



# Forever

*Maggie Stiefvater*

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**Forever** Maggie Stiefvater

**then.**

When Sam met Grace, he was a wolf and she was a girl. Eventually he found a way to become a boy, and their loved moved from curious distance to the intense closeness of shared lives.

**now.**

That should have been the end of their story. But Grace was not meant to stay human. Now she is the wolf. And the wolves of Mercy Falls are about to be killed in one final, spectacular hunt.

**forever.**

Sam would do anything for Grace. But can one boy and one love really change a hostile, predatory world? The past, the present, and the future are about to collide in one pure moment--a moment of death or life, farewell or forever.

## Forever Details

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Author : Maggie Stiefvater

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# From Reader Review Forever for online ebook

## **ZEYNEP DERYA** says

Bir seri daha bitti. Bu seri tempo aç?s?ndan çok de?i?ken bir seriydi bana göre. Ebedi'yi okurken ilk ba?larda o kadar s?k?ld?m ki bitse de ba?ka bir ?eyler okusam, dedim. 120-130. sayfaya zor geldim aç?kças?. Sonras?nda kitap daha okunas? bir hale geldi ve okurken s?k?lmamaya ba?lad?m ama beni fazla süründürdü o k?sma kadar ya. Son sayfalar? h?zl? geçti, neyse ki biraz heyecan yaratay?m diye dü?ünmü? yazar fakat kitap genel anlamda "okudum, bitti, eh i?te sevdim ya" ayar?ndayd?. Okudum bitti bay?ld?m bee demeyi çok isterdim ama yok yani.

Tekrar söylüyorum, serinin en büyük problemi aksiyona yeterince yer vermeyi?i. Daha çok Grace ve Sam a?k?na odakl? ilerliyor hikaye. Dört karakterin (Sam, Grace, Isabel ve Cole'un) bak?? aç?s?yla anlatmay? tercih etmi? yine yazar. O aç?dan da bir s?k?nt? yok benim için. Tek s?k?nt?m: Neden. Daha. Heyecan!?. De?ildi? Herhangi bir kitab? okurken sürünmemeyi tercih ederim. Ebedi ilk ba?ta süründürüp sonradan sevdirdi kendini.

Kurt adaml? kitaplar? sevenler bu kitab? dü?ük aksiyonlu bulabilirler ama yok illa eksik kalmas?n, ben bunu da okumak istiyorum dersiniz anlat?m? güzel bir a?k roman? okumu? olursunuz. Not: karakterler arada bir kurda dönü?üyor sadece.

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## **Amelia, the pragmatic idealist** says

We apparently have a different opinion on what "forever" means. :S

First and foremost, To Whomever wrote that synopsis or whatever up at the top, "thrilling" is not a word that I would use to describe the first 250 pages...

Basically, I did not like this installment. More often than not it was a bore and a chore to get through. And I hate typing that! *Shiver* is still one of my favorite novels ever, and I did enjoy *Linger*, though not quite as much. This whole series and its progression really got me wondering why it is that nearly EVERY non-contemp YA book is being turned into a trilogy/series, because with each book I felt a little less magic. A little less pizazz.

Why specifically did *Forever* not work for me? First of all, it seemed overly dramatic in a way that *Shiver* and *Linger* were not. If you thought that any of the first two books were slow or prone to melodrama (as I know that others have said), then in my opinion, you may find *Forever* challenging. Unlike most finale books in a series, it is not more fast-paced. In my opinion, it actually seemed slower. There were several periods throughout most of the chapters when the characters - especially Sam - would have these really long, drawn out personal reflections. Flashbacks would occur randomly, and I'd say for about the first 200 pages, the plot just kind of meandered along. Characters would drift in and out of contact, and oh the angst. Yeah, the series has always been dramatic, emotional too, but I never thought the angst was overdone until now. Sam - whom I absolutely adored in *Shiver* - just kind of moped around and really didn't do much of anything but feel sorry for himself. Cole sat around thinking about how his life used to be. Grace kept shifting and bolting. One or two times and it's dramatic, but four times? Then it just gets downright annoying, I'm sorry to say. I don't like it when authors have things happen over and over again with the same results. In my

playbook, that's repetition, not suspense or excitement.

For me, though, I could have forgotten the slow start and the aggravating parts but for the ending. Guys, when you hear the word "forever," what do you think of? Maybe if you're like me, you hear Squints from *The Sandlot* pulling out the word like "fooooooorrrreeevvveeeerrrr" over and over (haha). But you think of something that has closure, right? For me, it's practically false advertising when you've got the final book in a series titled something permanent sounding like *Forever*, and the ending doesn't have a whole lot of closure. I get it, really I do. I get that it's bad to give teen characters any kind of "permanent closure," because after all, they're only 18, right? For me, though, it does not work to feed me a story, a fictional story (that really is not in the least bit obligated to reflect, endorse, or champion "reality") in which characters have this serious, mature, real-deal love...and then turn around and leave the ending open-ended. Did I expect the kind of ending that was found in the epilogue of *Deathly Hallows*? Well, maybe. And really, who knows better how to end a [modern] YA series than JK Rowling?

I also kind of took issue with the last chapter in general, really. Grace, to me, made a decision that seemed extremely out-of-character for her, given her relationship and previous history with Sam. All I'm wanting is for a series ending to accurately reflect the series as a whole, and here, it was my perception that the author pulled back a little and went with a more "realistic" ending. And that just didn't work for me in a series like this.

I realize that was a really long, lengthy (and highly opinionated) explanation, but I do feel like I need to explain what it was that left me disappointed.

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## **Kai says**

*"People shouldn't have to earn kindness. They should have to earn cruelty."*

I think what kept me from reading *Forever* years ago, was my fear that something depressing would happen to Grace and Sam. But most of all I didn't want the series to end, because I loved it so much. Some books just make you feel happy from inside out, they give you the feeling of being home between their pages. That's what *The Wolves of Mercy Falls* is for me. And this last part of the series was as good as the first and second one.

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## **Wendy Darling says**

This is probably the hardest review I've ever had to write.

Shiver tears my heart in two every single time I read it. I felt *Linger* had its problems, mostly in the diluted narrative with the addition of two more POVs, but it was still extremely moving and I wanted to see what happened next. How strange it is, then, to read *Forever* and experience nothing even close to the emotions the first two books inspired.

The Wolves of Mercy Falls series is love story told almost like a fairy tale. Aside from the bittersweet urgency of the romance, one of the most poignant elements in the books to me has been the wolves'

desperate struggle to hang onto their human selves. The knowledge that they will lose every shard of awareness of who they are moves me unbearably, and Sam and Grace together are unlike any other couple I've ever read.

I am far less interested in Isabel and Cole. I like them just fine, even though they are both just typical YA characters that can be found in 100 other novels. If they had an entirely different book to themselves I probably would like them better—but they don't. They're stuck right in the middle of Sam and Grace's story, and the intrusiveness of losing momentum in every other chapter as the story switched to their first person POVs became an increasingly frustrating experience. This is the end. There are no more books. I don't give a shit about Isabel's ongoing daddy issues or Cole's woe-is-me rock star problems (view spoiler), all of which are rehashes from the previous book, I care about what happens to Sam and Grace. The story is even further fragmented by the addition of yet *another* POV, which was completely unnecessary and added nothing to the story.

There are too many starts and stops that interrupt the flow of the action, there is a scene of shocking ugliness (view spoiler) that I thought was completely out of place, and the actual resolution to the problem seemed to be dragged out far too long. I also didn't find a single quote that I wanted to pull. I normally am rapturous over the author's prose as well, but even the language in *Forever* didn't move me as much. Sam and Grace also seemed like shadows of their former selves, and I found myself becoming impatient with the way their narratives dawdled over insignificant details.

The only scene that really moved me—yes, the only scene—comes very early in the book when Sam is racing to pick up Grace after she's turned human again for the first time and the awful feelings he experiences (view spoiler). There are a few good scenes later in the novel that involve some sacrifices, but I read them with a fairly detached attitude. I'm not sure if I'd just become so numb by that time that I wasn't able to fully immerse myself again, or whether they really just didn't hold the same urgency and depth that I've come to expect from this series.

What I found most disappointing, however, is that so many scenes did not ring emotionally true. If you've been separated from the love of your life for months, the first thing you would do when you become human again is to *findhimfindhimfindhim* and hang on tight before you lose yourself again. It's *not* to wander out to have a random meaningless conversation with someone else. (And he would probably not have let you out of his sight to begin with.) The reunion scene was incredibly distant and anticlimactic, and the actual ending was even more of an emotional dodge. Everything honestly felt as though it was done for sake of a writing technique rather than something that was really true to the characters--or true to human nature.

Readers who are invested in Isabel and Cole's story will probably like this one much better than I did. But for me, this story has always been about the boy who became a wolf in winter and the girl who loved him. I am unbearably saddened that their beautiful story has become so diluted and so...mundane. It's possible a future re-reading may make me look upon this book with a different perspective, but frankly that's pretty hard to believe at this point. I bleeding heart love *Shiver* and will always be grateful for the beauty and wisdom and romance it brought into my life. But I will probably be much happier if I forever look upon it as a standalone novel that is perfect in and of itself.

It breaks my heart to do this, but this is a **2.5 star** book for me.

*This review also appears in The Midnight Garden.*

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## Thomas says

I wanted to start this review selfishly. I even wrote "I'm going to be selfish and begin this review by saying...", but decided against it after thinking for several minutes. I realized something during that time - I still couldn't extricate myself from the characters of the book, even though it was over. And I felt bad for it.

Another epiphany occurred moments later. This isn't *supposed* to happen. You read the book(s), you learn about the characters, you love them (or hate them), and you let them go. That's what made this process - my personal goodbye to Grace, Sam, Cole, and Isabel - so painful. I didn't want to let them go.

I'm sure I've said it before: I aspire to write as well as Maggie Stiefvater. At sixteen, there are many things I have to improve about my writing, and many more things I have to learn in order to do so. I honestly feel like reading this series has pushed me in the right direction. Stiefvater's writing flows so beautifully and seamlessly, and it appears easy and natural. To me, *Forever* is just one big favorite quote.

The characters. I don't think I've been as emotionally invested in any book's characters as much as the ones in this trilogy. They're all so perfectly nuanced and deep. A conversation between Cole and Isabel could make me laugh out loud, and fifty pages later another dialogue between them reduce me to tears. Sam and Grace, I believe, are the golden couple. As much as I would love to have Sam for myself, he truly belongs with Grace, and I'm happy with the way the book ended.

I could go on and on about the characters, especially the way Stiefvater threw in small details and thoughts that caused them to come alive. Instead, I'll conclude this review by not saying goodbye. Sam, Grace, Isabel, Cole, and Mercy Falls will remain in my heart. Forever.

\*cross-posted from my blog, the quiet voice.

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## kelsie says

I bought *Forever* today. It's flowing a lot like *Linger* did for me. I'm bored, anxious, and not really drawn to this world in this book like I was in *Shiver*. I'm pretty much just reading so I can find out what ultimately happens in the end. Maggie is such a fabulous writer, but her talent is wasted on writing boring chapters for shallow characters like Cole and Isabel to whom I don't feel connected at all. ) :

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I am now finished with *Forever*.. I am so utterly disappointed that I'm not sure I can organize my thoughts too well right now. I guess I loved *Shiver* so much that I expected something of similar quality out of the other two products, especially this final one. I will start by saying, I just don't believe in Grace & Sam's "love". I just don't.. I feel like they are just young, damaged teenagers trying to fill a void left by the people who hurt them (but aren't most people?). With this being a fictional relationship I understand there is nothing real about it in the first place, yet I feel Maggie missed the mark if she was trying to depict genuine, consummate love. I could list about 40 supporting details for that claim but I don't think I need to. Moving on: The really interesting-scientific stuff got lost in all of the boring-drama stuff. I do not care about any relationship with Cole or Isabel. I would rather learn more about why the hell the wolf-toxin looks like MALARIA. I wanted *answers* to this wolf-shifting mystery (what I thought the series was originally about),

and I thought for sure I would get them in this last installment. I wanted to know what really makes the wolves/humans shift, where this came from, how it works, etc. I also wanted to learn more about Beck, but did I get to? No. And don't get me started on Grace and her parents - Grace is a brat who thinks she's 25 and entitled to anything she wants. Her parents are idiots, but they're still HER PARENTS. I would be enraged if my parents didn't want me to see my boyfriend too, but can you honestly BLAME them? They know nothing about this kid and they find out he's sleeping with their daughter. Grace says it's their fault they know nothing about her life, and she should be able to see Sam..Then disappears and comes back home and demands all of these privileges. Maybe they would have known about Sam had she bothered to tell them in the first place.. I can't stand Grace and I hate reading about her because she has no personality. All her and Sam do is grope each other and have sex. There is nothing intimate about the whole thing to me. Just because Sam is some sensitive indie-guitar-playing poetry-writing wimp and Grace is some perfectly beautiful summer-girl, it doesn't make their love real to the reader. Not this one, anyway. I could go on and on, but I won't.

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### Samantha Souza says

eeeeeh....

After reading the first two books, which were amazing, I have to say that this book was absolutely **PAINFUL** for me to read. Maggie is a poet. I will give her that. She painted pictures in my head that were so precise for me that I didn't have to fill in the blanks with my own creations. But that's about all that I'm going to give praise for.

The first big thing I had an issue with was that this book was so long and drawn out that the last 15% of the book was action, and then it was over and the book was finished.

The next big thing was the interrogation with Sam and the officers. It was like she inserted this into the book and then didn't think anything on it again. Tom Culpeper and his family just disappeared without a care in the world, and everyone's problems are solved. Which leads me to my next issue

No one will know what happens with Isabel and Cole. Which really does tick me off. If I'm the only one then so be it, but I thought that after all of the "changing" that Isabel did she at least deserved a happy ending like Grace and Sam. Same with Cole. He could at least end up with the girl he wants. My God. Which in turn leads me to my next issue.

Why on EARTH was Sam so damn annoying in this one. OH MG. I thought I was going to throttle him through the pages. He needed to become a leader a long time ago. It may be the fact that my boyfriend doesn't show his emotions very often, and it's what I've grown used to after 6 years, but please please please grow a pair. Hopefully M's next male protagonist won't be a whining, pining, P. Whipped B. who cries every time his girlfriend leaves the room.

Aside from all of the unanswered questions and Sam annoying the hell out of me...the thing that pissed me off the most was the ending. **HOW DARE YOU KEEP US WAITING FOR 2 YEARS AND YOU DON'T EVEN GIVE US AN APPROPRIATE ENDING!!!!** What kind of shit is that. I put *MY precious time* and money into this series and you leave the ending to our imagination!????!?! I don't want to use my G.D. imagination I want you to F\*#@ing TELL me what the Hell happens to Grace!

@\$\* &^@^%\$ #%&\$\*^ #\$\$^&%&@%!!!!!!!!!!!!

If you couldn't tell from my rating I really didn't like the ending of this book, and I think that the ending of a book counts for half of the goodness of the book!

### ***WHAT I WANT TO KNOW (unanswered questions)***

?What happened with Grace and her family?

?What happened with the investigation against Sam regarding Olivia's death and Grace's disappearance?

?What happens when Grace is injected with Meningitis?

?What happens with Isabel and Cole?

?Where does Sam stand with the pack, and will he keep on changing?

?Why does the wolf virus look like Malaria?

?Why do the wolves of Mercy Falls continue to change, and why does the change eventually blot out their human-ness?

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### **Exina says**

***"There was something vaguely  
glorious about having a purpose again."***

I have mixed feelings about *Forever*. The plot is pretty awesome (the second half), and I love Cole and Isabel together, but I'm disappointed with the storyline of Sam and Grace.

Maggie Stiefvater's style is still as amazing in *Forever* as it was in *Shiver* and *Linger*. The story-building and the alternating viewpoints are delineated professionally.

The first half of the novel basically gives a sitrep of the characters and is about waiting for Grace to change back from wolf into human.

In the second half a serious threat comes up and the story speeds up: it is filled with danger, thrilling action, tension, uncertainty, unpredictability, sacrifices, and losses.

But the ending!! Readers are left in doubt – I really, really hate it! I want a proof that everyone is happy!

### **Cole & Isabel**

**Cole** is unsettling, impudent, confident, and brilliant. And more than this! He overshines everyone. I loved his charisma, and I was amazed by his development, his research, and discoveries.

He discovers not only certain things about being a wolf, but important things about being Cole.

*I had thought there'd be nothing left of me, once you took away the pounding bass of NARKOTIKA and the screams of a few hundred thousand fans and a calendar black with tour dates. But here it was, months later, and it turned out that there was fresh skin underneath the scab I'd picked off.*



I loved his bitter humor, self-irony, and courage. He gambles with his own body, own life to save the others.

*I'd planned out a few experiments that didn't require a lab — just luck, my body, and some balls.*

**Isabel.** She is practical and without hesitation. But she is still building walls around herself. It is very difficult for her to open up. The only one she feels comfortable with is Cole.

*"Cole," I said, "do you think I'm lovable?"*  
*"Maybe," he said. "But you won't let anybody try."*

### **Sam & Grace**

Sam is incapable to exist without Grace. His life without her is about waiting, thinking, dreaming, and waiting again. Sam and Grace's love is said to be beautiful, limitless, and strong, but sadly I couldn't feel it. There is a distance between them, some kind of alienation, deep melancholy. Sam always hesitates, and hates confrontation.

Sam about himself:

*There was something in my expression that I didn't recognize, something at once helpless and failing; whoever this Sam was, I didn't know him.*

He is often helpless, tends to give up. At the end of the story, he agrees to risk something very important to save his pack. I understand Sam's it, and I feel sympathy for him, but he merely does what he is told by Cole. Furthermore, it is not clear if (view spoiler), and I hate not knowing the long-term consequences of his deed.

### **All in all**

5 stars to Cole and Isabel, 2 stars to Sam and Grace.

Originally posted on my blog on September 3, 2012.

My favorite quotes.

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### **Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says**

*"It was a little after midnight, and I was trying to sleep mostly out of self-defense."*

My initial rating for this book was 4.5 stars. Then, while I was trying to write a review (I say *trying* because all my attempts have been pretty unsuccessful by my standards), I just went ahead and changed it to 5. It felt like the right thing to do. I suppose it would be easy enough to start pointing out flaws, complain about this and that, compare this book to *Linger* and especially *Shiver*, but I don't want to do any of that. Not to *Forever*. The truth is, even if it didn't have as many breathtaking moments as the two books before it, I was still very happy with how it was done. Besides, Maggie Stiefvater deserved better than that. What she gave me with this trilogy cannot be measured in stars. It cannot be taken apart or put into words. I'd always

believed that there's nothing beyond language, but this time, words really are inadequate. And, my dear GoodReaders, you have no idea how much it costs me to admit it.

Maggie Stiefvater has a way of making me see beauty in the simplest things. She doesn't create it, she just uses her words to point out what was already there and show it in a completely different light. Never before have I stopped to notice the quiet sadness in the most mundane, repetitive moments but it doesn't surprise me at all that it was Stiefvater who pulled that particular heartstring and woke me up. And I do feel awakened, at least for now.

All these characters started as one thing, and ended up as their true selves. People keep talking about Cole and how much he's grown in Forever, but Grace did too, just in a less obvious way. Cole found purpose, Isabel found softness, Sam found determination and Grace found completion. Honestly, what more can you ask?

*"It was like I'd unfolded all my paper crane memories and found something unfamiliar printed on them. Somehow along the way, hope had been folded into one of those birds. My whole life, I had thought that my story was, again and again: Once upon a time, there was a boy, and he had to risk everything to keep what he loved. But the real story was: Once upon a time, there was a boy, and his fear ate him alive. I was done being afraid."*

While rereading these books will certainly not be the same as reading them for the first time, the very fact that I will be rereading them, and probably many times at that, gives me a reason not to say goodbye right now. I can never do this book justice. I will never be able to write anything worthy of Stiefvater's beautiful prose, so I might as well stop trying. After 1150 pages full of emotions and truth, all I can say is: **Thank you.**

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## Penny says

### DNF

I don't now why I even bothered with this book after the whole fiasco with Linger (Book 2). These last two books are a complete change of dynamics from Shiver (Book 1). It went from a sweet magical romance to a typical young-adult fantasy series with characters and plot-lines I couldn't care less about or find less interesting.

**The romance is what I loved so much about Shiver, it was beautiful, slow-building and tragic. That air of melancholy, that bubble of magic went away completely in the last two books.**

If you love romance I would recommend to read just the first book, it works perfectly as a standalone and it's charming.

Shiver (Wolves of Mercy Falls #1) - 4.5 stars

Linger (Wolves of Mercy Falls #2) - 2 stars

So, I went and read the following installments. Saying that I regretted it is an understatement. For a long time I was very angry about how this series ended up being. I thought that the two following installments weren't loyal to the first book and they were a mayor disappointment for me.

Today (August 17, 2018), I answered a friend's comment that got me thinking. **I realized that what I found with Shiver and did not find with the following books had more to do with me and who I am, than with the actual books.** My friend AussieMum wrote in a comment about Wolfsong (Green Creek #1), a book she absolutely loved: "[...]The funny thing is that I'm reading the sequel now and not loving it at all. [...]. Gonna put it down and read something else, clear my head before I give it another go. **It's funny how one book can speak so much to you and another makes no impact whatsoever.**"

Reading her last sentence got me thinking. I saw myself in the same situation as her with The Wolves of Mercy Falls series. So I shared that common experience with her and told her that for whatever reason I found Shiver mesmerizing and utterly amazing, that the way it was written, the story and its characters got to me (which I believe was also how she felt about Wolfsong). And that yet, when I moved on to the second installment I couldn't be more disappointed, that it was such a let down, I had to force myself to finish it and I ended up wishing I had never read the second one and to have consider Shiver as a stand alone. After that, I had my realization:

**The thing is, I think, occasionally, we find a book that matches with us deeply, with our mood, situations, wants, dreams and personality so much that we see something entirely different from what other people might see, something even different than what the author intended for us to see. We miss other aspects of it, directions the writer wants to take us towards. So when we get the sequel we expect the same as before, the place where the first book took us. But the story has moved on in another direction, a direction we missed the first time because we took our own particular turn, a turn that made us read a completely different book that what it was intended to be.**

This realization makes sense to me and it has helped me to come to terms with my feelings towards this series. I am not angry anymore, or disappointed. Now, I just understand myself better.

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## Gigi Hudson says

It's a testament to how well the author can write that I am in love with this book as I have always read books about supernatural/paranormal romance, but I have always had a fastidious distaste of werewolves.

I got this book by accident, and when I found out it was about werewolves, I didn't want to read it. But the cover (the uk cover) was so beautiful that I couldn't help but read it.

I fell in love with the book and its fluid plot line along with the gorgeous descriptive writing from Sam's eyes to the woods that Grace haunts.

I really am hooked on this book, and it takes a very good author to make someone change genre.

So its a 5 star review from me on both Shiver and Linger, and I am excitedly awaiting Forever.

Also, this book really did make me cry, both from joy and sadness, though don't let that deter you.

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## Mareira says

Συναν?γνωση με την Αθηνο?λα που κι εκε?νη τρ?φει αδυναμ?α για τα λυκ?κια (αουουυυ). Τ?ρα που δι?βάσα και το τελευτα?ο μ?ρος της τριλογ?ας ?χω μ?α σφαιρικ? εικ?να. Το πρ?το βιβλ?ο της σειρ?ς-που τιτλοφορε?ται ρ?γος- ?ταν μακρ?νννννν το καλ?τερο. Νοερ? υπενθ?μιση να αλλ?ξω την βαθμολογ?α σε π?ντε. Η γνωριμ?α, το πρ?το δειλ? φιλ? μεταξ? Σαμ και Γκρ?ις, η πο?ηση, οι αναστεναγμο? του δ?σους. Σαν να ?μασταν μ?νιμα εκτεθειμ?νες στο παγερ? κρ?ο και στην απεραντοσ?νη της ν?χτας.

Κατενθουσιασμ?νη καταπι?στηκα με το δε?τερο βιβλ?ο-?πνοια- που ?ταν υποδε?στερο. Δεν ε?χε τη μαγε?α του πρ?του αλλ? φ?σηξε ?νας α?ρας αναν?ωσης χ?ρη στον Κ?ουλ. Ο αντισυμβατικ?ς Κ?ουλ-εν αντιθ?σει με τον μελαγχολικ? Σαμ-κρατ?ει το ενδιαφ?ρον και τον καπελ?νει. Ε?ναι η πρ?τη φορ? στα χρονικ? που παραγκων?ζω το αρχικ? πρωταγωνιστικ? ζευγ?ρι προς χ?ρη του ν?ου, του ωρα?ου. ?λες οι τσαλακωμ?νες σελ?δες ε?ναι only Κ?ουλ.

Στο τρ?το βιβλ?ο η Stiefvater βρ?κε τον ρυθμ? των λ?ξεων αλλ? αν? διαστ?ματα τον ?χανε ειδικ? ?σο πλησι?ζαμε προς το τ?λος. Ευτυχ?ς συν?χισε το μοτ?βο με την εναλλαγ? αφ?γησης και αν?πτυξε τον χαρακτ?ρα του Κ?ουλ (που σε αυτ?ν οφε?λούμε την πιο ρομαντικ? στιγμ? του βιβλ?ου). ?μεινα ολ?γον ανικανοπο?ητη απ? το φιν?λε γιατ? περ?μενα κ?τι πιο λυρικ? απ? τη συγγραφ?α αφο? ε?χε τη δυνατ?τητα. ?πως στο πρ?το βιβλ?ο ?θελα ν' αφ?σουν τα δ?κρυα ...λ?γα κρυστ?λλινα ?χνη στα μ?γουλ? μου.

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## Victoria ? says

I usually have a habit of not finishing trilogys...just because I never want them to end. But this is one of the few where I just wanted to read about the characters so bad I had to read it! It did take me a while because I wanted to take my time with it and not rush the entire book in a day (which I could have easily done...)

This series has been on my tbr for a solid 5 years maybe(?) and I really regret not reading it sooner. I went into it thinking eh I'm probably not gonna like this but it was just so incredible.

The final book was so fast paced, especially near the end, and I just loved every page. The ending was amazing (though it left a few things open I'm hoping are addressed in Sinner) and I couldn't've asked for a better ending. It just felt really rounded to me like we came full circle in a way and it was just great (I did cry a little though js :))

Maggie's writing is just incredible, this is the first series I've read from her and it's definitely won't be the last, I'm pretty sure I want to read everything she's ever written. I haven't had a connection to characters like I did with Sam and Grace (and Cole and Isabel) in a while and it was so nice to love characters so much that it made me urgent to read again!

Anyway 5/5 for the entire series, it was amazing I totally recommend it. I wonder how many more good series I have sitting on my shelves unread...

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## Stacey Lucky says

Let me say this.. Just because I didn't like this book doesn't mean I'm telling everyone not to read it. Everyone has different tastes and different opinions. And if your opinion is to come on MY review and tell me how awesome this book is and that I got it wrong. No I'm pretty sure I read this book correctly ..twice in fact. So keep to yourself, or write your own 5 star review so I can go on it and write "omg!! You are wrong this book it terrible!! You have to hate it to bc I do!"

Giving it two stars but I will probably drop it down to one the more I think about this book and it's horrible ending. Did she forget to finish the book? Is there a chapter that they accidentally didn't put in the end? I felt like shiver and linger are two totally separate books from this one .. The first two were so good what the hell was this ?? I want my money back...and the more I think about this bull crap about the reader having to decide what happens in the end the more pissed off I get. No Maggie S I do not want to decide what happens in the end!! I want an ending..If I wanted to use my imagination I wouldnt have paid for a book!

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## kazually says

i can't with this series anymore

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## tonya. says

I just don't know. I feel like I'm betraying myself by not loving this book more.

To say I was disappointed in this book, the conclusion to one of my favorite series (okay, really just *book*, as I had a really hard time with *Linger*), is almost giving it too much credit. Disappointment carries with it some emotion, and the problem I had with *Forever*--much like I did with Maggie's latest, *The Scorpio Races*--was that I just didn't feel much of anything from it.

Sam Roth has been my number one book crush for almost two years now, and after *Linger* crushed my heart into a million pieces on his behalf, I swore up and down I wouldn't read *Forever* until someone who loved him as much as I did gave me the all-clear. I just needed to know if this book was going to rip out my soul and crush it into dust.

It didn't.

But it also didn't make me feel much of anything else, either. Maybe my wariness to read translated into a distance from the characters, but even Sam Roth felt like a pale shadow of the boy I'd fallen in love with in *Shiver*. There was just no substance behind him. Everything he did and felt and said was muted. Even his interaction with Grace was understated to the point of complacency. I didn't need any burning passion between them--that's not their style or the reason I fell in love with them in the first place--but I wanted to feel some strong emotions. I wanted to feel their *need* for one another. Something more than just Cole telling me their love was more real than anything in the world. Show me that it is. Don't just tell me through someone else's perspective.

And speaking of perspectives... the alternating points of view. What purpose did they serve? Cole is an

interesting character and played an important role in the plot, but he would have been just as interesting and important through either Grace or Sam's POV. Same goes for Isabel. I like their characters, but their narrations were at best distracting, at worst completely unnecessary.

The constant shift in point of view added a lot to my feelings of distance from the story. It felt as though every time I finally started to settle into a character, get my bearings, the tone shifted again.

And after three hundred pages of talk, the action was short-lived and didn't even bring full resolution--very few questions posed through two and a half books were answered. (view spoiler)

All in all, a very disappointing end to a story that probably should have ended with the first book, anyway. *Shiver* took my heart, *Linger* crushed it, but *Forever* hardly even touched it.

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## **nicole says**

YOU GUYS.

With a release date of July 12, I feel that's about all I can say. So since I can't talk about the book, I'd like to take a minute to talk about the acknowledgments section, where Maggie says goodbye to Mercy Falls and the world she created there. It was one of my favorite worlds to read in over the past few years, since first picking up *Shiver* on a whim at Book Expo in 2009.

And when she wrote about Sam and Grace's relationship, and her statement to readers who always ask how they can find their brand of loyal, enduring love, I couldn't help but get a huge fat emo tear in my eye. I didn't grow up surrounded by healthy relationships and have had to push and shove my way into becoming an adult who can recognize and participate fully in one. So it's no surprise I have a soft spot for working with older tweens and teens who aren't either in that position either. To have a book that I can place into their hands without being totally obvious what I'm trying to point out to them is powerful and I know from those few sentences alone that Maggie gets the importance of it too. I've got so much respect for her and love following her travels or hearing where her next big talk will be.

Over the past 48 hours, I've had a hard time trying to explain the series to those who haven't heard of or read it. It's funny to hear myself get choked up with enthusiasm while talking about what is -- essentially - a werewolf book. But the cathartic response I had to finishing the series on my day off from work bathing in the late afternoon sunlight as the wind rustled through the trees was so strong that I'm sure it will stay with me a long time.

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## **C.G. Drews says**

\*\*\* THIS IS A REREAD \*\*\*

I read *Forever* 3 years ago. I wasn't even properly reviewing books back then...SO NATURALLY I NEEDED TO REREAD IT BECAUSE MAGGIE STEIFVATER IS MY FAVOURITE AUTHOR EVER AND I WILL PASS OUT FROM EXTREME EXCITABLE SHRIEKING IN ATTEMPTS TO GET EVERYONE TO READ HER BOOKS COPIOUSLY. \*pauses for breath\* I recently reread *Shiver*, but then

skipped straight to Forever because it was lying around the library looking sad and pathetic and NEEDED ME TO ADOPT IT. So I did. I cuddled it and read it one day. Because that's who I am. (A massive Steifvaterfan.)

So.

It was just as wonderful and amazing and extraordinarily written as the first time. EXCEPT I PERHAPS HAVE MORE FEEEEELS FOR CERTAIN PEOPLE. Namely: Sam and Cole. Not, um, as a ship. I ship them with their respective better halves. Just SAM AND COLE, THE DARLING WOLFISH, MUSICAL ANGSTY WOLF POPSICLES THAT I LOVE ASTRONOMICALLY HARD.

We have to talk CHARACTERS, THO:

+ **COLE:** I have to admit Cole has a special place in my heart. There's just no way to *explain* the insanity that is Cole St. Clair. He's like everywhere at once, with a million ideas, probably a suppressed genius, and is absolutely exhausting to look at. I love his humour and his snark and his eccentricities. I LOVE COLE.

+ **SAM:** He so moody and agsty and folds paper cranes and writes love songs and loves Grace with every bone in his body. OMG SAM. STAHF. YOU'RE TOO ADORABLE FOR WORDS. He's so entirely quotable and amazing too. Just *Sam*. He really is the best of anyone.

+ **GRACE:** While I love her (I truly do) if I had to rate these foursome, she would come last. I like Grace, but I think she's very...self-involved. I think she is actually a lot like her parents. And she's the kind of nose-in-a-book straight As sort of girl that I read about a lot. STILL. She absolutely leaps off the page like everyone else and I do like her.

+ **ISABEL:** BUT I LOVE ISABEL. She's so complicated. She's like the mean "rich" girl one moment, and then a melting marshmallow the next. She's so bitter and bitchy and FABULOUS and she doesn't take any crap from anyone and. I. love. Isabel. Her and Cole's relationship is like vinegar and salt. They work SO WELL but they're SO SIMILAR so the clashes are intense. I ship them so hard. Sinner is basically the book of m dreams and soul and mind.

**And the writing? Maggie Stiefvater's writing is A DREAM.** It's so detailed and lush and perfect, and occasionally breaks into a spattering of words over the page when Sam's having a thought-collapse. Everything just *flows*. And I'm in love with every word. I JUST LOVE EVERYTHING, OKAY?! And don't think she's going to spare you pain. SHE WILL NOT. There is pain in this book. There is so. much. pain.

I love wolves. I love Cole and Isabel and Sam and Grace. I love origami. I love Beck's house. I love the winteriness. I love bookshop and Karen when she's like Sam's mum for a second when the cops come for him. I love the food they cook. I love Sam/Grace's mature devotion. I love Isabel/Cole's immature devotion. I like chocolate. I like the bittersweet ending. I like things. All the things. Why is this series over? I could read #5398 books about these characters.

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## Dannii Elle says

So, I think it is only fair to state that I had average feelings on the first book in this series and also really disliked the second book, before beginning this third instalment. Going in to this I was less than enthusiastic, which may have hindered my enjoyment before I even began. Why begin a book I was so sure I wasn't going to enjoy, you ask? Because I'm clearly a glutton for punishment with minor OCD about finishing a book

series.

I did find this a vast improvement from the previous book, where literally NOTHING happened, but there was still far too much angst for me to immerse myself in the story. Sam and Grace are the most melodramatic protagonists, and I could not care less about their whiny and repetitive perspectives. The previous side characters, that continued to be given a larger role as the series progressed, were this book's saving grace. Isabel and Cole each had so much sass and seeing their burgeoning romance and growing character developments felt truly special, opposed to the instantaneous attraction and endless endearments uttered by Sam and Grace.

The actual plot was accessible, if pretty predictable, but not completely horrible and, as before, Stiefvater's writing continued to shine. This story, as a whole, is just not for me, but I have not written myself off from trying more of Stiefvater's renowned book series.

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## Elizabeth says

**\*\* SPOILERS \*\* \*\* SPOILERS \*\* \*\* SPOILERS \*\***

This is a difficult review to write, mostly due to the fact that my fists are clenched with the need to punch Ms. Stiefvater in the face. Seriously. Plus, it's actually taken me a few days to stew on and eventually digest the strange rollercoaster ride which is Forever.

So what happened? Well, there were some pacing problems. Big ones. At times the story seemed to get bogged down and Ms. Stiefvater's normally melodic prose became a little heavy handed. And while the alternating narrative added depth to the story, it occasionally made for some bumpy transitions. Again (yes, it happened in all three books). But most of these things are forgivable as, overall, Ms. Stiefvater's writing is lovely and the world she created is vivid and alive.

So why the two stars? Well, now we get to the unforgivable stuff. For starters, everything worked out a little too neatly and yet, surprisingly, there were some plot threads left completely and utterly abandoned.

First, let's take the situation with Grace's parents. There's zero resolution with them. None. It seemed as though there might be some, but it never quite got there and eventually the entire thread was simply dropped. Not fair, Ms. Stiefvater, just because you paint yourself into a corner doesn't mean your audience should suffer. Get a grip, figure it out, spend more time in re-writes, don't just toss it away because it's more convenient that way. That's simply cheating.

Second issue: the wolves. There's a hugely dramatic scene at the end of this novel, with an aerial hunt involving Mr. Culpeper. Wolves are killed. We learn of two characters that were definitely killed off and others eluded to, but it's unclear who survived. This left me scratching my head and feeling, again, a little cheated. Is it too much to ask to get some closure for characters you've introduced? Just because they were filler, and no time was taken to develop them, doesn't mean they don't count and simply get tossed by the wayside with Grace's parents.

Third: the cure. Or as I like to call it: the non-cure. That's right, after Sam turns himself back into a wolf to save Grace and we're led to believe it will all work out, the cure is still... meningitis? It felt like a copout to me. Scratch that, it was a copout. And, again, I'd like to toss in the word: cheating.



Fourth: Sam. He spends the entire novel vacillating. In one breath seeming to overcome his trauma and heartbreak, and in the next he's moping and griping that his life is worthless without Grace. In this installment he's reached a whole new level of morose and it's not very becoming. Ms. Stiefvater, you've turned Sam from sweet and affectionate to sadly pathetic. In your words, in this novel, Sam is truly a leaky womb.

Fifth: Officer Koenig (introduced briefly in *Shiver*). Eleventh hour he just strolls up and says "Hi Grace and Sam, why don't you and your werewolf buddies mooch off me for the rest of your lives at this sweet little resort I own miles from nowhere"? And there's no explanation/motivation to save the wolves other than his moderate dislike for Culpeper. This stretches the bounds of plausibility to a whole new level. And, oh, what's that you ask? That's right, it's **CHEATING!**

Sixth: Culpeper himself. Yes, I understand his role in the hunt and the necessity of that story arc but there's no resolution with this character. After all is said and done, the family just packs up and moves back to California? WTF? Okay, new adjective: unsportsmanlike. And I'm calling that a foul.

Seventh: Cole. He dies. Well, sort of. Only not quite. So that makes him, what, a zombie-werewolf? Okay, maybe that's a little unfair, but under the circumstances I felt the author cheated again. No, scratch that, the author definitely cheated, and was lazy. Worst. Flaw. Ever. If you want to write a series, have the balls to see it through, otherwise don't commit. It's completely unfair to change the rules, simply because you've given up and have moved on to something else.

Finally, we come to ambiguity. Aside from all the other things left unsaid and undone, I had hoped for resolution for Grace and Sam. It just wasn't there. I get that the author left it to the reader to decide their fate, and I respect that to an extent, but with so many other issues left to linger (no pun intended), I had hoped for something more tangible for this couple.

Here's the crux of my issue condensed into a simple sentence: Nothing is ever earned in this novel. The characters reap rewards they have neither struggled for nor earned. They are subjected to hardships that simply vanish with no plausible explanation. They encounter tumultuous relationships which conveniently vanish into the ether. They are ostensibly left squeaky clean, because they did nothing to earn the grit they should have been slathered in. The author made them impotent by not allowing her characters to get dirty by rolling up their sleeves and doing the hard work. And it shows in every single story arc which was simply dropped for convenience sake.

However, if you're a true fan of this series don't completely lose faith, here's what worked well: Cole and Isabel are the shining stars of this novel and the sole reason this received two stars instead of one. The joy was not solely due to the dynamics between the two, but because I enjoyed watching them struggle and evolve independently of each other. Their narratives offered a great peek into their respective psyches and I loved that they maintained their own unique voices throughout the novel. They were a joy to get to know and I wished more time was given to them because they absolutely saved the day where this final book is concerned.

The ending, aside from the above issues, was a crazy, breathtaking adventure. Wow! Did Ms. Stiefvater hit a home run where the action is concerned! The final fifty odd pages was like being in a getaway car with fifty troopers on your tail, Thelma and Louise style! And for anyone who has read the first two books and loved them, these scenes alone are worth reading the third.

As always, Ms. Stiefvater's writing is melodic and maybe I'm just being grumpy about all the other stuff...

maybe.

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