



The End or Something Like That

By Ann Dee Ellis

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For fans of Sara Zarr and Stephen Chbosky, an achingly raw and surprisingly funny novel about coping with loss

Emmy's best friend Kim had promised to visit from the afterlife after she died. But so far Kim hasn't shown up even once. Emmy blames herself for not believing hard enough. Finally, as the one-year anniversary of Kim's death approaches, Emmy is visited by a ghost—but it's not Kim. It's Emmy's awful dead science teacher.

Emmy can't help but think that she's failed at being a true friend. But as more ghosts appear, she starts to realize that she's not alone in her pain. Kim would have wanted her to move forward—and to do that, Emmy needs to start letting go.

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The End or Something Like That By Ann Dee Ellis Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6–10—It is the one-year anniversary of her best friend Kim's death, and Emmy is still reeling from the loss. Emmy made a promise to Kim that, once she died, Emmy would contact her ghost, but as it turns out, "I suck at talking to dead people." When Emmy attends the funeral of her science teacher, however, she is shocked to be visited by Ms. Homeyer's spirit. If she can see Ms. Homeyer's ghost, why hasn't she been able to see Kim? As Emmy sees more and more dead people—everyone but Kim—she begins to explore her complicated emotions and relationships. Told in parallel time lines, Emmy describes the months leading up to Kim's death, including a major betrayal and strong skepticism about the possibility of an afterlife; she also tells her story in real time, one year after Kim's death. For a significant portion of the story, Emmy is not an easy character to love; she's prickly, self-centered, and emotionally closed-off from those around her. As the story progresses, though, she opens herself up to others: her mother, her brother, and Skeeter, the sweet boy who has adored her all along. Just as she did in *This Is What I Did* (Little, Brown, 2007), Ellis skillfully captures what it's like to be a kid who flies beneath the radar and is afraid to speak up. The story's ending, though too-quickly resolved, is still lovely; readers will realize that it's not about trying to find a ghost. It's about trying to find oneself.—Laura Lutz, Convent of the Sacred Heart, New York City

From [Booklist](#)

Fragile, insecure Emmy has been in a free fall since her best friend Kim's death from a congenital heart defect. Not that Kim was sickly or spent her life in hospitals; she was, rather, a lively, fun type who lit up Emmy's life. Quirky, adventurous Kim even investigated a huckster's program that promises the terminally ill the ability to set up a visitation path and come back after death. The story hurtles through the one-year anniversary of Kim's death, as Emmy desperately plans and hopes for that visitation. Interspersed between the real-time chapters of the anniversary day are flashback chapters from when Kim was alive, enabling the reader to savor the full context of the girls' friendship. Meanwhile, Emmy sees other deceased folks in her quest to find the returning Kim—or does she imagine them? The sudden death of a science teacher at school errs on the crude side in its depiction, but the choppy, edgy tone of Ellis' dialogue illuminates Emmy's longing for her old friend. She practically burns with intensity, even as she gradually begins to move on. Grades 6-9. --Anne OMalley

Review

Rave reviews for *The End or Something Like That*

"The End or Something Like That dares you to suspend all disbelief and look at loss, and life itself, in an entirely new way. This is a hilarious and awesomely weird ode to friendship and youth—with the kind of stellar prose that won't let you look away." - John Corey Whaley, Printz Award winning-author of *Where Things Come Back*

"The End or Something Like That breaks your heart and mends it back together with hope and humor. After reading this book, I believe." - Ally Condie, author of the #1 *New York Times* Bestselling *Matched* Trilogy

* "The Las Vegas setting powerfully contrasts the absurdity of life against the separation of death, and several truly uncomfortable scenes involving Emmy's classmates lays bare just how ill-equipped many people are to handle death. A hard-hitting story about remembering the dead while not forgetting the living." - *Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

"Ellis skillfully captures what it's like to be a kid who flies beneath the radar and is afraid to speak up." - *School Library Journal*

"The choppy, edgy tone of Ellis' dialogue illuminates Emmy's longing for her old friend. She practically burns with intensity, even as she gradually begins to move on." - *Booklist*

"Incredibly funny, sad, magical, and real all at the same time. Count me as a major fan." - Holly Goldberg Sloan, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Counting by 7s*

"Ann Dee Ellis is my own personal J.D. Salinger. Sometimes haunted, sometimes haunting, but always achingly human, she finds truth in a burrito and a pizza boy, a fistful of gummy bears, and a dead science teacher. You will truly love this book." - Margaret Stohl, *New York Times* bestselling co-author of the *Beautiful Creatures* series

"Ann Dee Ellis has one of the most interesting voices I know. I love the humor, honesty, and restraint with which she explores Emmy's complicated relationship with the past, the present, and herself." - Sara Zarr, National Book Award Finalist for *Story of a Girl*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shirley Daniels:

What do you regarding book? It is not important along? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question since just their can do that will. It said that about book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is proper. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need this specific *The End or Something Like That* to read.

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