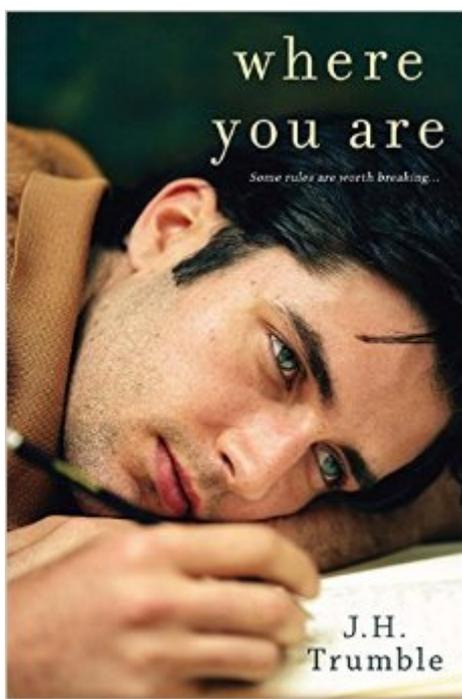


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# Where You Are



## Synopsis

Robert Westfall's life is falling apart--everywhere but in math class. That's the one place where problems always have a solution. But in the world beyond high school, his father is terminally ill, his mother is squabbling with his interfering aunts, his boyfriend is unsupportive, and the career path that's been planned for him feels less appealing by the day. Robert's math teacher, Andrew McNelis, watches his best student flounder, concerned but wary of crossing the line between professional and personal. Gradually, Andrew becomes Robert's friend, then his confidante. As the year progresses, their relationship--in school and out of it--deepens and changes. And as hard as he tries to resist, Andrew knows that he and Robert are edging into territory that holds incalculable risks for both of them. J.H. Trumble, author of the acclaimed *Don't Let Me Go*, explores a controversial subject with extraordinary sensitivity and grace, creating a deeply human and honest story of love, longing, and unexpected connection.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is going straight to my favorites shelf, and the only thing that's going to get me out of my melancholic state upon finishing it is to just start over again. Which I fully intend to do. It's so good. One of the best books I've read. Possibly the best book in the genre. You have a teacher, Andrew McNelis, and a student, Robert Westfall, who become close as Robert is struggling with the suffering and eventual death of his father. If this kind of relationship upsets you, don't read this book. Yes, it's a bit controversial. Robert's 17 at the time and McNelis is 24. Robert's his student. But Trumble does such an amazing job of showing the connection that these two characters

have. Andrew is a dad to a two-year old, a teacher who actually cares about his job and his students, and is also just a man who has yet to find anyone who he can love and build a life with. Robert is confident, an out gay student, who can dance (oh, can he dance), and is the subject of adoration on a FB fan club. They're both witty and funny and deserve happiness. While Robert struggles with his father's death and the feelings he has for his father, Andrew is there for him. What starts out as casual becomes something more, mostly because Robert is forward and charming and won't take no for an answer. They become a couple that, without a doubt, belongs together. I think J.H. Trumble could teach a master-class on chemistry between characters. They are out-of-control, insanely hot together. And it has nothing to do with sex. This is a YA novel and while it's not left out, sex, for the most part, happens behind closed doors. However, this does not diminish, in any way, the sexy, carefree, explosive, passionate relationship that exists between these two.

After reading "Don't Let Me Go", I knew I was going to be a fan for life of this oh-so-talented author. I didn't want "Where You Are" to end, but must confess I was relieved when it did because I felt so personally bombarded with a reality this book brought to a very forgiving light. The one of the attraction between a student and a teacher. I am a teacher myself and have been for a number of years. I teach at the college level, but my students are young and impressionable and often terribly attractive. On more than one occasion I've had to put off the advances of a well-meaning but smitten young student - making him aware that I never cross that line. And I never have. Even years after a student who is interested in me has graduated, I make it clear I'll be their friend but I will forever think of them as "my kid" and I just can't - and choose NOT - to go there. On principle. Yet... the two main characters in this story are presented with an insatiable desire for one another. And their age difference is negligible so it brought to the surface, for me anyway, the question of whether it's actually an immoral boundary that is crossed or if it's mostly just a social and policy-driven infringement. Where I live, 17 is the legal age of consent, so it would render some arguments moot. But... their individual views are so beautifully fleshed out that the reader becomes sympathetic to what the REAL issue is - and that is the power of attraction and the need to love and be loved. It really is that simple. If taken out of the context of a school environment, this tale wouldn't have any real controversial aspects. 24 isn't all that far removed from 17.

Where You Are is J.H. Trumble's second novel. I read her first novel Don't Let Me and I absolutely LOVED it. So when I found out she was writing another novel, I got in contact with her. I asked her to please keep me posted on release date so I can request an ARC. And she was more than happy

to help me. She's a really nice person, which makes me enjoy her books even more. I absolutely loved this novel. Ms. Trumble wrote such a compelling story, where a teacher falls for one of his students. Aside from the age difference and profession. Trumble wrote this story in such a way that I couldn't help but root for them, and hope that they find their place in life together. In the beginning when I started reading *Where You Are*, I had to put it down for a few days. Robert's dad is sick with Cancer and Cancer is always a touchy subject for me. That was really emotional, especially that I went through the same with my dad. But once I picked it back up and able to get past that, I understood Robert. I understood his longing for security and happiness. Life at home wasn't easy for him and he needed an outlet to escape. And that's where Andrew came in. What I love most about Andrew was that when he started having feelings for Robert, it wasn't all sexual. He had genuine feelings for him. He had true feelings of concern for Robert. And he tried really hard to hold his feelings back from Robert. What choice did he have? He was Robert's teacher and it's a felony to get involved with a student. But there was a point where Andrew thought to himself, screw the rules. This boy needs someone there for him. And that's where I fell in love with both men. This story was written perfectly. I kept hoping for them to figure out their differences.

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