Now Is Everything

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Now Is Everything

Hadley McCauley is a teen who has it all. She’s a star athlete on the lacrosse team. She lives in New York in a well-to-do neighborhood. But her father has expectations that are impossible to meet. He is not only relentless in his attempts to mold her into the perfect child and athlete; he is frightening and abusive. Her mother is submissive to her father’s wishes and resorts to alcohol as a means of coping. One day, when the family is on a return flight from a ski trip he insists they must take, her father suddenly loses control of the plane, resulting in a horrific crash that leaves Hadley wondering why she is the only one that survived.

In this debut novel, Amy Giles does an incredible job of weaving together so many delicate yet ever-present themes in the lives of teenagers and young adults today. The story reaches out to those whose lives have been altered by abuse, addiction, and tragedy. There is also an abundance of love and friendship in the fabric of the story. Now Is Everything is unquestionably a page-turner and jumps from past to present and back again, adding an extra element of excitement and intrigue. It’s full of vivid imagery and of sheer emotion. Readers are likely to feel Hadley’s pain, her fear, and her longing for a better, more fulfilling life that, in the end, might not be so unreachable.

*Contains mild language, mild sexual content, moderate violence, and moderate substance abuse.