



## Roadside Assistance

*Amy Clipston*

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## **Roadside Assistance** Amy Clipston

A very bumpy ride.

Emily Curtis is used to dealing with her problems while under the hood of an old Chevy, but when her mom dies, Emily's world seems shaken beyond repair. Driven from home by hospital bills they can't pay, Emily and her dad move in with his wealthy sister, who intends to make her niece more feminine---in other words, just like Whitney, Emily's perfect cousin. But when Emily hears the engine of a 1970 Dodge Challenger, and sees the cute gearhead, Zander, next door, things seem to be looking up.

But even working alongside Zander can't completely fix the hole in Emily's life. Ever since her mom died, Emily hasn't been able to pray, and no one---not even Zander---seems to understand. But sometimes the help you need can come from the person you least expect.

## **Roadside Assistance Details**

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## **From Reader Review Roadside Assistance for online ebook**

### **Olivia Thomas says**

This book "Roadside Assistance" by Amy Clipston is a great book. A teenage girl who loves to work on cars, loves her family and goes to church every Sunday one day wakes up and finds out her mom has died from cancer. Because of financial problems her and her dad move in with her aunt and uncle only to find out the future love of her life lives next door. They had their love of cars in common and by hanging out so much they soon fall in love. Emily thought that everything was going great, until one day she got terrible news from her boyfriend Zander. With everything going on, Emily does not know if she can handle it anymore. When she thinks nobody is on her side anymore, not even god, Emily has to find a way to stay positive and strong.

This book does not get boring. This book keeps me interested and makes me not want to even put the book down. While reading "Roadside Assistance" the book does not just tell what happens next, it makes you guess and want to know more and more.

I recommend this book to anyone who likes to read about drama and romance all at the same time. Someone who could maybe relate to loosing someone, and to see how Emily deals with her life when one day it gets turned upside down.

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### **Catherine Wolff says**

Zander. Strange name right? But nonetheless, I grow to love this boy. When emily,( Our main character ) is going throg a really tough time in her life, Zander shows up! And it's not even like, "love at first sight". They became best friends who relied on each other and romance grpw from that. Thats why I love this book so much, relationships don't have to be hot an heavy for them to turn out. You just need love.

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### **Jerry says**

A good read. Emily makes for a very likable protagonist.

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### **Halee says**

Review to come tomorrow.

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### **Libby May says**

3.5 stars

Hmm...

It was good.

Almost junk-food, but not quite.

Let's take this a step at a time.

SETTINGS: Super! I loved the house and Zander's garage. And I loved the house (I know I said that twice).

PLOT: Hmm... It was well done I guess. I mean, yes. It was well done. It had a beginning, middle, end.

But it was of cliché. Girl loses mom. Dad and girl move to aunts house. Girl is sad, dad seems ok. Girl goes to school, next door neighbor is a cute guy. Nobody else understands, girl and guy get close. Go to party, girl hears gossip, girl and guy fight. Girl's dad has accident, girl and guy make up. Dad is ok. The end.

CHARACTERS: my favorite part of the book. Emily was ok, she didn't think she was pretty, but it wasn't like for real. I feel like the author put it in just because it's stereotyped that girls never think they're pretty? I don't know.

I appreciated her heartache over losing her mom, but I was sort of confused about her "not being able to pray." Umm, as in she didn't hear God answering? "The words didn't come" was used several times... but how does that happen? What does it mean?

Zander was fun. He wasn't the gorgeous blond hair, blue eyes Angel. But he was his own.

Yes, Emily's "watching him through the window" before she even knew who he was was odd, annoying even. But if we push her aside and look at him as a character, he was really well done.

I appreciated his "Christian outside of church" and his honesty, his sarcasm and I had such a blast reading their little bantering comments between Emily and him.

I also appreciated the fact that he wasn't a jock. (What!? The MC's gorgeous boyfriend isn't a jock?!)

What I didn't like was his attitude towards his dad. He was going to do what he was going to do and his dad was just going to "have to get over it or die ticked off." Yeh, I didn't like that.

I'm not saying he should do everything his dad wants, but that's not the way I would have liked the situation handled.

The faith thread was well woven I think... it was actually the most steady part of the book, the least cliché.

The verses quoted, the points made, they aren't the ones that are always used, and I found that super refreshing. So that's well done. However the gospel was not at all explained or portrayed, so it's written assuming the reader knows/ is a Christian.

When I reached for this, I was in need of a sappy boyfriendish book that wasn't yucky. And it was perfect, however I probably won't ever read it again. (despite the fact that I'm going to finish the trilogy).

Language: not really any. No cursing. Emily does yell at her dad and her aunt though, which made me frown.

Violence: Non, but \*spoiler!\* Emily's dad does have an accident and ends up in the hospital and blood is mentioned, as well as surgery \*end spoiler\*

Lust: yeh... nothing serious. Emily finds Zander's muscles attractive. Mention of girls in bikinis, Zander in tight jeans. A couple of kisses, not detailed, mention of being "hot and heavy" but it didn't actually happen.

3.5 stars. Not really important to your TBR, but if you come across it and are in need of a clean junk-food, you might like it.

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**Natalie says**

3.5 stars.

It was a little repetitive, especially with Emily thinking that she was all alone when she clearly wasn't. It was fairly obvious that everyone cared about her. I understand that she was going through the grieving process but she didn't really try to help herself until the very end.

I liked Zander a lot. He and Emily had some cute interactions.

Overall a sweet story about a teenager going through the grieving process.

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## **Jennifer Showalter - MAMA Bookasaurus says**

*See all my reviews at <http://mamabookasaurus.blogspot.com> • Follow me on Twitter: @MAMABookasaurus • Follow MAMA on FACEBOOK • MySPACE • Pinterest • Tumblr • BookBlogs.com*

### **TECHNICALLY 3.5 ROUNDED TO 4**

I was really torn as to how to rate this book, but it ended up squeaking out a four. The book felt torn in two as well. One minute it was well developed fiction and then the next minute it was the typical "cookie cutter" Christian fiction. (I'll explain that in a minute.) There was dynamic and rich relationships.. and than bam.. stale and cliché dialogue. It had a fascinating tale of a girl struggling with drastic and life changing events but then those struggles ended up being treated one dimensionally. I felt like this:

I was completely pulled into the book, so the writing overall was very good. The downfall are the clichés. I was so hoping Clipston wouldn't fall victim to the "cookie cutter" Christian writer sand trap:

If you are unfamiliar with this concept, let me explain. The book is filled with Christian neighbors, church members and classmates. ALL of them are there to help you in ANY way they can. Riiiggggghhhhttt. As a Christian myself, I can FULLY attest to the fact that Christians are as fallible and messed up as everybody else. They are not all the same and they most certainly are not the "perfect-there-for-you-oh-come-and-give-me-a-hug" types. The idea that they will just envelope you and support so completely is a bit much. It's too idealized... especially the portrayal of the church staff. I ask writers to take off their rose colored glasses and see the reality of pastors and youth leader staff.

One the other hand, the spiritual and emotional struggles Emily deals with are completely relatable. Her character is incredibly engaging, personal and tactile. Emily's loner aspect was another realistic portrayal. Her mom's illness and death, moving, being forced into a life of personal poverty, being criticized and rejected by family members are all things the masses can relate to. The storyline is rock solid.

I love the fact that she is into cars. Being a motorhead is extremely unique and refreshing in the fiction

world. It's a YA version of Mercy Thompson.. but without the whole shape shifter/werewolves thing.

Most of the characters were interesting, but I felt some were undercooked. This book could have shone like a supernova if Clipston had just enriched the characters and lengthened the book. It was an "almost there" kind of feeling... like when you're eating a large chocolate cake but it just needed some ganache and be more moist. You might say it is like after running a 5k race, your personal best time is within your grasp and then you hit "the wall"... collapsing along the side of the road to hurl your insides just before the finish line. The aunt, grandmother, Chelsea and Zander could have launched me into orbit if they are just been sharpened and given more depth.

Sometimes Christian writers push too hard. They force the spiritual aspect in scenes that can't support it. Other times, they speak what I like to call "Christianese". An example: most of the secular world has no idea what "being saved" or "lost" mean. The writers need to add a translator filter to their writing to appeal... and be understood... by the mass audience.

The ending felt extremely abrupt. I was left tumbling off the question cliff. What's going to happen to...? What happens with this relationship? Does this happen? Too many loose ends does not a good ending make. (Channeling Yoda.) Since there was no mention anywhere of a sequel... I went a bit out of my mind. I couldn't believe she would end it with so much left wide open.

One thing I really related to was how she and Zander were trying to fit God into this neat little box of their own making. Christianity is not a 1,2,3 "paint-by-number" experience and they seem to understand that in the end. Her feeling abandoned and alone struck my heart deeply. Emily had a couple scenes toward the end that had me sobbing.

And as for Zander... yum! I just wish we had more from him. Though I did want to hit him over the head in one spot in the book. Men... so stubborn. Sigh.

I think this is a book you will enjoy, especially if you are into contemporary fiction. So go ahead and give it a try!

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## **Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says**

About this book:

“A very bumpy ride.

Emily Curtis is used to dealing with her problems while under the hood of an old Chevy, but when her mom dies, Emily's world seems shaken beyond repair. Driven from home by hospital bills they can't pay, Emily and her dad move in with his wealthy sister, who intends to make her niece more feminine---in other words, just like Whitney, Emily's perfect cousin. But when Emily hears the engine of a 1970 Dodge Challenger, and sees the cute gearhead, Zander, next door, things seem to be looking up.

But even working alongside Zander can't completely fix the hole in Emily's life. Ever since her mom died,



## Angie Thompson says

[I totally didn't understand her fight with Zander; not the fight itself, but the reasons behind it. I can get her confusion about h

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## Janet C says

### A must read story

This is actually a young adult book but even adults will enjoy this one.

Emily and her dad have to move in with her father's sister Darlene and her family for financial reasons after Emily's mom dies from cancer.

Emily is struggling. Her dad is grieving too. Emily has lost everything her mom, her home, her friends, and her belief God is really there.

This is a story of how each of us struggle during very difficult times when we feel God has abandon us.

Thank you Mrs Clipston for a well thought out reminder that God is always with us even when we shut God out in our pain.

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## m a r y l i z says

PRAISE GOD ALMIGHTY I'M DONE.

To put it plainly? **This was one of the least memorable, meaningful, or interesting books I've ever read.**

No joke - this was pretty bad, folks. I knew I shouldn't have wasted my time on it. \*cringes\*

### **L I K E S:**

- Chelsea was kind of a fun character. Honestly, she was the only one who had a bit of authenticity & depth.
- The last thirty pages were kind of good?? I think they were the only parts that had my interest and didn't make me want to throw the book across the room.
- I'm trying to be positive and think of other things I liked . . . but I've got nothing. xD

### **D I S L I K E S:**

- WHERE DO I START?? Lol, this could get lengthy.
- The writing was. the. worst. It was shallow, stilted, and incredibly boring. I might have been able to bear the book more if the writing had possessed any *life* to it. Allow me to demonstrate the beautiful intricacies of this prose:

*"No," Logan said with a sigh. "She's still mad about my math test." He schlepped toward the door. "See you later."*

*"Bye, dude," Zander called.*



"Bye, Zander," Logan called, heading toward the path."

What did I tell you? Stunning.

- The characters are SO ANNOYING GOOD GRIEF. They're so shallow and cliché and *aggravating* that I can't care about them at all. I don't connect with any of them. They honestly just feel like cardboard characters with no personality. I'm supposed to *feel* for Emily as she struggles with losing her mom to cancer and moving to a new place. But what do I feel? NOTHING. Nothing except a looooooot of annoyance. Ahem. :P

- Um . . . WHERE'S THE PLOT?? Literally, there's nothing. It rambles on about nothing the first half of the book then some drama happens later and BOOM! Emily magically gets a boyfriend + Jesus at the end. Yay.

- It's just so shallow ugh. I hate this kind of cheap, superficial Christianity. It doesn't feel authentic or real - just a bunch of trite sayings and "going through the motions." I'm sorry but . . . *the faith theme in this book felt so forced and fake*. None of the characters seemed very genuine about their faith & the main character magically "comes back to God" in the end in a very cliché, unmoving way.

- CAN WE TALK ABOUT HOW BORING THIS WAS 'CAUSE IT WAS REALLY BORING

- The "romance" ewwwwww. The majority of it was just Emily having fluttery feelings, being attracted to Zander's eyes and chest (wuuuuut), and kissing. There was a ton of talk about guys being hot and wanting to be kissed and that was about the extent of the "love." GUYS. This. Is. Not. Love. I'm sick and tired of this kind of romance being catered to teenagers. It felt like just another angsty, drama-filled high school romance novel. NO THANKS.

- Emily was just ??? I DON'T GET HER. She drove me crazy.

- A few things just really got on my nerves. For example, ALLLLLLL the stuff about cars. It got old, fast. The same jokes are used over and over again because *wasn't that hilarious??* \*rolls eyes\* Emily also is constantly saying she's sick of stereotypes about girls having to like makeup and shopping, etc. But then she turns around and TOTALLY stereotypes guys by saying video games "must be a guy thing" and that she never understood them. \*squints\* Ummmmm . . . nope. Totally not just a guy thing. Ask my sister. I'm not even a fan of video games myself, but stereotypes like that drive me up the wall.

- Soooooooo many clichés omw

- I'm just so sick of this book and never want to look at it again lol

WELL THEN. I would say more, but we'd be here all night if I kept going with my dislikes. \*cough\* Needless to say . . . reading this was a mistake I shall not be repeating. But hey - at least I have a good example of how NOT to write. :P

**1.5 stars**

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### **Brenda says**

Emily Curtis is a teen whose world was totally turned upside down. A tomboy who is most comfortable under the hood of a car, the last year has been one of the hardest of her young life. Her mother died of cancer, and then her father's repair business goes belly up, so because of the staggering medical bills and the loss the business they lose their house. Her dad, Brad, looks at it as a way to make a fresh start so they move in with his sister and her family who lives in an affluent neighborhood, but somewhere along the way Emily has lost the ability to pray. Even though people around Emily try to help her, she finds it difficult to open up, until she meets Zander, the boy next door, who shares a love for working on cars, and has no problems sharing his strong Christian faith. Can the boy next door help her find her way back to God?

Amy Clipston sure knows how to weave a story. I have read plenty of her Amish fiction and wondered how she might do with something that wasn't centered around the Amish and all I can say is she has hit a home run with this one! She easily draws you into the life of Emily a young girl that is so easy to relate to. Emily is sort of a loner who has always sort of kept to herself, her life has many upheavals so its easy to understand why she might have lost her way spiritually. Zander was such a good match for her, he not only gave her a place to tinker on cars but he also listened to her. The secondary characters were just as interesting. Whitney was someone I totally misread, I expected her to be one way and she was the opposite. I also thought it was perfect how the author had Emily writing letters to her mother as a way to cope with her feelings. While this book is geared toward young adults I would easily recommend it to anyone who enjoys reading a good story that has a nice christian message woven in that will make you laugh but will also touch your heart.

A complimentary copy of this book was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Jessica says**

When I started off this book, I was really enjoying the story...until the preaching began. I have no problem when people believe in God, seeing as I do, but it was a bit excessive in this book. Nothing in the summary said anything about faith, yet a lot of the book had to do with Emily finding comfort in fixing cars and trying to talk to God. I could connect with Emily in her personality and I really enjoyed reading about her, but I was tired of all the talk of God always being there and finding her faith in Him. Some things I really liked were Zander, her cute next-door neighbor, and their trials and growth of their relationship, along with Emily's cousin, Whitney. So over all, it was a really cute story, it just could have done without the details that put it in the "inspirational" genre.

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### **Sandy Griffin says**

This book touched my heart and soul like no other book ever has. Like Emily, I lost my mom at a young age. In fact, I lost my dad when I was 10, and my mom when I was 13. There were so many areas of Emily's story that I could totally identify with. Like Emily, I was uprooted from the only home I'd ever known, but I had no family to turn to. I instead ended up with a family friend who went above and beyond to provide love and comfort, along with doing her best to provide a stable home life for me. This book was exactly what I needed. It brought up emotions and feelings that I had never yet dealt with, and brought SO much peace and healing to me. Although this book is Christian YA fiction, it's a PERFECT book for anyone to read who has lost a friend or loved one and is finding it difficult to cope. I can never thank Amy Clipston enough for penning such an amazing story, and sharing the pain and rawness of losing a parent. This will definitely be a book that I'll re-read MANY times through the remainder of my life, and I also want to thank Lindsey (Christian Books for Girls) for recommending this book on her YouTube channel. Thank you God for steering me to this book and using it to heal my shattered heart.

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### **Kameron Blair says**

I really enjoyed this book. It wasn't cheesy, and the main character wasn't a pain to listen to. The only thing i didn't really like about this book was that it seemed that everyone was shoving religion down the girls throat, like she had no choice. Including Zander. But i liked Zander, he seemed like a sweetheart :)

