

Castle, Jennifer. **The Beginning of After** p. 425

Recommended for Grades 6-12

Realistic Fiction

I am reviewing the book *The Beginning of After* by Jennifer Castle. This book is about a high school girl named Laurel who is faced with a terrible tragedy when her whole family, except her, passes away in a car crash. Laurel tries to overcome this by going back to school and focusing on taking the SAT. She gets a job at an animal hospital and starts talking to Joe, one of the hottest guys in school. She also starts talking to her neighbor's son whose family was involved in the car crash. Many other exciting things happen in this book including Laurel taking in her neighbor's dog.

In my opinion the way the author wrote the book was fantastic. I couldn't even put the book down. She used many descriptive sentences where I felt like I was actually there with her. The chapter I thought was the best was the first one because I could actually feel Laurel's pain. The writing was easy for me to understand. Every now and then I would read a word I didn't quite understand. This book is a sad book, but also realistic because there are many people with situations just like Laurel's. I think this is one of the best books you could choose to read. I think the right age to read this book is 11+. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves a good read!

By Taylor