

Young Adult Reader Reviews:

“I loved how the characters had a variety of personalities, from sweet and compassionate to possessive and dangerous. I connected with Jenna and felt her pain throughout the book.”

~Jade, sixth-grader

“This is a book that once you start reading it, you can't put it down.”

~Jaylin, seventh-grader

“I laughed, I cried, and I even hopped out of my chair.”

~Rebecca, sixth-grader

“It is extremely easy to feel Jenna’s pain and confusion, more so than in many other books; the book is enjoyable, heartwarming and intense all at the same time. Readers will remember this powerful story; if you enjoy a good read, with romance, suspense, and humor, this book is not out of your league.”

~Kirby, ninth-grader

“OMG, I loved *O.Y.L!*”

~Linda, sixth-grader

“This book was so inspiring and especially great for young adults going through the same changes as Jenna. I am now in love with this book and will probably read it about 20 more times!”

~Veronica, seventh-grader

“The book had a lot of different twists that I would not have expected. I was always wondering what Jenna would do next.”

~Megan, sixth-grader

Professional Reader Reviews:

“Jenna is a character that pulls you in and asks you to believe in a wounded but strong girl as she begins to heal.”

~Erin Stephens
Director of Youth Services
Lower Macungie Library

“In his debut novel, Scott Heydt taps into a wellspring of teenage angst as he takes the reader on a journey through the awkward and uncertain world of adolescent love. Without a map or guidebook to help her, Jenna Durstine, a bright yet innocent ninth grader, teeters on the edge of disaster as powerful emotions draw her toward forbidden love. The characters, drawn from the author’s rich experience in the classroom, are vivid and their interactions are familiar to anyone who has survived adolescence. *O. Y. L.* is a gripping novel guaranteed to captivate the reader to the very end. A must read for adults both young and old.”

~John Evans, author of *The Cut*

“Symbolism and description are masterfully woven throughout this book as the reader accompanies Jenna on her journey of self-discovery. Jenna, who has more than her fair share of teenage angst, takes us along for the ride as she discovers the delicate balance of guarding her heart without closing it completely. In today’s modern teenage world, when it feels like everything and everyone is against you, Scott Heydt portrays an encouraging, yet realistic tale of strength, courage, and hope!”

~Kelly Houston Szemanek, Reading Specialist

“This powerful story may well be the vehicle to guide young adult readers into a healthy self-concept, recognizing the struggles of growth and the concept of appropriate love relationships.”

~Denise Mitkus, veteran educator

Parent Reader Reviews:

“Heydt provides the reader with a frank, yet compassionate, portrait of dysfunctional family life, addressing such difficult topics of spousal and child abuse, depression, single-parent homes, and teenage interactions with friends and figures of authority. The use of contemporary language, with a liberal sprinkling of humor throughout, serves to hold the reader's interest and attention and allows for an enjoyable read.”

~Kristie Vuocolo, educator and parent

“Heydt demonstrates that each of us has the internal strength to continue to flourish no matter the circumstances. He highlights the strength of loving relationships to carry us through the most difficult times. He shows all of us, especially young adults, the combined power of not giving up, setting goals, and seeking the support of loving parents, teachers, and friends.”

~Mike Stefanski, parent of two young adults