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And Both Were Young



Synopsis

Flip feels miserable when she first arrives at boarding school in Switzerland. Then she finds a true friend in Paul. But as the two become more and more close, Flip learns that Paul has a mystery in his past and to help him discover the truth, she must put herself into serious danger. This new edition of one of Madeleine L'Engle's earliest works features an introduction by the author's granddaughter, the writer Anna Roy.

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Customer Reviews

Before I read this book, I was already a great fan of Madeline L'Engle's work. However, *And Both Were Young* confirmed my admiration for her as a person and left me once again in awe at her amazing abilities as a writer! Though the book was originally written quite some time ago in L'Engle's youth, it holds more feelings and displays more emotion and wit than thousands of novels that have been written later in the author's life. First introduced is Phillipa Hunter, or Flip, a teenage girl who is struggling with life after the death of her mother and the new lady friend of her father, Eunice. Wishing to follow in the steps of her father to become an artist, Flip is devastated when she learns that her father is going to China to sketch without her. Eunice then sends Flip to boarding

school in Switzerland while she and Flip's father tour China. Recognizably different from the other students at the school, she is automatically excluded and spends most of her time in solitude, until she happens to stumble upon an ancient chateau. Inside the chateau she meets Paul, a young boy, not unlike herself, searching for answers amidst a past of brokenness and carefully shrouded mystery. As their friendship grows into love, each learns from the other, and Flip's heart finally begins to heal after a year of loneliness and mourning for her mother. However, Paul's wound is not so easily healed. As Flip finds her niche in the school's society and some friends of her own, she now has to help Paul recover his past and face the many fears it encompasses. As new acquaintances come into Flip's life, she learns how to be true to herself and to others. The journey of this girl into womanhood is heartfelt and well written in my opinion.

I think this may have been the last Madeleine L'Engle book I read (for the first time) as a teenager. And for some reason it holds a sort of distinction in my head because of that fact. I, like most other readers I know who love her books, got in on the whole thing with *A Wrinkle in Time*, moving on to the other Murry and O'Keefe family books and then the Austin family series and so on from there. I must have been somewhere around ten or so when I first read the Time series and by the time I got through all the others and worked my way around to her standalones I was a bit older. Although one of my very favorite things about her body of young adult work is that there are so many connections between them. And while *AND BOTH WERE YOUNG* is probably one of the most standalone of them all, for the discerning reader there is a very lovely, very oblique reference to its main character in L'Engle's much later novel *A Severed Wasp*. Interestingly, I don't think I ever realized just how old this book is. Originally published in 1949, it was actually her first young adult novel. Incidentally, my copy features the old 1983 cover. But a lovely new hardback edition was just released on Tuesday and, as it is one of my very favorite of L'Engle's books, I wanted to highlight it while I convince my local bookshop to order a copy into the store. Phillipa Hunter, better known as Flip (oh, how much I love this), never wanted to leave her father and her Connecticut home to come to a Swiss boarding school.

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