive and unpopular. For some reason Laura decide she doesn't want to stick around anymore and Miles goes on with her life full of loneliness, confusion and hurt. Miles isn't alone in this tragedy her friends and family suffer as well.

I can say "you know where to find me" was a good book. I fell in love with the characters. This book really goes into details about the main character miles life and how she hurts. If you are into funny and moving inspirational stories this book is for you if you are not into these categories this book will give you in sites of drug abuse, depression, suicide, family, and love. This book made me cry and laugh I really recommend it to you book lovers out there.

Rachel Cohn is a great author this book was a real inspiration not just for me but I am sure for other people that read this book as well. I really recommend this book read it read it read it! you will love it. I could definitely picture the characters and hardship they went threw. All the characters were great like a said

before.

laaaaames says

OH MY GOD A FAT GIRL BOOK WHERE SHE IS NOT SKINNY AT THE END HALLE-FREAKING-LULLAH.

Rachel Cohn sort of irritates me as a writer without David Levithan to even her out. I don't know if it's genuinely her style or that she's really into Francesca Lia Block or something, but, man, Rachel, sometimes all the froufy language and switches in tenses and made-up stories just sort of irritate me.

In the plus column, I really loved the character of Jim. Of course in my head he was played by Tim Gunn.

M says

"If she could only tell him the sum total of all she loves in him, he'd know she wasn't some ignorant kid who couldn't possibly understand or could experience love; he'd see that she knows it and she hurts for it." - You Know Where to Find Me, Rachel Cohn

When perfect cousin Laura commits suicide, Miles must find a way to understand and cope with the grief and turmoil that's left behind.

I really liked the whole message and point of this book. However, I gave it three stars because I often found it difficult to read because I was so bored. The book had its good and bad parts.

Steph (Reviewer X) says

Cross-posted from my blog review: <http://reviewerx.blogspot.com/2008/12...>

Uh... Okay, how do I put this? No idea.

How do I reenact this? Well, first we get an emoticon: o_O. Steam blowing from the side to indicate mental exertion? Optional. Whatever you call that sound you make when you're blowing spit bubbles, playing in the background? MANDATORY.

(Shakespeare would've been proud.)

In the interest of brevity—I don't want to spend more time thinking about this one than I have to—I'll summarize the plot in a couple of sentences:

Cousins Miles Pudgy and Laura Perfect were raised like sisters, but a falling out a couple of years prior prevented Miles from realizing the emotional pain Laura was in. When Laura commits suicide, Miles must deal with it.

You know, it doesn't even sound that good when you put it like that which is why I suppose they opted for the hook of the loopy jacket description instead. But whatever, here's the reality of the matter:

There's no plot.

Every character except for Miles, the first-person focus of the novel, is underdeveloped.

Miles herself becomes a bore after awhile.

And I still don't get it.

This would be the place to say I was in resounding love with Rachel's writing back when I first began reading YA and I picked up Pop Princess and Gingerbread. Given my distaste for her recent releases—Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist and now this—I wonder where the object of my affections has gone. Have my preferences changed that much?

The first chapter is engaging enough. I love the "once upon a time", fairy tale approach to retelling the past, which was employed here. Miles made everything seem so angelic, so perfect, you could hear the childlike giggles (of innocence) reverberating in the background. Then her tale is shattered by her cousin's death, and you can feel the shards of her broken childhood.

Moving past the first chapter, everything becomes shoddy. The focus was never really on Laura or her suicide but rather on Miles's self-loathing, drug habits, and unrequited love. And even so, those aren't resolved either. Not that these things are easily fixed—especially not in the space of 200 pages—but they weren't developed or evolved, either. Miles screws up with her drug habits as a result of her self-loathing and pushes her unrequited love away...

I'm not convinced anything changes after the last page. To me, Miles is still—as her father calls her—a burnout, except a more devastated one.

Don't even get me started on my disgust with flat characterization. On a character-driven novel. Miles had personality and voice, but everyone else was drawn like a stick (ironically what Miles wants to be, heh).

On a last note, I'm gonna say that it takes an act of God himself to make me want to clean my room. This novel, somehow, ended up propelled me to do that.

I take this to mean I was uninterested? Bored?

You tell me.

So, D. Thank god the writing style at least was redemptive.

Rebecca says

You Know Where To Find Me was an interesting book. It was interesting enough to keep me reading it but it didn't completely engross me. It's a hard book to talk about because I'm not entirely sure about it. Sure, it was quite interesting, from the start I was wanting to know where it was going. But as I got further

and further into it, it just became really predictable and kind of cliché.

The characters didn't really capture me emotionally either. I felt that when the mood was supposed to be sad and quite serious I just didn't really feel that emotional attachment. While the situation of Miles, and how she coped with grief was understandable I just didn't find it to be original or engaging.

Overall I felt this novel was alright but it just didn't appeal to me. It just didn't capture the emotion or anything. I found it quite flat.

I'd recommend this book to anyone who might want to give it a go but I dunno, it might appeal to someone else but to me it just didn't cut it.

Trisha says

"she did not kill herself as a means of escaping something. She simply chose not to live. There's a difference."

It's weird...but I found a book about suicide boring.

No, boring isn't the right word. I think I just didn't connect with any of the characters. The conversations were strange for me because they seemed...forced? had confusing slang/lingo? never seemed to be about what they were actually saying but I could never actually squeeze out the real meaning either...

and, honestly, Miles kind of sucks. she just doesn't do anything. She complains, but only some. She does drugs. a lot. and describing the high as so great....it's just such a confusing book.

I'm always nervous about YA books that portray suicide...as anything other than a really really bad thing. this doesn't portray it as bad or good. nor does it portray drugs as bad.

Hayden says

This book is getting on my nerves. I'm about 40 pages in, and I'll give it 50, but unless it seriously picks up I'm going to chuck it. It keeps vacillating between omniscient past tense (the words "Once upon a time" are used repeatedly) and first person present tense. I get the feeling Rachel Cohn thinks she's being Very Extremely Literary, but in fact it just sucks.

Haley says

Laura and Miles used to be cousins and best friends. They grew up in the paradise of their tree house, enacting fairy tales. You don't know differences when you're younger. So Laura was a blonde, blue-eyed perfect princess and Miles was a plump girl who started reading at the age of four and never stopped. So what? That didn't stop them from doing Brownies, Girl Scouts, summer camp, swimming and dancing lessons together.

Adolescence caused them to grow apart, because soon these differences do matter. One is a popular goddess, and one is a smoking, medicine-raiding outcast.

Which one is more likely to commit suicide?

You'd never think it would be the beautiful girl.

With Laura gone, Miles has to reevaluate her life over the course of a summer, and decide if it's worth living after all.

Dark, perhaps, but the darkness is necessary for the subject matter, and there's some humor in here as well...Miles still leaves some hope.

Jaci says

I've had this book for a while and just never got around to reading it. As soon as I began this book I had no interest but decided to give it a chance. The entire time reading it, I found myself having to re-read pages because I dozed off. I didn't care about the character and thought it was so boring. The idea sounded good but I just didn't like it. It was a really quick read and it seemed like it was over before I knew it, but not because I liked it. I just wish I hadn't of spent 10 bucks on it. I don't recommend it.

Akilah says

Wow, so I really hated this book. Besides nothing happening, the narrator is fat. No, really. She's FAT and she loves to eat but she hates herself because she's FAT and no one will ever love her because she's FAT and FAT FAT FAT FAT FAT.

Her real problem is that she's BORING because she's so obsessed with being FAT.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Dianna Geers for TeensReadToo.com

Laura and Miles grew up together. They were cousins who lived so close that Miles could sneak out of her room on scary, stormy nights and escape to the safety of Laura's bed. They spent hours in their tree house and hiding out in their favorite bookstore. As little girls became adolescents, though, being related and living near each other didn't guarantee closeness.

Miles liked to eat and drink. And smoke. Her body put on weight, her poorly-dyed hair never behaved, and she escaped the world by reading. Her grades sucked. She didn't care.

Laura was a beautiful, social butterfly. She was pleasant. Got good grades. Had the perfect boyfriend. The adoring father. So why is she the one who killed herself?

And Miles wonders why Laura got everything. Everything. She even got to escape the world. She got what Miles wanted. Miles planned on joining her. Who would even care if Miles died, anyway?

With that frame of mind, Miles takes several downward turns which continue to lead her in the direction her life had been heading for a long time. Laura even left Miles a secret stash of drugs to help her cope. For a while, Miles chooses to live life in a state of numbness. The worst thing to her was when the fog faded and she had to face life without her cousin.

As you read *YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME*, you find touching characters. You care for them--not just Miles--but her father, Laura's father, even Laura herself. Miles falls to such a low that everyone worries about her chances of survival. But somehow in this cocoon of a druggy fog, there's a spirit of a person. A person who is stronger than many people realized. People are not always what they seem. Sometimes they are stronger. Sometimes weaker.

Rachel Cohn has written a touching novel that covers so many issues. And it leaves you thinking. Wondering. Hoping.

J.D. says

Some nice writing, and I wanted to like it a lot more than I did, but:

1. When you have a character this angry and bitter, it's a real challenge to make the reader like them or even care much. Unfortunately, this book doesn't rise to the challenge.
 2. I finally gave up after about the fifth lecture about DC Home Rule. Okay. I get it. I know this is an issue that the character cares a lot about, but it just gets preachy. see (1) above.
-

noah says

This is honestly one of the first books I've had this year that I had difficulty finishing. I did dislike this book for a few different reasons:

1. The plot for this book was really weak. A girl's cousin dies and the girl continues her life before the death, except sometimes she seems kind of sad about her cousin.
2. The writing style. It was really weird the way some things were said.
3. MILES. I really, really disliked Miles. All she did was complain. Her best friend (cousin. Sister. Laura) dies and all she can do is complain about how fat she is or how she wishes her friend would love her or how she wants to get high.

All in all, I think this book had the potential to be a good story, but it didn't really turn out that way.

Olivia705 says

PROCESS NOTES!!

BOOK: You Know Where to Find Me

Author: Rachel Cohn

Post its!

- Page 7, I don't get Miles. She could be a straight A student, I don't care! She is stupid in the head! The teachers say she is born with the power to write, and read but yet she chooses not to. Why would she want to do that?!
- Page 7, OMG! She sounds like the smartest student ever, why won't she just try?
- Page 9, when she brings up once a time, I feel like she is saying the things she wants to happen or the things that already happened.
- Page 31, Ok does she not like Laura or not? She's like nothing can fix the way I feel for her. But then in the funeral she doesn't cry and doesn't feel bad that Laura died all she is saying like it's Laura's funeral but I am happy! How could she say that? Even though Laura went on she should still feel sympathy for them.
- Page 32, I feel like Laura is trying to be tougher than she really is.
- Page 33, I'm still really confused about how her relationship was with Laura. She is always like I have dreams about her I wish she would come back, but yet she doesn't care she died.
- Page 34, I don't know if Miles is having a phase that most people have when their cousin dies or if she is just crazy! She thinks she can hear her! It's like the sixth sense again but in a different way.
- Page 35, what kind of family member is she???? She feels no sympathy for Laura!
- Page 45, someone has a crush on Miles! (Jamal!)
- Page 53, I think that smoking is a big thing in the book. There always smoking and I think that it's symbol for Laura and Miles friendship!
- Page 54, I can tell that smoking brings Miles and Jim together.
- Page 116,??? I think that Miles could be such a smart person if she just believed in herself.
- Page 119, ?, Why does Miles always lie to herself? She definitely has something wrong with her.
- Page 128, Jamal isn't the one that loves Miles, Miles is the one that loves Jamal! But he doesn't see it.
- Page 129, ?, hahah yeah she does!
- Page 130, I think that Jamal is such a good friend and what he does to Miles helps her she just doesn't see it!
- Page 132, ?, I am sooo glad that Bex blew up on Miles about the politic stuff, because Miles is always "I hate Bex," She's just jealous that Jamal likes her.
- Page 134, now I feel kind of bad for Miles. Bex is always saying this is me and Laura's place, but it seems like Miles and Laura don't have any places anymore and they became invisible to each other. I feel bad because Bex almost stole Laura from her.
- Page 136, I REALLY want Bex and Miles to become best friends!
- Page 142, <3
- Page 150, I think it's really funny that Miles and Jim are closer than Buddy and her and Buddy is her dad.
- Page 164, Miles never appreciates anything!
- Page 169, but the only place she can escape to is her dreams, and that's where she keeps everything bundled up.
- Page 173, I know this is a bad thing but I have thought about it. Miles should maybe kill herself to get away from her problems since that's what she thinks about, but I don't think that will help anything, she's just running away and that's not good.

- I feel like her dream and fairytale life is all she can live up to.
- Page 184, ? yeah Jamal you tell her! Smoking+pills=Miles!
- Page 188, Miles your in real life! STOP RUNNING!

So far this book has been really good at sine parts but then also sooo boring at other perts.

I kind of feel bad for miles in a way. Yeah her best friend died and before she died they weren't as close as they were befor but like then she is also saying like how she feels great the day of the funeral. I don't get that if I were miles I would be so sad if my best friend dies I wouldn't even be able to be myself. I feel like miles is trying to be really tough because of how Laura like dissed her in the other past years and doesn't want to say how she feels when she actully feels terrible about what happen.

I also feel bad for her because of who she is. She is always saying how like she is so ugly and goth and is smart but hides. But I think she just be her self, because I know who she is trying to be is not working. She smokes all the time and doesn't care it could kill her, when people say it.

I don't know why but I think a lot of authors like to put the dad as a person that doesn't like to show their love or just can't. Miles lives with Lauras dad and miles her dad never talk, and when they do it's like awkward. It's like the book hurricane song and how I live now.

Zainab says

“You know where to find me “ by Rachel Cohn is a realistic fiction story set in Washington D.C. it is an interesting book which tells the story about the girl Miles who considered herself as unwanted one. The story is told by the first person narrator and it is a journey of loss and forgiveness.

Miles is the protagonist of the book. She thought that she is irrelevant to her mom Mel and her dad. That is why they left her alone and got busy in their lives. But the person to whom Miles was close with, her cousin Laura. They were best friends. They used to share everything to each other. Miles got too depressed when her cousin Laura committed suicide. “Laura is dead”(p. 19). After Laura’s death Miles felt alone. Jamal was miles friend and he helped her to take out all the depression and sadness. Jamal was always there whenever Miles need him.

Jamal was really kind to Miles and always help her but Miles took his kindness more than friendship and

started liking him. She had a special feeling towards him but she didn't want to tell him and spoil their friendship. "Miles wishes she could tell this to Jamal".

At the end Miles realized her mistake that he had a wrong view about her parents and about Bex. She felt sorry about it and Miles forgave all those people who hurt her.

In the story all the characters were believable. They all were supportive. The story of this book is really compelling to a reader to go over and read the whole story.

I would like to recommend this book to my friends because it is such a good and interesting book. A person who loves to read deep, will enjoy the book.

Rachael says

Beautiful Laura and chubby Miles are sister-cousins, cousins by blood but as close as sisters. That is, until adolescence, when perfect Laura ditches Miles for more popular friends, and outcast Miles is dubbed "8 Mile." But during Laura's last year of high school, the cousins reconnected over a shared love of getting high. Miles thought she had gotten Laura back; she didn't know how far they really were until Laura commits suicide. Miles now finds herself lost, not knowing who to turn to or what to care about. *You Know Where to Find Me* follows a struggling Miles as she tries to figure out how life will go on.

I found *You Know Where to Find Me* a confusing novel at best. In all honesty, I liked the first and last chapters but pretty much nothing in between. Miles' character was very confusing, and I didn't feel that the rest of the characters were developed enough, especially Miles' parents. I also never really felt the connection between Laura and Miles that should've been there. The novel follows Miles' life, but I often felt myself thinking, "Well, so what?" *You Know Where to Find Me* lacks a certain something that could make it a really great novel, and I regret to say that this book greatly disappointed me. I originally expected this novel to be similar to other spectacular novels dealing with death and suicide such as *The Day I Killed James* by Catherine Ryan Hyde, *Saving Zoë* by Alyson Noël, *Elsewhere* by Gabrielle Zevin, and *Freeze Frame* by Heidi Ayarbe, but *You Know Where to Find Me* unfortunately failed at this.

I'm sorry to say that *You Know Where to Find Me* is probably the first book I've read that I don't recommend at all (not including school-required novels). This book was just too disappointing.

reposted from <http://thebookmuncher.blogspot.com>

Breanna Weiland says

Personal Response:

This book made me lose interest within the first couple of chapters. I think the plot line could be really interesting if the author added more detail and emotion into the characters. I rate this book a two out of five stars.

Plot Summary:

Laura and Miles are cousins. Living right next door to one another helps them to grow up as if they are sisters. As time passes and they both grow older, they develop different personalities. Laura is a slim girl

with blonde hair and blue eyes. She is loved all around the school and has straight A's. Her future is bright, and she appears to have the perfect life. Miles, on the other hand, has put on some weight and is more of the stereotypical "goth" girl. Her dark hair matches her dark eyes that are lined with black makeup. Miles does not care much about school, or anything really. Still, no matter how polar opposite they seem to be, Miles and Laura have never lost the sisterly bond between them. Until one day, Laura unexpectedly takes her own life. Now, Miles has to get along and cope with Laura being gone. Her path seems to be getting darker and darker. Though, Miles discovers that even just a little hope can go a far way.

Characterization:

The biggest character development that occurs in this book is through the character of Miles. Miles grows up to be a girl who does not care much about life. She drowns everyone out through drugs and alcohol. She is the girl with the darkest of hair and makeup, along with the girl who is said to take up the most amount of space. The death of her cousin, her childhood best friend, and the one she could always go to increases Miles's negative point of view in life. As the story continues, Miles seeks help and realizes that there is more to life than what she thought. She turns into a caring, sweet girl who finds joy in the simple characteristics of life.

Another character development is the character of Laura. Not much detail is given about Laura besides the fact that she is the typical popular, pretty, kind, and caring girl with a bright future. It is not the character herself that changes within the book, but the perspective and thought about the character from the reader's point of view that changes. The author never reveals why Laura decides to take her own life. This leaves the reader wondering if maybe she had more troubles going on in her life than what was revealed within the book.

Recommendations:

I recommend this book for anyone over the age of 15. This book contains the use of illegal drugs and alcohol and it may be hard for readers under the age of 15 to understand or cope with.

Barbara says

Laura and Miles were cousins but they might have been sisters, they were so close. They grew up together and shared everything--talks in the tree house, cigarettes, snacks, prescription drugs--until Laura kills herself, that is. Miles was left to deal with the emotional detritus left behind after Laura's death. Miles can not understand why Laura did it when she had everything, beauty, popularity, a loving, rich father, a great boyfriend, where Miles was overweight, preferred her books to people, an uncaring mother, and an unrequited crush on her best friend Jamal. Miles feels so alone after Laura is gone, especially after Bex, Laura's best friend from her private school, finds solace with Jamal. She quickly descends into abusing the prescription drugs that she and Laura used to share; feeling like no one understands what she is going through and utterly alone. Without even realizing it, people in her life begin to notice her self-destruction and try to help, but is it too late? This interesting novel contains a variety of issues including statehood for Washington D.C., interracial relationships, alternative families, prescription drug abuse, woven together in a believable way that will appeal to many teens.
