



For Immediate Release

November 16, 2011

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**YA novelist Gayle Forman explores Life, Death, Music, and Memory in a BWR Teen Event
Friday, December 2, 2011, Carnegie Library Lecture Hall, 7pm**

(Pittsburgh, Pa.) – Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh are pleased to announce the appearance of Gayle Forman, author of the popular young-adult novel *If I Stay* and its sequel *Where She Went*, on Friday, December 2, 7:00 p.m., at Carnegie Library Lecture Hall in Oakland. Foreman’s visit is part of *Black, White & Read All Over*, a family author series featuring popular writers of contemporary children’s and teen literature.

Forman’s *New York Times* best-selling novel *If I Stay* (2009) follows seventeen-year-old Mia, a classically trained cellist and self-described nerd, over the course of twenty-four traumatic hours from her home in small-town Oregon to a hospital in Portland. In a coma after a tragic car accident, Mia is a version of herself in limbo—an invisible voyeur in the hospital who must make the biggest decision of her life, or death—should she stay or should she go?

Is evoking The Clash an accident? Certainly not. From Yo-Yo Ma to Nirvana, Mozart to the Eels, music pervades Gayle Forman’s novels. Even the Smiths’ “Girlfriend in a Coma” gets a mention in a moment of comic relief. Written in prose that is carefully and intentionally sparse, *If I Stay* explores Mia’s life through the lens of memory, moving seamlessly from the present to the past to elucidate her difficult choice. Central to this choice is Adam, Mia’s “emo-core” musician boyfriend who fights for her survival and serves as the protagonist of the novel’s sequel, *Where She Went* (2011).

Before concentrating on young-adult novels, Gayle Forman was a journalist for *Seventeen*, specializing in social-justice pieces for a YA readership. She also contributed articles to *Details*, *Jane*, *Glamour*, *The Nation*, *Elle*, *Budget Travel*, and *Cosmopolitan*. After extensive travel, Forman settled down with her husband and family and began to write novels from home. In addition to writing *If I Stay* and *Where She Went*, Forman is also the author of *Sisters In Sanity* (2007), a novel about protagonist Brit Hemphill’s experience in a treatment center for rebellious teens.

Foreman’s special BWR Teen Event will feature her talk, an audience Q&A, as well as a book signing and musical entertainment.

General admission tickets are available online at pittsburghlectures.org, by phone at 412-622-8866, or at the door. Tickets are \$15 each or two for \$25. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., Carnegie Library Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Black, White & Read All Over is presented by Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures in partnership with Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Support for the series is provided by UPMC Health Plan and The Grable Foundation. Book sales are provided by Penguin Bookshop, Sewickley.

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About Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures:

Founded in 1991, Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures is a non-profit 501(c)(3) literary, performing arts organization, as designated by the City of Pittsburgh. The unique mission of Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures is to connect world-class authors and their work with the local community and, in doing so, to elevate the quality of civic discourse in Pittsburgh through the presentation and discussion of the universal human values of literature. Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures produces an annual series of literary lectures sponsored by The Drue Heinz Trust. In addition, the organization produces a literary series for children and families in partnership with Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, as well as special events featuring niche writers and storytellers, with the purpose of encouraging interest in the lifelong pursuit of reading.

About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh:

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh contributes to the educational attainment, economic development, and cultural enrichment of the region. Through critical services such as early learning programs for children, job search assistance and computer and Internet access, the Library fosters lifelong learning and is a renowned leader among the nation's libraries. With more than 2 million visitors and 3.5 million items borrowed each year, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region's most visited asset and one of the largest public libraries in Pennsylvania. Established in 1895 by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie as a public trust to be funded by the community, the Library derives approximately 90% of its annual operating budget from public or government sources, including the Allegheny County Regional Asset District (RAD), the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Pittsburgh.

Black, White & Read All Over

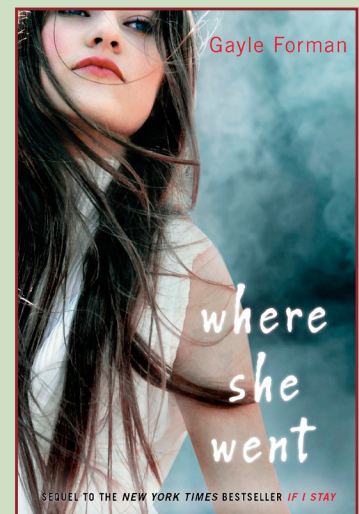
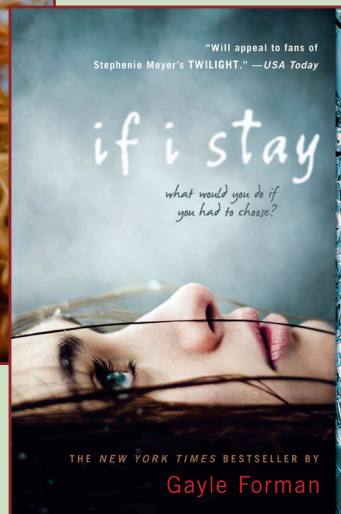


**SPECIAL
FRIDAY NIGHT
BWR TEEN
EVENT!**



GAYLE FORMAN

Friday, December 2, 7:00 PM
Carnegie Library Lecture Hall
4400 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
entrance at back of Carnegie complex



Gayle Forman is the best-selling author of the YA novel *If I Stay*, a book about life, death, music, and memory that follows 17-year-old Mia, a classically trained cellist and self-described nerd, over the course of 24 traumatic hours from her home in small-town Oregon to a hospital in Portland. There, Mia must make the biggest decision of her life. Come to see Gayle LIVE!

TICKETS:

\$10 each or two for \$25
412-622-8866 or pittsburghlectures.org

PLUS: a book signing, book sales by Penguin Bookshop, music, and snacks!

Share the stories. Meet the writers. Get the autographs.

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