



Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow

Courtney Sheinmel, Jennifer A. Bell (Illustrator)

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One of the best things about having parents who own a candy store is getting to be an official taste-tester. When her dad brings home Magical Glow-in-the-Dark Chewing Gum, Stella can't wait to try it out especially since her younger sister is already blowing bubbles and making magic-gum wishes that come true! Except the gum seems to bring Stella bad luck. First she can't even blow a bubble, then she falls asleep chewing a piece of gum that ends up wadded in her hair, resulting in a drastic haircut. And now her best friend, Willa, announces she's moving clear across the country! It's hard to believe in any kind of magic when stuff like this happens. But Stella knows that when the going gets tough, the tough get going and that's exactly what she plans to do.

Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow Details

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Author : Courtney Sheinmel , Jennifer A. Bell (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow for online ebook

Heather says

Stella accidentally falls asleep and gets gum stuck in her. Not wanting to tell her parents that she ate gum after bedtime she tries to get it out herself and ends up chopping off a bit too much hair. On top of that, her best friend announces that she's moving across the country and her little sister loses her favourite stuff animal.

Sheinmel continues to do a great job of writing in the voice of an 8 year-old who wants to be a writer. I loved Stella's fear that she might look so different with her hair cut that her friends wouldn't recognize her anymore. She has such an imagination.

Sydney says

her dad is a candy maker and invents magic gum. she is unable to blow bubbles but her little sister can. the gum gets stuck in her hair and she goes to the barber to cut her hair. josh makes fun of her because she looked like a boy.

Row says

It was kind of screamy and funny.

(A note from Mom: still love this series for my first grader.)

Martha says

A refreshingly wholesome title for early chapter book readers. The setting of a candy store and descriptions of the various treats will delight readers who enjoy Junie B. Jones and Judy Moody books.

Linda says

Stella is not waiting until she grows up to start her writing career and her life has plenty of adventure for some quirky and fun stories. Another fun series for readers moving into longer fiction.

Simran says

The Book , Hair today , Gone tomorrow is a fantastic ,amazing and a girls worries book .If you are a reader of the series dorky dairies. Then, this will be a good book . Stella woke up with chewing gum in her beautiful hair . SNIP!!! she cut her beautiful , medium long hair(now not even beautiful.....ugly hair) . While her sister stares at her . She got in bad..... bad trouble . Afterwards, she realized that magic is true and believed in it. Well sort of .

Michaela Branum says

I loved it. I thought the picture of after she tried cutting her hair was so so funny. I fell on the floor and started laughing so so hard it was that funny. And I really like her haircut. That could probably go to locks of Love. Yeah, It was that much hair. Enjoy!

Meghan Nels says

This is a very enjoyable, humorous beginning chapter book I think many of my students will enjoy.

Liz says

I knew I needed to try one more! I really liked this book. I am now invested in these characters and I want to read more. Will Stella's friend, Willa, really move? Will she get to do most of her wish list first? I liked her lists, her reasons, her definitions of big words, and of course the fact that Stella is a writer! Middle grade chapter book with a table of contents. Trouble seems to follow Stella. What will happen next?

Andrea Hall says

Cute book! I loved the characters and what child wouldn't want a dad who owned a candy shop! What a dream. Teaches cute lessons and is a fun read.

Katie Fitzgerald says

Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow is the second book in Courtney Sheinmel's sweet series about Stella Batts. When their father brings home Magical Glow-in-the-Dark chewing gum for Stella and her sister Penny to taste-test, Stella is disappointed to realize that Penny can blow bubbles while she cannot. Deciding she can't stand to be shown up, Stella sneaks some more gum after she is supposed to be in bed, and falls asleep with it still in her mouth. In the morning, she wakes up with gum in her hair! This is the first in a long line of disasters that befall Stella over the next few days, including using her sister's hair a paintbrush and learning that her best friend is moving away.

I loved the first Stella Batts book, and I love this one even more. From the moment I started reading, I just fell into the world of the story, cringing whenever something went wrong for Stella and smiling during her

moments of triumph. I see a lot of myself in Stella. I was a kid who liked to write and to make lists, and Stella does the same thing. The lists, especially, are a great asset to this book because they break down a lot of information - what happens when you get gum in your hair, or the steps for making the perfect grilled cheese sandwich - into just a few manageable paragraphs. At times during this book, I was unsure that the conceit of Stella writing these books herself as part of her autobiography was really necessary, but Stella's voice is strong either way, and I think kids like feeling like they're privy to all of her innermost secrets.

I also think Courtney Sheinmel does a wonderful job of remembering what it's like to be a kid and putting that worldview into her stories. The following is my favorite passage from the entire book, which describes Stella's thoughts at bedtime:

Mom and Dad came in to say goodnight after a half hour. When they left, they turned out the lights and shut the door almost the whole way, but left it open just a little crack, because that's the way I like it.

I don't close my eyes right away. I wait until they're used to the dark and I can see everything around my room. So I waited for a little while, and then my stuff came into focus: my desk with the mug from Disneyland that I use as a pencil holder, the desk chair that I picked out because it swivels around, the beanbag pillow in the corner that's shaped like a Tootsie Roll, my bookcase will all my books in order from favorite to least favorite, and my dresser with all my clothes inside of it. (p28)

This scene goes on for a few more paragraphs until Stella spies her pack of gum in the dark and decides to chew just one more piece. What I love about it this part of the story is how much we learn about Stella in just a few sentences. We learn about the objects in her room, the way she organizes her books, and how she likes to fall asleep. Then, finally, the meat of the story begins when her eyes land on the pack of gum. This all happens seamlessly, and the reader doesn't even consciously realize all that has just been introduced. Sheinmel is such an artful writer, she makes it look easy.

Stella Batts: Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow reminds me a lot of Dessert First, the first book in Hallie Durand's Dessert Schneider series, as well as of Ramona, who has her own hair-related issues in at least one of her books. These books also make more literary alternatives to things like the Mallory McDonald and Junie B. Jones series.

Steven R. McEvoy says

Another one read with my oldest she loves these books. Full review to follow.

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This is the third Stella Batts book that I have read, and the second that I have read with my oldest we alternate pages. We both love the series. And I do not know a parent who has not had to deal with this specific issue at least once with each child. But to have hair issues with both your children on the same day no wonder that Stella's parents were upset.

But before we get to the story, I have been remiss in my other reviews on this series and a reader asked me about my lack of comments on the illustrations. Mea culpa. The illustrations by Jennifer are wonderful. They are interspersed throughout the book and add to the story. My daughter loves identifying the friends in the pictures and always hopes the pages with illustrations are hers to read. They really do add an extra element to the book and as transitions from early readers to novels they work perfectly to enhance the interest in the books.

The more of these books I read the more I appreciate them, they are great down to earth stories. They are very realistic and yet entertaining enough to keep the attention of this mid-40's guy and his daughter. In fact my youngest has started joining us for reading these because she likes the stories also. They are very well written and as stated wonderfully illustrated.

In this volume as you can guess by the title there is a 'hair' incident or two. In some combination we have magic glow in the dark gum, wishes, scissors and paint. All in all not a great day at the Batts household. And add to that the fact that Stella's best friend is moving across the country and there are more than a few tears in this story. But as always the Batts come together and face the problems and work as a family to get through them.

These are great fun reads. My oldest brought home from the school library book 3 the day after we finished this one. Not sure we will be reading much else until the series is done. And any book that keeps kids' reading and coming back for more is a win in my opinion!

Read the review on my blog [Book Reviews and More](#) and reviews of other books by Courtney Sheinmel.

Ayla says

Don't really know when i started or finished, actually. same for the other books on here.

Lucy says

This book is awesome. My favorite part was when Stella and Willa were playing Spit. I want to learn how to play that game. Stella explains how to play in the book. It sounds really fun.

Molly Ritterbeck says

Stella finds herself in two very real situations, jealousy and trying to fix something without help. All three of kids have dealt with jealousy, but only one found herself in the crazy hair situation! Love that Stella has so many real-life situations that can walk kids through the emotions in a practical manner!
