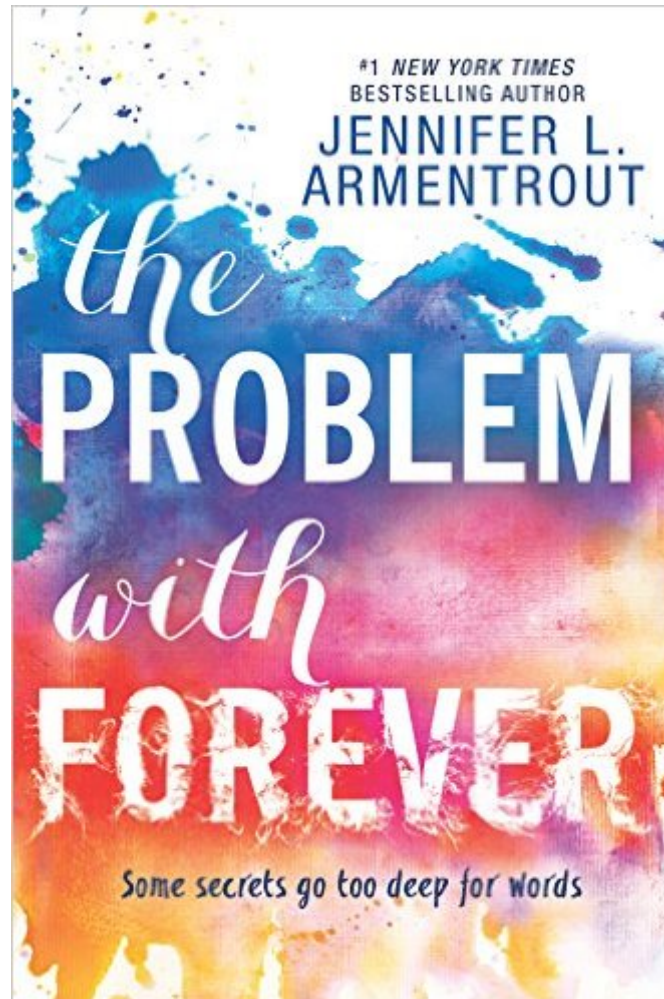


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The Problem With Forever (Harlequin Teen)



Synopsis

"Heartbreakingly real" a remarkable novel about the power of first love and the courage it takes to face your fears. "Kami Garcia, #1 New York Times bestselling author" From #1 New York Times bestselling author Jennifer L. Armentrout comes a riveting story about friendship, survival and finding your voice. Growing up, Mallory Dodge learned that the best way to survive was to say nothing. And even though it's been four years since her nightmare ended, she's beginning to worry that the fear that holds her back will last a lifetime. Now, after years of homeschooling, Mallory must face a new milestone—spending her senior year at a public high school. But she never imagined she'd run into Rider Stark, the friend and protector she hasn't seen since childhood, on her very first day. It doesn't take long for Mallory to realize that the connection she shared with Rider never really faded. Yet soon it becomes apparent that she's not the only one grappling with lingering scars from the past. And as she watches Rider's life spiral out of control, Mallory must make a choice between staying silent and speaking out for the people she loves, the life she wants and the truths that need to be heard. Praise: "This book blew me away, completely. Gripping from page one, I'm quite literally 'couldn't put it down.'" —Christina Lauren, New York Times bestselling author "We're left breathless and a little haunted and wanting more." —Danielle Paige, New York Times bestselling author "An achingly real masterpiece | Heart-wrenching, heartwarming, heart-everything." —Wendy Higgins, New York Times bestselling author

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Customer Reviews

In *The Problem with Forever*, Jen proves exactly why I consider her an "auto-buy" author. This book was pretty much made of feels and it wrecked me in the best possible way. It also put me back together when it was all said and done, so don't think it's bleak or anything. It's a beautiful book with a hopeful message and I know I won't forget these characters and how it all made me feel anytime soon. Mallory, Rider and the rest of the crew here latched on tight. I'm not going to get down into the weeds with the plot lines in this book. I'd hate myself if I spoiled anything for you. As you've read in the synopsis, it all begins when Mallory starts attending a new school and Ridge, the person who saved her during some tough times in a foster home, is a student there. They reconnect, but it's messy. He has a girlfriend and is struggling to be a better him. It's easy to get sucked into a lifestyle he didn't want to be part of. Mallory is fighting her own demons "mainly her nearly-constant fight to even speak. Her former foster family had beaten her down so badly that she has a tough time putting herself out there, but she wants to. Ridge is one person she can be herself with and, because he reenters her life, she begins to heal and grow a little. The same can be said for him thanks to her. I loved how these two leaned on each other and how things grew between them as they each tackled their demons "both past and present" and they discovered who they really were. I can't even pinpoint my favorite thing about this book. If I had to, it's a toss up between the connection Mallory and Rider share and the growth each character undergoes over the course of the book. Both were so honest and real that I can't stop thinking about it. (Mother of all book hangovers right here, as you might expect.) *The Problem with Forever* is a totally different kind of YA from Jen and it's easily my new favorite. I love when I find really, really good YA contemporary and this one is definitely a new favorite. I received a copy of this book from the publisher, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.

.....so when I saw this book was out, I didn't even "sample" it first, I dove in and bought it. That was a mistake. The writing is, as always, technically sound. My problem was with the story. As another reviewer said, when you are going to write about such heavy, serious issues, you should deal with them, not use them as a jumping off point for a love story. Although the Heroine suffers some physiological issues as a result of abuse as a young child (anxiety and a speech disorder), she is otherwise well adjusted. In fact, the entire focus of this book is not dealing with the issues raised by

that trauma, but a romance with her former foster brother. I didn't like that unrealistic take on the aftermath of such serious issues. I didn't like that his current girlfriend is made to look like an awful person because she does not want to share her boyfriend with the Heroine. But, I probably could have gotten past all of that if the Heroine had not been such a one-dimensional character without personality and the thought capacity of a very sweet 6 year old (FYI - she's 17). Just because she has problems expressing herself does not mean her inner dialogue should be so child-like and BLAND! I could not relate, moreover, I could not understand why any leading man-worthy man would have any interest in someone who, no matter how attractive, has no personality, or, worse yet, the mental development of a child. It got creepy. I had to stop 3/4 of the way through.

Where do I start with this book? It's no secret that I have a lot of love for Jennifer L. Armentrout. She's one of my favorite authors and I've been itching to get my hands on her newest release. So when shipped it early and it came into my possession, I inhaled this baby. There aren't enough words to describe how fantastic this book is, but let's see if I can try. *The Problem with Forever* follows a girl named Mallory four years after a traumatizing event took place in her foster house. Her foster parents weren't parents at all. They didn't care about Mallory or Rider (the other child they were fostering), but together Mallory and Rider survived. Together. Until that event which ripped the two kids apart. Four years later and two adoptive parents later Mallory decides it's time to kiss homeschooling goodbye. All Mallory has tried to do is forget and move on from her past, but on the first day of public school Mallory comes face to face with the one person she could never forget. Rider. Rider is the reason Mallory is alive today. He always protected her and saw what no one else did when they looked at her. For Mallory's whole life people have thought she was mentally behind, that there was something wrong with her because she hardly spoke. She was called names, hurtful names, and no one gave her the chance to show that she wasn't any of those names. No one but Rider. These two. OMGEE THESE TWO! They had a connection growing up, a connection you can instantly feel when these two are reunited. They care so, so so deeply for one another. It's intense. It's super intense. But Mallory and Rider are just so glad to know each of them is okay, that they're both alive. That they are back in each other's lives. But is four years a long enough time to change a person from the memories you have? Rider and Mallory have always had a place in each other's lives, but now people around them think that their friendship (& relationship) isn't right. That they don't live in each other's worlds anymore, that they are two different people. What those people don't know is that the history between Mallory and Rider have intertwined their lives together in a unchangeable, untouchable way. And you can see that when they are together, but there are

some things they realized have changed. Mallory doesn't need to be protected anymore. Rider has issues that he pushes away instead of dealing with. This book was real, raw, emotional, and beautifully written. If you know me well enough you know that I don't sob in books often...hardly ever. But this book had me sobbing! I'm not lying when I say it's all those things above. This book broke me and put me back together. An instant favorite that will probably get me fangirling if you just mention the title to me. Jennifer L. Armentrout out does herself in *The Problem with Forever* and it might even be her best work yet.

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