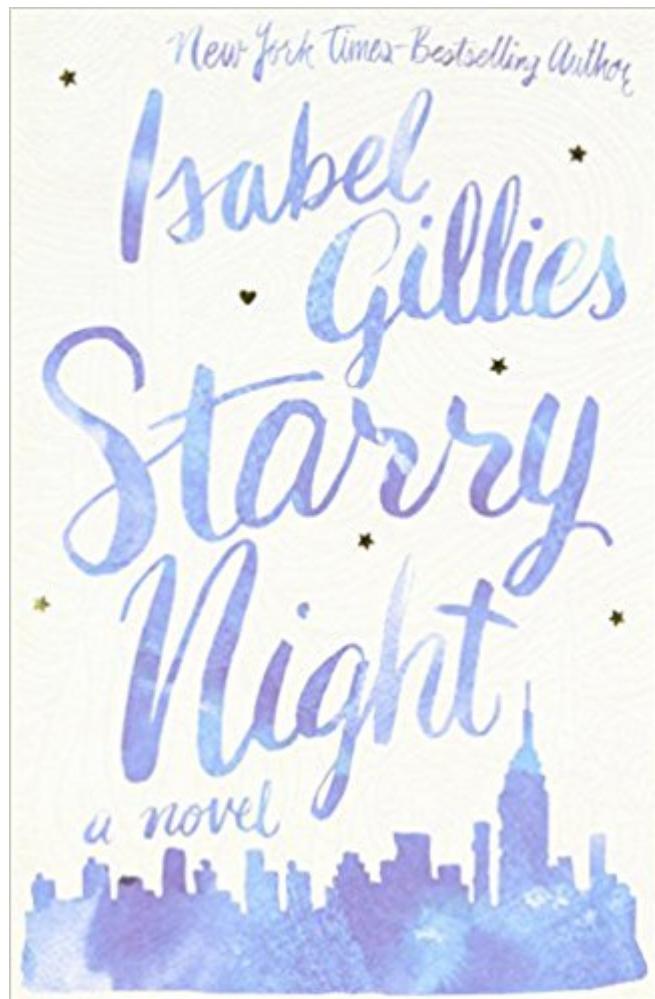


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# **Starry Night: A Novel**



## Synopsis

Sometimes one night can change everything. On this particular night, Wren and her three best friends are attending a black-tie party at the Metropolitan Museum of Art to celebrate the opening of a major exhibit curated by her father. An enormous wind blasts through the city, making everyone feel that something unexpected and perhaps wonderful will happen. And for Wren, that something wonderful is Nolan. With his root-beer-brown Michelangelo eyes, Nolan changes the way Wren's heart beats. In Isabel Gillies's *Starry Night*, suddenly everything is different. Nothing makes sense except for this boy. What happens to your life when everything changes, even your heart? How much do you give up? How much do you keep?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 790L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR) (September 2, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374306753

ISBN-13: 978-0374306755

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1.2 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #781,103 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Art & Architecture #1924 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship #2051 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up • Wren has dreamed about spending the fall semester of her junior year at the exclusive Saint-Rémy art school in France ever since she first learned about the program. Wren wants to look up at the same sky and stars that influenced Vincent Van Gogh's *The Starry Night*, her favorite painting. Her parents support her dream and try not to put too much pressure on her to finish the application while maintaining the grades required. • Wren has a learning disability and they understand her creative process. Her father is the director of the Metropolitan

Museum of Art, and she is finally invited to attend a special gala event. Even before the night begins, she can feel that this party might bring her something extra special. At dinner Wren is seated next to Nolan, the hottest guy she has ever seen up close. He's a senior in high school, but kind of famous already because of his band. That night they make a connection that might change everything she thinks she knows about herself, her friends, and love. Gillies's work as a memoirist certainly influences *Starry Night*, which is written with a perspective that only an adult's hindsight can bring. The conversational style will give readers the feeling that the protagonist is a close friend sharing her deepest secrets. The author's YA debut is best as an aspirational pick for younger teens; older readers will find a smarter and more intense story of first love in Lauren Myracle's *The Infinite Moment of Us* (Abrams, 2013). •Joy Piedmont, LREI, New York City

•A love story set in New York's Upper West Side, *Starry Night* follows Wren through her first heartbreak. • VOYA • "There is much to recommend about this touching story of first love, betrayal, and friendship. • Booklist • Gillie's work as a momoirist certainly influences *Starry Night*, which is written with a perspective that only an adult's hindsight can bring. The conversational style will give readers the feeling that the protagonist is a close friend sharing her deepest secrets. • School Library Journal • "An actor and memoirist's debut novel for teens explores the exhilaration - and heartbreak - of passionate first love . . . Authentic look at teen love and betrayal that will entertain and touch readers. • Kirkus Reviews • "Still, Wren's rude awakening from her fairy-tale happiness will be felt deeply, alerting romantics to the danger of losing oneself amid the dazzle of infatuation. • Publisher's Weekly

A coming of age story about young love. This was recommended to me by a coworker and I loved the story, mainly because it features the Met. You meet Wren who is privileged and whose father works at the Met. This is her story of falling in love and how that changes the entire course of her life. Im sure anyone can relate whose ever fallen in love before. She reflects how that moment in time shaped her entire life.

This novel droned on and on, devoid of plot or any relatable or likeable characters. As an avid reader, I force myself to finish even the most sophomoric novels. This one was such a mess that the challenge became not in finishing it but in hitting the trash bin from the other side of the room. Don't waste your time, money or effort.

This book is pretty good, as far as the content goes. I like that it left me satisfied when I finished it. Also the delivery of the book was in point. And didnt come damaged at all.

I bought this on the advice of a friend. It is a YA novel and I'm not a YA, but I thought I'd try it. It is a really wonderful book with a well thought out plot. I think it would be a perfect gift for a teenage girl.

Ms. Gillies has made an amazing transition from her prior books to this work of fiction. The character voices are developed and clear and the writing makes for a phenomenal read for the younger set.

Fantastic Book!!!! the characters in it are amazing and so real! I couldnt put it down... I would highly recommend it!

awesomely written

STARRY NIGHT was an entertaining story of friendship and first love. Wren is one of the turtles. She and her friends Charlie, Vati, Farah and Reagan have known each other forever. Their parents were and are in the same book club. Now they are all fifteen and growing up in their own unique ways. It all starts at a party at the Metropolitan Museum. Wren's father is the curator. The party is featuring a number of artists including Cy Dowd. It is the kids' first formal party. Wren's older brother Oliver brings a friend Nolan Shop to the party and life changes for Wren. She is immediately smitten with Nolan and the two begin a romance. That's not the only romance that begins that night. Farah starts a romance with Cy Dowd. Reagan kisses Oliver despite knowing that Vati has had a crush on him for years. Wren is an excellent artist who is determined to win a place at an exclusive course in France. Art is her strength since she also suffers from dyslexia and A.D.H.D. She is a particular fan of Van Gogh's Starry Night. But somehow, new love becomes more important than the love of art. When Nolan asks her to stay in New York, she agrees not to apply despite the disappointment of her parents and art teacher. But then Nolan falls in love with another girl - Reagan. I think that my students will enjoy this story of first love and will also be interested in the life of girls who attend exclusive private schools and live in New York City. I think the story was well-written and Wren was a great main character. I liked seeing the world from her point of view. I also liked that she had supportive parents and a strong nuclear family. The other girls all are children of divorce and seem

to have lots more freedom than Wren does. For some of them, it is freedom that borders on neglect. I recommend this one.

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