

## Someone I Loved Anna Gavalda

By the international bestselling author of Billie: These seven short stories exploring modern French life are lia raw and tender ode to the human spirit! (Booklist). Critically acclaimed and beloved across Europe, Anna Gavalda's bestselling novels have been translated into numerous languages. In this collection of short stories, all written in the first person, Gavalda has crafted intimate and inspiring portraits of people who confront their vulnerabilities and admit their weaknesses. These tales illustrate the importance of moving beyond the wounds of the past to embrace love, friendship, forgiveness, and family. From the trucker who puts his dog to sleep following the death of his son to the alcoholic widow who befriends a mysterious stranger, readers will meet expertly drawn characters in these seven stories of suffering and salvation. ¶The voices heard in these seven stories, each entirely distinct from the others, are of the sort that permanently embed themselves in the memory.¶!Le Soir Prize-winning author Anna Gavalda has galvanized the literary world with an exquisite genius for storytelling. Here, in her epic new novel of intimate lives-and filled with the "humanity and wit" (Marie Claire) that has made it a bestselling sensation in France-Gavalda explores the twists of fate that connect four people in Paris. Comprised of a starving artist, her shy, aristocratic neighbor, his obnoxious but talented roommate, and a neglected grandmother, this curious, damaged quartet may be hopeless apart, but together, they may just be able to face the world. I Wish Someone Were Waiting For Me Somewhere explores how a life can be changed irrevocably in just one fateful moment. A pregnant mother's plans for the future unravel at the hospital; a travelling salesman learns the consequences of an almost-missed exit on the motorway in the newspaper the next morning; while a perfect date is spoiled by a single act of thoughtlessness. In those crucial moments Gavalda demonstrates her almost magical skill in conveying love, lust, longing, and loneliness. Someone I Loved is a hauntingly intimate look at the intolerably painful yet sometimes valuable consequences that adultery can have on a marriage and the individuals involved. A simple tale, yet long in substance, Someone I Loved ends like most great love affairs, forever leaving you wanting just one more moment. In the early twenty-first century shifts in gender and sexuality, work and mobility patterns and especially technology have provoked interest in perceived threats to social bonding on a global scale. This edited collection explores the fracturing of couple culture but also its persistence. Looking at a variety of media sites—including film, television, popular print fiction, new media and new technologies—this volume's diverse range of contributors examine how mediated scenes of intimacy proliferate, while real-life experiences are cast in a newly uncertain light. The collection thus challenges a latent but growing tendency towards perceptions of romantic decline, in a variety of cultural contexts and with attention to the impact of COVID-19. This is an accessible and timely collection suitable for scholars in gender studies, media, cultural studies and communication studies.

Romance and Social Bonding in Contemporary Culture

A Single Rose

Adèle

Someone I Loved

Imagining "We" in the Age of "I"

During a car journey to a family wedding, Garance reflects on how adult life, with its disappointments and responsibilities, has not always gone to plan for herself or her three siblings. But just around the corner lies the chance for them to revisit their younger, carefree selves in a delightfully unplanned escapade.

Two Parisians recount the story of their friendship while trapped in the Cévennes Mountains in this #1 international bestselling novel. When we meet Billie, she is trapped in a gorge in the Cévennes National Park of France. There with her, injured and delirious with pain, is her best friend Franck. The two have relied on each other since they met years ago in Paris. As darkness encroaches, Billie recounts stories from their lives to stave off panic. Alternating between recollections of predicament, what unfolds is a moving tale of friendship and resilience. A bright kid, Franck's future was menaced at every turn by his judgmental father and the bigotry surrounding him. As for Billie, she was willing to do anything and everything to escape from her abusive and alcohol-addled family. From the moment they met, Billie and Franck watched out for each other. Soon they became each others chosen family through the best and worst moments of growing up in the City of Light.

languages. Billie is a beautifully crafted novel that conveys a positive message about overcoming life's trials.

LONGLISTED FOR THE BAILEYS WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION 2016 "Wise, witty and utterly delightful. A book with a big, beating heart" Laurie Penny "A beautifully written, funny, moving, life-affirming piece of wonder" Julie Hesmondhalgh Miriam hasn't left her house in three years, and cannot raise her voice above a whisper. She still lives in the shadow of her dead mother... But today she has had enough, and is finally ready to rejoin the outside world. Meanwhile, Ralph has made the part to discover that his wife Sadie doesn't love him... And so he decides to leave his home. Miriam and Ralph's chance meeting in a wood during a summer storm leads to an unusual friendship, and quirky twists. Rachel Elliott's lovable characters confront the hardest things in life with delicious humour and steady courage. Because sometimes, our over-connected world can seem too much for just one person...

95 Pounds of Hope

Older Brother

Billie

I Loved You for Your Voice

Unlock the more straightforward side of Hunting and Gathering with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of Hunting and Gathering by Anna Gavalda, which centres on the lives of four very different individuals who nonetheless have a profound impact on each other's lives: a penniless artist struggling with anorexia; an aristocrat with acute social anxiety; a chef who has buried his vulnerable side under layers of anger; and a grandmother faced with the prospect of living out the rest of her days alone in a nursing home. Anna Gavalda is a bestselling French author who won the Grand prix RTL-Lire in 2000 for her short story collection I Wish Someone Were Waiting for Me Somewhere. Find out everything you need to know about Hunting and Gathering in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you:
[] A complete plot summary
[] Character studies
[] Key themes and symbols
[] Questions for further reflection
Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com!

A poignant, mysterious, and unforgettable story of love, and of the happy endings we conceive for ourselves. Baptiste Molino has devoted his life to other people's happiness. Moored on his beloved houseboat on the edge of Toulouse, he helps his clients navigate the waters of contentment, whilst remaining careful never to make waves of his own. Unlike those who come to him for help, Baptiste is more concerned with his past than his future: particularly the mysterious circumstances of his birth and the identity of his birth mother whose only legacy to her orphaned son was a violin, a wooden statuette, and a word inked into the skin of her arm. But Sophie, the young waitress in his local bar, believes it is time for Baptiste to raise his aspirations and rediscover passion. . . . and she thinks she can help. She talks of striving for something more and leads him into the world on his doorstep he has long tried to avoid. However it is Baptiste's new client who may end up being the one to change his perspective. Elegant and enigmatic, Amandine Rousseau is fast becoming a puzzle he longs to solve. As winter approaches and tensions rise on the streets of the city, Baptiste's determination to avoid both the highs and lows of love begins to waver. And when his mother's legacy finally reveals itself he finds himself torn between pursuing his own happiness and safeguarding that of the one he loves.

He was passing by, she kissed him without thinking. Now she wonders whether she did the right thing. But Natalie isn't certain of anything anymore. One minute she was a happily married young woman, successful in her career, and convinced the future was full of promise. But when her husband was run over by a car, her whole world was turned upside down. Years later, still bruised with grief but desperate to move on with her life, she impulsively kisses her colleague Markus. For Natalie, the kiss is just a gratuitous act. For the awkward, unassuming Markus, it is the moment at which he falls hopelessly, helplessly in love. But how will he ever convince such a beautiful, intelligent but confused young woman that he is the man who can bring her back to life?

"Fascinating. . . . Adèle has glanced at the covenant of modern womanhood—the idea that you can have it all or should at least die trying—and detonated it." --The New York Times Book Review "[A] fierce, uncanny thunderbolt of a book." --Entertainment Weekly From the bestselling author of The Perfect Nanny—one of the 10 Best Books of the Year of The New York Times Book Review—as well as Sex and Lies and In the Country of Others, her prizewinning novel about a sex-addicted woman in Paris She wants only one thing: to be wanted. Adèle appears to have the perfect life: She is a successful journalist in Paris who lives in a beautiful apartment with her surgeon husband and their young son. But underneath the surface, she is bored—and consumed by an insatiable need for sex. Driven less by pleasure than compulsion, Adèle organizes her day around her extramarital affairs, arriving late to work and lying to her husband about where she's been, until she becomes ensnared in a trap of her own making. Suspenseful, erotic, and electrically charged, Adèle is a captivating exploration of addiction, sexuality, and one woman's quest to feel alive.

Whispers Through a Megaphone

Stoner

Hunting and Gathering by Anna Gavalda (Book Analysis)

I Wish Someone Were Waiting for Me Somewhere by Anna Gavalda (Book Analysis)

The Elegance of the Hedgehog

*"Acutely observed...charmingly old-fashioned."--Los Angeles Times In Italian Fever, Valerie Martin redefines the Gothic novel in a compelling tale of one woman's headlong tumble into a mystery, art, and eros. Part romance, part gothic suspense story and wholly entertaining, Italian Fever is the story of the awakening of Lucy Stark, an American pragmatist. Lucy leads a quiet, solitary life working for a best-selling (but remarkably untalented) writer. When he dies at his villa in Tuscany, Lucy flies to Tuscany to settle his affairs. What begins as a grim chore soon threatens Stark's Emersonian self-reliance--and her very sense of what is real. The villa harbors secrets: a missing manuscript, neighbors whose Byzantine arrogance veils their dark past, a phantom whose nocturnal visits tear a gaping hole in Lucy's well-honed skepticism. And to complicate matters: Massimo, a married man whose tender attentions render Lucy breathless. Smart, sophisticated, achingly beautiful, Italian Fever is one of the most original and compelling novels of the year.*

Siblings Simon, Garance, and Lola flee a dull family wedding to visit brother Vincent, who is working as a guide in the French countryside, and they forget about the many demands of adulthood and lose themselves in a day of memories.

*"Born the child of a poor farmer in Missouri, William Stoner is urged by his parents to study new agriculture techniques at the state university. Digging instead into the texts of Milton and Shakespeare, Stoner falls under the spell of the unexpected pleasures of English literature, and decides to make it his life. Stoner is the story of that life"--Publisher description (January 2007).*

**GONCOURT PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR**
**Willam Ann—**or woman—who wants to hear nothing—or no more—about love should put this book down.
**Anna and Louise could be sisters, but they don't—**and they are happy.
**On almost the same day, Anna, a psychiatrist, crosses paths with Yves, a writer, while Louise, a lawyer, meets Anna's analyst, Thomas. Love at first sight is still possible for those into their forties and long-married. But when you have already mapped out a life path, a passionate affair can come at a high price. For our four characters, their lives are unexpectedly turned upside down by the deliciously inconvenient arrival of love. For Anna, meeting Yves has brought a flurry of excitement to her life and made her question her values, her reliable husband, and her responsibilities to her children. For Louise, a successful career woman in a stable and comfortable marriage, her routine is uprooted by the youthful passion she feels for Thomas. Thought-provoking, sophisticated, and, above all, amusing, Enough About Love captures the euphoria of desire through tender and unflinching portraits of husbands, wives, and lovers.**

The List of My Desires (OME)

Delicacy

Detailed Summary, Analysis and Reading Guide

A Novel

History of the Surrealist Movement

*The story of the Arab world's greatest and most popular singer, Umm Kalthum, told through the eyes of the poet Ahmad Rami, who wrote her lyrics and loved her in vain all his life. Spanning five decades in the history of modern Egypt, Nassib's passionate tale of love and longing provides a key to understanding the soul, the aspirations and disappointments of the Arab world.*

*From the first day, school had always been torture for Gregory, but his expulsion from school in sixth grade allows him to find his own path and deal with his parents' fights and his beloved grandfather's illness.*

*A bestseller in several countries, this enchanting novel about a collection of misfits in Paris is quirky, poignant and unputdownable.Now also made a French film starring Audrey Tautou. Camille is doing her best to disappear. She barely eats, works at night as a cleaner and lives in a tiny attic room. Downstairs in a beautiful, ornate apartment, lives Phillibert Marquet de la Durbelli re, a shy, erudite, upper-class man with an unlikely flatmate in the shape of the foul-mouthed but talented chef, Franck. One freezing evening Phillibert overcomes his excruciating reitcence to rescue Camille, unconscious, from her garret and bring her into his home. As she recovers Camille learns more about Phillibert; about Franck and his guilt for his beloved but fragile grandmother Paulette, who is all he has left in the world; and about herself.*

*And slowly, this curious quartet of misfits all discover the importance of food, friendship and love.*

*Get Scandi-cool with the Danish queen of minimal Scandinavia has long been the home of outstanding interior design and classic fashion brands like Acne Studios, Rains and Filippa K. But no one personifies modern Danish cool as well as fashion industry stylist, blogger and model Pernille Teisbaek. In her gorgeous first book Pernille offers professional tips on how to create a minimalist wardrobe and look, mix and match patterns successfully, adopt androgynous looks or new colour combinations, try out new materials and mix fabrics, plus plenty of timeless fashion advice such as a jeans-fit guide and essential Dos and Don'ts. Her beauty chapter reveals Pernille's capsule survival kit and how to achieve her natural look. Pernille also covers pared-back Scandinavian home design with an eye on balancing elegant simplicity and minimalism with inviting homeliness and warmth, or hygge, and inspirational pictures. A perfect gift for all Scandi lovers and anyone wanting insider advice from one of fashion's most stylish experts.*

The Light of Paris

Red Is My Heart

The Life of Elves

35 Kilos of Hope

French Love

Tracing the movement from its origins in the 1920s to its decline in the 1950s and 1960s, Durozoi tells the history of Surrealism through its activities, publications, and reviews, demonstrating its close ties to some of the most explosive political, as well as creative, debates of the twentieth century. Unlike other histories, which focus mainly on the pre-World War II years of the movement in Paris, Durozoi covers both a wider chronological and geographic range, treating in detail the postwar years and Surrealism's colonization of Latin America, the United States, Japan, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Italy, and North Africa. Drawing on documentary and visual evidence—including 1,000 photos, many of them in color—he illuminates all the intellectual and artistic aspects of the movement, from literature and philosophy to painting, photography, and film. All the Surrealist stars and their most important works are here—Aragon, Borges, Breton, Buñuel, Cocteau, Crevel, Dalí, Desnos, Ernst, Man Ray, Soupault, and many more—for all of whom Durozoi has provided brief biographical notes in addition to featuring them in the main text.

The novel could be read as an allegory for the challenges that face our modern world, from the controversy surrounding our borders to climate change. Or, it may be seen as a strange and poetic fantasy similar to the work of Tolkien. In either case, it is a beautiful book about what it means to be brave and how we all must work to save ourselves and each other. San Francisco Book Review ‘Bewitching’ ... ‘[an] enchanting hero’s journey’ Foreword Reviews ‘At its best, Barbery’s imaginative tale reads as a mix of J.R.R. Tolkien and Hayao Miyazaki, epic in scope yet grounded by humor.’ Publishers’ Weekly ‘Readers who love meditative, dreamlike fiction will enjoy this translation, which rings with the music of the original French.’ Booklist Alejandro de Yepes and Jesús Rocamora, young officers in the Spanish regular army, are stationed alone at Castillo when a friendly redhead named Petrus appears out of nowhere. There is something magnetic and deeply mysterious about him. Alejandro and Jesús are bewitched, and, in the middle of the sixth year of the longest war humankind has ever endured, they abandon their post to follow him across a bridge that only he can see. Petrus brings them to a world of lingering fog, strange beings, poetry, music, natural wonders, harmony and extraordinary beauty. This is where the fate of the world and all its living creatures is decided. Yet this world too is under threat. A long battle against the forces of disenchantment is drawing to a climactic close. Will poetry and beauty prevail over darkness and death? And what role will Alejandro and Jesús play? Muriel Barbery’s richly imagined new novel, the sequel to The Life of Elves, will transport readers to a lost world exposed to the constant churn of civilisations and remind them of the power of poetry and imagination. And, in the middle of the sixth year of the longest war humankind has ever endured, they abandon their post to follow him across a bridge that only he can see. Petrus brings them to a world of lingering fog, strange beings, poetry, music, natural wonders, harmony and extraordinary beauty. This is where the fate of the world and all its living creatures is decided. Yet this world too is under threat. A long battle against the forces of disenchantment is drawing to a climactic close. Will poetry and beauty prevail over darkness and death? And what role will Alejandro and Jesús play? Muriel Barbery’s richly imagined new novel, the sequel to The Life of Elves, will transport readers to a lost world exposed to the constant churn of civilisations and remind them of the power of poetry and imagination. A moving and deeply felt homage to the power of nature and art by one of the world’s most beloved authors. Do two young girls have the power to change the world? Maria, raised by powerful older women, lives in a remote village in Burgundy, where she discovers her gift of clairvoyance, of healing and of communicating with nature. Hundreds of miles away in Italy, Clara discovers her musical genius and is sent from the countryside to Rome to nurture her extraordinary abilities. Who are the mysterious elves? Will they succeed in training the girls for their higher purpose in the face of an impending war? Barbery’s The Life of Elves is the story of two children whose amazing talents will bring them into contact with magical worlds and malevolent forces. If, against all odds, they can be brought together, their meeting may shape the course of history. Seven years after the publication of her international bestseller, The Elegance of the Hedgehog, Muriel Barbery returns with an inspiring novel about finding the divine in the domestic, about the quest for enchantment. With its cast of unforgettable characters, each fighting to preserve the idea of an enhanced life, The Life of Elves is a luminous novel about art, nature, dreams, the power of love, and how imagination can help us build a bridge to a better future.

Reading lists of some of the author's favorite books accompany her thoughts on the role of books and reading in her life

A Strange Country

Italian Fever

Breaking Away

A Traveler's Literary Companion

Life, Only Better

**How do you get over the woman you loved? A painful yet playful tale of love, break-up, solitude and hope told in words and pictures, from the author of The Red Notebook, Antoine Laurain, and Paris street artist Le Sonneur.**

**Mathilde is twenty-four. She has abandoned her studies in art history in lieu of a menial job and lives in a house she shares with twin sisters. One day she forgets her bag in a café and a week later an unknown man returns it to her. Following this encounter, Mathilde decides to throw caution to the wind and change her life entirely. Yann is twenty-six, a university graduate, unemployed. There may be better days ahead. Perhaps. While waiting for them, he works as a sales assistant in a home appliances store. He wouldn't say he is unhappy. But sometimes when he is crossing a bridge over the Seine River at night, he imagines jumping. One day he does a favor for one of his neighbors and is asked to stay for dinner as thanks. The following morning Yann throws caution to the wind and decides to change his life entirely. These two novellas by best-selling author Anna Gavalda are among her most moving and inspiring. Love in this book is a fragile emotion, easily ruined and eternally sought to the figures one makes in life. Gavalda's great gift is her ability to reach readers who will feel as if she is addressing them directly in a voice that is inventive, forceful, yet intimate. Life, Only Better is a touching, cleverly crafted book about choices and their consequences.**

**Anna Gavalda has always been a writer of elegant, elegant, elegant" (Vogue). Now, the prize-winning author of I Wish Someone Were Waiting for Me Somewhere returns with a novel of an abandoned wife and the profound relationship that unfolds between her and her father-in-law. "How do you succeed in literature? It's simpleyou write a good first book, the a good second one. Anna Gavaldo is a great novelist." - Le Figaro Litteraire**
**Money can buy you freedom. But what about happiness? When Jocelyne looks at herself in the mirror, she sees a middle-aged, married woman who runs a dressmaking shop in a small provincial French town and lives a very ordinary existence. But what happened to all those dreams she had when she was seventeen? Then she wins millions on the lottery and has the chance to change her life for ever. So why does she find herself reluctant to accept the money? To help her decide what to do, she begins to compile a list of her heart's desires, never suspecting for one moment that the decision might be taken out of her hands ...**

France

Fiat-Out Love

The Cracks in Our Armor

Dress Scandinavian: Style your Life and Wardrobe the Danish Way

I Wish Someone Were Waiting for Me Somewhere

Someone I LovedPenguin

But really, how was this freshly-minted Boston transplant and newbie college freshman supposed to know that she would end up living with the family of an old friend of her mother's? This was all supposed to be temporary. Julie wasn't supposed to be important to the Watkins family, or to fall in love with one of the brothers. Especially the one she's never quite met. But what does that really matter? Finn gets her, like no one ever has before. They have connection.But here's the thing about love, in all its twisty, but permutations—it always throws you a few curves. And no one ever escapes unscathed.New York Times best-selling author Jessica Park mines the territory of love's growing pains with wit, sharp insights, and a discernible heat and heartbeat. Her previous novels include Relatively Famous, and she authored the e-shorts What the Kid Says (Parts 1 and 2) and Facebooking Rick Springfield.Visit her on the web at www.jessicapark.me The author of Flat-Out Love has donated this book to the Worldreader program

The brilliant new novel from Muriel Barbery, author of The Elegance of the Hedgehog. A woman journeys to contemporary Kyoto and, by learning to accept new truths about her family and herself, embraces the possibilities of new love

Unlock the more straightforward side of 95 Pounds of Hope with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of 95 Pounds of Hope by Anna Gavalda, which follows 13-year-old Gregory as he struggles to navigate a school system that only cares about grades and stifles creativity and individuality. The novel is at once a perceptive critique of the contemporary education system, a meditation on family relationships and a memorable insight into the mind of a teenaged protagonist who manages to cling to his optimism despite the many obstacles standing in his way. Anna Gavalda is a bestselling French author who won the Grand Prix RTL-Lire in 2000 for her short story collection I Wish Someone Were Waiting for Me Somewhere. Find out everything you need to know about 95 Pounds of Hope in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you:
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95 Pounds of Hope by Anna Gavalda (Book Analysis)

Hunting and Gathering

Enough About Love

Everything Love Is

The Little Paris Bookshop

**This heartwarming story is about two unlikely friends who give each other the courage to do what they never thought possible. Through their trials and tribulations, they realize that they can always rely on each other to be there. Our story opens with Billie and Franck trapped in a gorge in the Cévennes Mountains. As Franck lies unconscious, Billie appeals to a star for protection by telling stories from their lives. Billie vividly recalls how her friendship with Franck changed her life and struggles with the idea that—thanks to her mistake—she might lose him forever. They met a decade prior when they were assigned as acting partners in class. For the first time, Billie felt someone respecting her and Franck didn't feel so alone. The blossoming of their friendship was comforting for both pitted against the harsh realities they faced. Billie is tough because she has to be: her mother left her when she was just an infant and she lives in poverty with her abusive father and stepmother. Franck is more reserved, afraid to reveal who he really is to his unemployed homophobic father for fear of being rejected. Together Billie and Franck rescue each other. These two outcasts find a home together in Anna Gavalda's moving portrayal of platonic love and how far two people are willing to go for each other. Quirky, but gritty, this charming and emotional ode is for anyone who has felt the transformative power of friendship.**

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Unlock the more straightforward side of 95 Pounds of Hope with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of I Wish Someone Were Waiting for Me Somewhere by Anna Gavalda, a charming collection of short stories which focus on the ups and downs of everyday life in France. Gavalda's lively writing style brings each story and its characters to life, and the sparks of romance and love stories scattered throughout the collection are sure to delight any fan of romance fiction. Anna Gavalda is a bestselling French author whose novels have been translated into numerous languages, and a number of them have also been adapted for the cinema. Find out everything you need to know about I Wish Someone Were Waiting for Me Somewhere in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you:
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• Key themes and symbols
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