



A Way Back To You

Emily Gray Clawson

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For two-and-a-half years, Annabelle, a young widow with three small children, has been stuck in the past. Numbed by grief and overwhelmed by the responsibility of raising her three small children alone, she agrees to let them spend the weekend with a friend while she tries to get some much-needed rest at her parents' home. But the next morning, Annabelle is suddenly sixteen again—and it just happens to be the worst day of her teenage years. As she relives the drama of high school life, Annabelle realizes that her future husband, Mitch, has just returned from a mission and is living on the other side of town. While getting Mitch's attention is more complicated than she imagined, Annabelle discovers that she is stronger than she has been willing to admit, and there just might be a future for her after all.

A Way Back To You Details

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From Reader Review A Way Back To You for online ebook

Cindy Davis says

Oh why didn't I start this sooner?! I loved loved this one! I finished in a couple of hours. The story? Think Peggy Sue Got Married..some of the storyline hit too close to home and tears were shed. But that's what makes a GoodRead .

Brooke Berry says

This is the most well written book I have read. We meet Annabell, a young mom to 3 kids and recent widow, who is dealing with life without her husband. Her story makes me cry as I realize some days we are surviving but not really living our lives to the fullest. After one challenging day, a friend offers to take her kids for the weekend and sends her to her moms. When she wakes up in her teenage bedroom, she is no longer the mom in her 30's and is reliving a day as her 16 year old self.

High School was difficult enough for most people, but to have to deal with it as a teenager with the mind of an adult who knows what happens next is even harder. Annie has hope in seeing her husband again, as a 24 year old man living across town. She is desperate to see him again, but life is more complicated and seems to be refusing her the chance. The other debate is what changes does she make, and will it affect her future?

Way Back To You is a time travel book that THANKFULLY doesn't end with it all being just a dream. Its a realistic book that makes you think, what if? I always talk about getting to watch the movie of our lives after we die. I would love to see my memories from someone else's perspective, and find this book a refreshing tale to tell.

Rhonda says

4 STARS

I was not sure how I would do reading this book. It did stir memories of mourning, and high school being a teenager. Also grateful for my children. But no crying for me. I liked the characters. High School dramas. How Annabelle is trying to be better at her family relationships the second time around. I would freak out if I woke up and was suddenly sixteen again!

Annabelle has been a widow for 2 1/2 years. Right after her husband died she realized she was pregnant. She was so busy being a mother two her older children and the baby she really hasn't taken the time to mourn. After dealing all night with sick baby she took the kids to school and a friend came up to her. Told her she wanted to meet this man that her husband worked with. He was divorced with one child.

Anne got home and just broke down and was crying all day. She realized that she was alone now and old. She got the friend to pick up her kids and when she saw how bad Anne was, She told the kids they were all going over to her house to stay the weekend to grab clothes. Then called Anne's mom to take her mom for the weekend.

When Anne wakes up in her mothers guest room. It is a mess, than she sees her younger brother and sister. Anne is sixteen again. Anne has to go to high school and take a math test. She has to remember her classes, the boy she had a crush on for years. Also she realized Mitch was alive and across town.

A Way Back To You – Excerpt Emily Gray Clawson

“Mom!” Mallory wailed again.

“I’m coming. Hold on a second, honey,” I called. I was out of breath from hurrying down the hall and the stairs. I could hear a fight starting in the kitchen.

“Give that back!”

“You already had three. I’m still hungry!” There was a grunt and the squeal of a chair skidding across the floor and sounds like a wrestling match was starting.

“Kids, stop fighting, I’ll be right . . .” I stopped as I turned the corner.

It wasn’t Mallory and James or even Jenna. A boy and girl looked up at me as I skidded to a halt in front of the table.

“Who asked you, Annie?” the boy asked, sticking his tongue out as far as it could reach. Then he resumed his tussle with the girl, both of them trying to grab the last pancake off of the table.

Mom came through from the dining room, and my jaw dropped open at her appearance. “Daniel Henry May, you give that pancake to your sister. You’ve already had yours.” She swatted his hands away and put the pancake on the girl’s plate.

Rachel. My eyes broke away from my brother and sister. As children. I knew my jaw was gaping open, but I couldn’t close it. Mom was bustling around, clearing dirty dishes and rinsing them off in the sink. Her hair was dark brown and past her shoulders, pulled into a messy ponytail, and she was dressed in a pair of jeans and a yellow T-shirt, from the bargain store by the looks of them. She wasn’t wearing any makeup or jewelry. Her face was so young. Her cheeks had a natural blush, and her skin was soft and smooth. She didn’t look at me as she brushed past me to gather more dirty plates.

“Mom! You are so beautiful!” I stammered, awed by the transformation.

She didn’t turn. Dan strode away from the table, grumbling under his breath. I thought I caught the phrase “crazy women,” but I wasn’t sure.

“There aren’t any more pancakes,” Mom said without turning, a biting edge to her voice. “I’m sorry, but if you don’t get up earlier, you’ll never have time for breakfast before school.” Her voice sounded weary, defeated.

“School? It’s Saturday. The girls don’t have school today. Mom, really, you look amazing!”

I couldn't get over how gorgeous she was. She slammed down the dishcloth, soapy water slapping out of the sink and over the counter.

"Annabelle May, don't you start with me today. I don't have it in me. Not after last night. I just can't . . ." She dropped her arms wearily to her sides. "I don't want to fight. Please. We'll figure it all out but at least just get ready for school, okay?" she pleaded.

My mouth worked silently. What

I was surprised at how much I enjoyed A Way Back to You. It is a LDS book but really does not talk about beliefs just about going to different church meetings, and events their. It is a clean romance, drama and even some time travel. This is the first book that I have read by Emily and I would read more of her work especially if it is as good as this one.

I was given this book to read and asked to give a honest review and post it as part of a blog tour for A Way Back to You.

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Bèbè ♦ RANT ♦ says

Overall: 3.5 Stars

After two and a half years, Annabelle finally realized that her husband is gone, she has children to raise and she is letting herself go. When her friend makes her stay over her parents' house while she takes care of the kids, she cannot say no anymore and agrees on it. The next morning after she wakes up, she realizes that she is sixteen again and has to find her way around life to make sure that they can start having life again. But starting over again might not work out for her so well and now, being more mature, she can face life differently.

This was definitely a good read and I got really into the book. But what bugged me for the longest time is why the hell she didn't even think once about how she ended up in the past? I mean, I'm not sure about you but I don't just wake up every night and BOOM! I'm twelve again. She always focused on how she needs to get her life better and how to be with Mitch again. If this happened to me, you already know I'm going to be freaking out! But other than that, I did liked the book and thought it was worth reading. The writing was simple and very easy to read and I really liked that the characters were relatable.

L_manning says

Anne is having a rough time ever since her husband Mitch passed away. Everything is just becoming too much to bear, so Anne finds herself at her parents house for the weekend. She arises the next morning to discover that she is sixteen again, and as she begins to go through her day she discovers so many things that she did wrong. Soon Anne finds herself caught up in a romance with her first love Sam, but she feels guilty because somewhere out there is her husband and her future. Anne will learn that things rarely work out the way you think, but sometimes this gives you a chance for a future you never planned.

I was a little unsure where this book was going in the beginning. Anne was just so unhappy, and I really felt for her. I wanted her to be able to find some peace, but it came in a way that was completely surprising. I can't imagine how awful it'd be to relive my teenage years. I'm sure I'd cringe at most the things I did and said. Anne definitely felt that way too. More than that though, it gave her perspective on not only her past but her present as well. By looking through her grown-up adult eyes, she saw things much more clearly the second time around.

This book was very easy to read, and I didn't want to put it down. The book makes it easy to read it in small amounts of time, but you'll probably want to sit and read the whole thing all at once. Anne got very emotional through the book, and at first I was sympathetic. It did wear on me a bit though as the book went on. Overall this was a tiny bother though, and I did enjoy the book. I liked the sense of perspective Anne was able to gain, and it made me think about my own life. Do I take the time to do the things I truly love? I certainly try. Reading is something that brings me great joy, and this book helped add to that joy.

Book provided for review.

Alisa says

Great, clean thoughtful story...

What would you do if you had a second chance to go back to high school and set some things right? What would you change? Would it matter?

Anne Kelly is 38 years old. It has been 2 years and 7 months since Mitch, her husband and the love of her life, had a brain aneurysm and died. She has been busy taking care of their 3 young children and has not really grieved. One day the anguish, loss, and emptiness consume her and she can't go on. So she calls a friend to pick up her children from school. When her friend sees how distraught she is, she keeps her kids overnight and calls Anne's mom to come pick her up.

Anne's mom brings her home with her, and when Anne goes to sleep in her old room she wakes up as a 16-year-old, but she has still retained her 38-year-old memories and maturity.

Why did she come back in time? How does she get back to her children? And what does she do about Sam? Sam... the boy she loved all through high school. The boy she mooned over while he was busy using her and making out with her friends. She figures she is here to get closure with Sam, keep her best friend Corrie from making the biggest mistake of her life, and to see Mitch again.

Mitch, her beloved husband and the father of her children. Mitch, the loving man who gave Anne the love and confidence that she craved all through high school. If she had known Mitch existed when she was in high school, she would not have mooned over Sam nearly as much.

And this time around she knows that Mitch exists, and she knows of all the happiness that awaits her after high school. And so she has the confidence to tell Sam what she thinks about the way he treats her. But she doesn't get the reaction from Sam she expects. Instead she gets his love and his respect. She finally gets to see how much she really meant to Sam. The problem is that she is still attracted to Sam and this new improved Sam is really worth falling in love with. But the more time she spends with Sam, the more afraid

she is of losing her future with Mitch and her children.

And every time she tries to see Mitch something happens. As much as she wants to see Mitch, she's afraid that she will blow it and then he won't be interested in her when they meet later during college. And why is Sam acting like a jealous boyfriend every time she tries to see Mitch?

This is a great book! You can tell she is changing her future because of all the changes that are happening in her past. But you aren't quite sure where all the changes are headed... trust me, you won't be disappointed with the changes! It almost makes me wish I could go back to high school and do a few things differently...

Melanie says

Anne's husband, Mitch, passed away two years ago and she's having a hard time moving on. A friend offers to take her children for the weekend while she gets some much needed rest at her parents' house. She goes to bed and wakes up as a sixteen-year-old. She gets to relive the worst time of her high school experience but with her adult memories intact. She also has to deal with her high school crush, Sam. Will she be able to change the future? Will she be able to make things right that didn't go well the first time around?

I loved this book and had a hard time putting it down! Anne was easy for me to relate to. It was funny to read her high school experiences and how she dealt with them as a 38-year-old woman. I felt everything she was going through, whether it was embarrassing, exciting, happy or sad. I also felt her struggle with what she was going to do and I wasn't sure how it was going to end. I love that she was able to appreciate the time she had with her parents and improve her relationship with them. She also didn't realize what she meant to others until she was able to have more open and honest conversations with them. I loved, loved, loved the ending and only wish it had lasted a little longer!

While reading this book, I found myself asking the question--what would you do if you were given a second chance? There are definitely some things I would do differently. But would I want to go back to do them? My gut reaction: Not a chance--I'm happy to be done with high school! But on further reflection, if I could improve relationships and become more clear on the direction I wanted to go in life, then sign me up, I'll return in a heartbeat!!

Mel's Shelves

Angela Millsap says

This novel is more than a typical time travel romance. Well-written, logical, but full of emotion, through the book I was able to feel the pain of a young widow, Annabelle, as she is thrust back in time to relive her experiences as a sixteen-year-old. Fortunately for Annie, she has twenty years of experience and wisdom this time around, and her choices reflect that, to the astonishment of her family and friends. Her high school crush Sam now returns her former affection, but how can she let herself fall in love with him when her future husband is living across town? The pain of his loss is still acute, but Annie worries about making contact with him--and inadvertently altering her future. Her struggles to make the right choices made this book a great read.

Heather Green says

This was a quick read about second chances. I've wondered what I would do if I had the chance to do parts of my life over again with the wisdom and knowledge that I have now. What chances would I take? What would I change? I liked the way the book was set up with the meddling/caring neighbor at the beginning and then going back to the blind date at the end. This was a clean read. Appropriate for any age. Like the movie *Groundhog Day*, would you try to self destruct, or would you help others and improve yourself? The only thing I didn't like about the book was that she kept pushing Sam away and saying she was married when she really wasn't anymore. I'd have had a hard time continually forcing myself to remember the big picture, but then the reader wasn't made to know and love her husband the way we were made to love Sam. Who wouldn't love Sam? He loved her no matter that she was overweight. He gave up his own desires and happiness on the off chance that he'd have her in the future. That was heart breaking. He was my favorite character in the story. The cover is eye catching and draws interest. I enjoyed this read, but I probably wouldn't read it again.

Mindy says

I loved this book. I was crying at the end. Finished it, though, with a smile. I really enjoyed the characters, but Sam stole it for me. Full review coming to Min Reads soon.

Maaike says

I really, really enjoyed this. It uses the typical "17-Again" style trope to tell a heartfelt story about a woman wanting a second chance with the husband she lost, while finding out more about herself in the process and actively learning to change.

The end result is lovely. The main character Anne/Annie is relatable and likeable. She sees things with the perspective of an adult, recognizing the cause and effect of actions and relationships and realizing that the little things we were worried about in high school don't matter in the long run.

Also, the plot fills the void everyone feels upon losing something important--whether it's a loved one or an opportunity.

The descriptions are vivid, the world feels very much like the reader has been dropped in a Wonderland-like photo of their youth, and all characters--including minor ones--feel well-rounded and real.

A short, enjoyable read. :)

Jinky says

Move over *17 Again* (2009 film starring Zac Efron) because Annie's story at 16 again was even more

heartwarming! I had to bite the corner of my inner lip to stop myself from an all out bawling fest at my son's basketball class. Little did the people around me know that internally I was feeling a happy ache caused by this sweet love story. I held the out cry but the swell in my heart was so great that the moistness blurring my vision managed to escape. I was quietly enjoying my special tears.

Truly, this was a love story at its finest. Simple and wholesome. It consisted of I-can-relate-to characters and a tender storyline that will grab your heart for good. You will shout, "I want that kind of love!" and for those who has it will gratefully utter, "I am so blessed."

An unforgettable novel and a book that will be worn out because this was a beautifully written piece that I will revisit over and over again. I certainly will recommend this to my sappy and not so sappy friends.

By the way, I looked up "best modern love story" in my dictionary and it read, "*A Way Back To You* by Emily Gray Clawson". Read this book and your dictionary will say that too. ;)

Jinky is Reading

Katie W says

I thought the premise of this book sounded very intriguing. Who hasn't thought about the decisions and choices they've made and wondered what life would be like if different paths were taken? I know I've wondered that. Especially with some big decisions. What if I had gone to a different college, like I was seriously thinking about? Would I have still met my husband? What if I would have been more confident in high school and had made different friends. Would I be where I am now and who I am? I believe our experiences in life shape us and changes to those things could possibly change who were are.

I could totally relate to Anne. Not only are we the same age, but I sometimes feel overwhelmed with life too. I'm not grieving for the loss of my husband, but the day to day feelings with a household and kids felt familiar. I LOVED how she took her knowledge from now and try to make a difference to her life as a teen. Isn't that how it is? Hindsight is always 20/20 and knowing what I do know about life would certainly change some ways I would have dealt with things back then.

I loved the relationships Anne was able to build and fix. I loved how certain future relationships were stronger because of the things she re-lived. Her friendship with Sam was so important--I think she truly understood him this time instead of having those teenage assumptions get in the way. And he believed her!! That would be hard to do, but he did. I even loved how she tried so hard to find Mitch back then. I am also a believer that timing is everything--Mitch was the right guy, but the timing was all wrong.

This book was great!! I love how things connected and the lessons that Anne learned along the way. I wish the story would have gone on and on, which is the sign of a great book to me.

Content: clean!!

Robin says

Interesting time travel story about a 38 year old widow and mother of three. After being wrapped up in sorrow over the loss of her husband, she ends up time traveling back to when she was 16. However, not events are not quite the same as she remembers them the first time. It was a good story which held my interest and made me consider my own past.

Kate Rogerson says

Great read

Compelling, page Turner, I just wanted to see who she picks! Well written with honest characters, everyone will love this book
