



When We Collided

By Emery Lord

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Seventeen year-old Jonah Daniels has lived in Verona Cove, California, his whole life, and only one thing has ever changed: his father used to be alive, and now he is not. With a mother lost in a deep bout of depression, Jonah and his five siblings struggle to keep up their home and the restaurant their dad left behind. But at the start of summer, a second change rolls in: Vivi Alexander, the new girl in town.

Vivi is in love with life. Charming and unfiltered, she refuses to be held down by the medicine she's told should make her feel better. After meeting Jonah, she slides into the Daniels' household seamlessly, winning over each sibling with her imagination and gameness. But it's not long before Vivi's zest for life begins to falter. Soon her adventurousness becomes all-out danger-seeking.

Through each high and low, Vivi and Jonah's love is put to the test . . . but what happens when love simply isn't enough?

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—Filled with raw, descriptive truths and told through the alternating voices of the protagonists, this story takes place in the idyllic, picturesque setting of Verona Cove, CA. Small enough for everyone to know one another yet large enough to handle a summer tourist season, this background locale is a perfect nesting spot for the poignant love story between Vivi Alexander and Jonah Daniels. The collision between the teens crests and ebbs in what seems like a far too small window of time. Instead, the story dares to allow the action to rise and fall in an organic way. Teeming with in-your-face realism, the work exposes readers to the emotional ups and downs of Vivi, who has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, and Jonah, who is trying to hold himself, his siblings, and the family restaurant together as his mother falls apart after the death of her husband. Vivi's struggles with taking medication, and her honest discussions of her brain's chemical issues are evenly balanced with her portrayal as an artist who wants to leave her mark on the world. Jonah's quiet strength as he steps into the role his father's death left vacant and his willingness to share a piece of himself with Vivi make this a powerful book for reader engagement. The ending will have readers hoping for a sequel, though one is not needed. VERDICT An absolute tearjerker romance with a powerful message about weightier topics of grief and mental illness.—Sabrina Carnesi, Crittenden Middle School, Newport News, VA

Review

"Nothing short of heartbreaking. These are definitely two teens worth rooting for in a tale that's several clicks above the usual frothy summer romance fare." - BCCB

"Lord sucks readers into the fully realized world of two teenagers and their messy, honest families. As much about the fragility of the human experience as it is about mental illness, this offers a refreshing perspective on a spectrum of mental health disorders. This love story veers away from tragedy, instead firmly entrenching itself in hope and possibility." ?Booklist

"Filled with raw, descriptive truths . . . a powerful book for reader engagement . . . An absolute tearjerker romance with a powerful message about weightier topics of grief and mental illness." ?starred review, *School Library Journal*

"This is more than a love story. *When We Collided* carefully yet effortlessly puts mental illness in conversation with the beauty and struggle of adolescence. It is a book I wish could have written, but am so much better for having read." ?Julie Murphy, #1 New York Times bestselling author of DUMPLIN' and SIDE EFFECTS MAY VARY

"Searingly honest, gut-wrenchingly authentic, and deeply romantic, *When We Collided* is a gift of a novel. It tackles tough topics with nuance, and will make readers both laugh and cry, sometimes within the span of a page." ?Jasmine Warga, author of MY HEART AND OTHER BLACK HOLES

"Vivi and Jonah's story will hit you deep in a book that shows what it means not only to be a person inflicted with mental illness, but to be the people that love them. In a word, fantastic!" ?Andi of Andi's ABCs

"Fans of Jandy Nelson and Rainbow Rowell will fall in love with this poetic story of two damaged kids." ?Daria Plumb, 2015 President of the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents (ALAN) and secondary English Language Arts teacher

"There is an honest portrayal of how life can be jagged, with rough corners and uneven edges. But if you take a closer look, there's a beauty to these misshapen moments, outlined with hope." ?Blogger Ginger Phillips at GReadsBooks!

"I can't shake Vivi, her mistakes and her growth, the way she changes, the way she loves, and I don't want to. She's a YA heroine who will matter so much to teens." ?Angie Manfredi, Los Alamos County Library

"Emery weaves an emotional tale of two people who are essentially flawed, but so very human, navigating a relationship. She truly has a feel for the seventeen-year-old within all of us girls." ?Cori Smith, Joseph-Beth Booksellers

"It's romance and excitement and nervousness and heartbreak and sadness. . . . The teens at my library will eat this up!" ?Maggie Melson, Children's/Teen Librarian, St. Charles City-County Library District

"What happens when an irrepressible spirit meets a burdened teen? Magic, that's what. Emery Lord knows how to craft a romance." ?Michael Fleming, Librarian, Pacific Cascade Middle School

"A fabulously entertaining story of friendship, healing, and love. Filled with laughter, heart, and a side of sass, this rock star debut will have you cheering for an encore!" ?Elizabeth Eulberg, author of BETTER OFF FRIENDS, on OPEN ROAD SUMMER

About the Author

Emery Lord is the author of *Open Road Summer* and *The Start of Me and You*. She lives in a pink row house in Cincinnati, with a husband, two rescue dogs, and a closet full of impractical shoes.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Annette Puente:

What do you think about book? It is just for students since they're still students or it for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has various personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be pushed someone or something that they don't need do that. You must know how great and important the book When We Collided. All type of book is it possible to see on many sources. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Pamela Pinkham:

The guide with title When We Collided has lot of information that you can understand it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This book exist new know-how the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world at this point. That is important to you to know how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you throughout new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book on your own smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

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