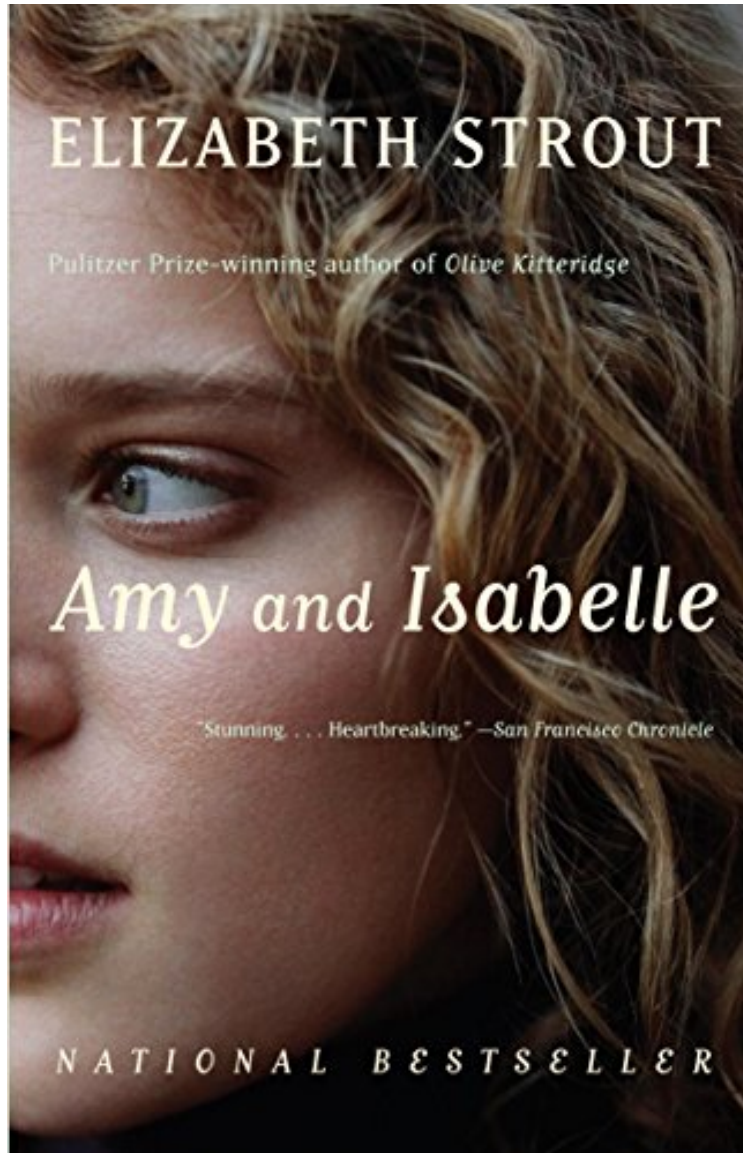


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Amy and Isabelle: A Novel (Vintage Contemporaries)

Von Elizabeth Strout

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Von Elizabeth Strout : Amy and Isabelle: A Novel (Vintage Contemporaries) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Amy and Isabelle: A Novel (Vintage Contemporaries):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Zurückhaltend und doch intensiv Von Ali Dies ist nach "Olive Kitteridge" das zweite Buch, das ich von E. Strout gelesen habe. Im Vergleich zu diesem fällt "Amy und Isabelle" vielleicht etwas ab (gegen Ende), weshalb ich nur vier Sterne gebe. Trotzdem erweist sich die Autorin auch hier wieder als vortreffliche Darstellerin zwischenmenschlicher

Prozesse, Gefühle und Stimmungen. Dabei wird diese Geschichte vor dem Hintergrund eines Jahresablaufs entfaltet. Der intensivste Teil, in dem Isabells Tochter Amy sich in ihrer Beziehung zu ihrem Mathematiklehrer verliert, spielt sich in den unerträglich heißen Wochen eines aussergewöhnlich trockenen Sommers ab. Der Leser spürt die Hitze und erlebt sie, wie die Schwere der Gefühle aller Beteiligten, fast am eigenen Leib. Mit dem Regen und der Abkühlung des Spätsommers und Herbstes geht eine gewisse Erleichterung einher, wiederum nicht nur meteorologisch gesprochen. Eine einfühlsame Erzählung über eine Mutter-Tochter-Beziehung, das letztliche Alleinsein mit unseren tiefsten Gefühlen und die Möglichkeit, doch so etwas wie Nähe und Freundschaft aufzubauen, beschrieben in der für Strout wohl typischen Art scheinbar distanzierter Zurückhaltung, die gleichzeitig sehr zu berühren vermag. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. **The Ties That Bind** Von LibrarianMI This was a terrific mother/daughter story. I could picture both characters: Tight-lipped Isabelle and Amy hiding behind her voluminous hair. I felt it was quite believable - Isabelle hiding a secret that she doesn't realize isn't nearly as shocking as she has thought, and Amy's fear of the world reflecting her mother's. Amy is just the type of girl who would be easily seduced by an authority figure like a teacher. Although they may not be the most likeable characters in the world, they certainly are interesting. I thoroughly enjoyed this novel and look forward to her next outing. 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. **I LOVED THIS BOOK** Von Lawyer Gal The writing was beautiful and evocative. I enjoyed the book so much that I found myself carrying it around with me in my purse so I could read it at odd moments - on line in the department store, for example! I wanted to finish the book yet I never wanted it to end. This was truly a great first novel and I look forward to her next book(s). Was I the only one who thought, at first, that the dead teenager had been killed by Mr. Robertson? That would have been a more sensationalistic ending, of course, and perhaps the book was better this way. But it seemed to me that it could have been an interesting concept - that Robertson was a killer, so perhaps he really did like Amy just a little bit because he didn't kill her. And - by the way - do other people think that Robertson was the one who made the obscene phone call? Robertson was an incredibly vile character. The Robertson character, at first, reminded me a little bit of the older seducer in Anita Shreve's latest book, *Fortune's Rocks* (which I also enjoyed, by the way), although the character in Shreve's novel had a lot more redeeming qualities than Robertson. The scene with the hair cutting was terrific. It actually made me say "oh my god" out loud in the fast food restaurant where I was eating my chicken sandwich. People must have thought I was a bit strange. After so much description of how beautiful her hair was you wanted to reach a hand out and grab Isabelle - say no, no, don't do it. One more thing - don't you think Evelyn Cunningham was just a little bit too nice to Isabelle? Great book, highly recommended.

Kurzbeschreibung In her stunning first novel, *Amy and Isabelle*, Elizabeth Strout evokes a teenager's alienation from her distant mother and a parent's rage at the discovery of her daughter's sexual secrets. In most ways, Isabelle and Amy are like any mother and her 16-year-old daughter, a fierce mix of love and loathing exchanged in their every glance. That they eat, sleep, and work side by side in the gossip-ridden mill town of Shirley Falls only increases the tension. And just when it appears things can't get any worse, Amy's sexuality begins to unfold, causing a vast and icy rift between mother and daughter that will remain unbridgeable unless Isabelle examines her own secretive and shameful past. "It was terribly hot the summer Mr. Robertson left town." For Amy Goodrow and her mother, Isabelle, the heat of that summer is the least of their problems. Other citizens in the New England mill town of Shirley Falls are bothered by the heat and by "other things too: Further up the river crops weren't right--pole beans were small, shrivelled on the vine, carrots stopped growing when they were no bigger than the fingers of a child; and two UFOs had apparently been sighted in the north of the state." But Amy and Isabelle have a more private misery: a seemingly unbridgeable chasm has opened between this once-close mother and daughter and nothing will ever be the same again. For Amy has fallen in love with her high-school maths teacher, Mr. Robertson, who has gone way beyond the bounds of propriety by encouraging the crush. When Isabelle finds out, she is horrified to realise that her anger at him is dwarfed by her rage at her own daughter for "enjoying the sexual pleasures of a man while she herself had not." Mother-daughter novels can, by virtue of their subject matter, often seem claustrophobic, a little overwrought; Elizabeth Strout masterfully avoids this problem by placing Amy and Isabelle in the larger context of the community they inhabit. Though her main focus is on the Goodrow women, Strout often detours into the lives and thoughts of her many secondary characters: Isabelle's coworkers Dottie Brown and Fat Bev; Amy's best friend, Stacy Burrows; Stacy's ex-boyfriend, Paul Bellows; and women from Isabelle's church such as Peg Dunlap and Barbara Rawley. She also introduces a chilling frisson of menace with the unsolved abduction of a 12-year-old girl and a mysterious obscene phone caller. Like the best of Alice Hoffman, *Amy and Isabelle* offers up a moving yet resolutely unsentimental portrait of people coming to terms with their lives, finding unsuspected nobility in themselves and unexpected kindness in others along the way. Elizabeth Strout has written a gem of a novel. --Alix Wilber.co.uk "It was terribly hot the summer Mr. Robertson left town." For Amy Goodrow and her mother, Isabelle, the heat of that summer is the least of their problems. Other citizens in the New England mill town of Shirley Falls are bothered by the heat and by "other

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