Is it possible to outrun your past? Fifteen-year-old Edie Fraser and her mother, Sydney, have been trying to do just that for five years. Not only has Edie had to move to another new school and in a different country. Sydney promises her that this is their chance at a fresh start, and Edie does her best to adjust to life in London, England, despite being targeted by the school bully. But when Sydney goes out to work the night shift and doesn’t come home, Edie is terrified that the past has finally caught up with them. Alone in a strange country, Edie's world is turned upside down. Since You've Been Gone encourages readers to take chances, seize the moment, and step out of their comfort zones.

Although some of the tasks seem a bit iffy at first (stealing something, breaking something), they can be metaphorical tasks that help the protagonist boost her confidence and figure out who she is without her best friend's presence. Like all of Matson's books, Since You've Been Gone is a lovely tribute to unconditional friendship, strong sibling relationships, and finding the kind of romance that changes your life. Wondering if Since You've Been Gone is OK for your kids? Parents: Set preferences and get age-appropriate recommendations with Common Sense Media Plus. Join now.

Since You've Been Gone tries to be a cutesy summer story about the friendship between two teenage girls. Which was exactly what I wanted. It also tries to be a tale about a girl learning to take chances, be a little rebellious and try new things. Misspent youth and all that jazz. It was a perfect blend Since You've Been Gone by Morgan Matson. At first I was a bit apprehensive about this book, probably because of its length and the amount of hype its received, but oh my gosh, a book has never lived up more to the hype, and well and truly exceeded my expectations. It was everything I wanted it to be, yet nothing I expected it to be and so much more. In other words, I CANNOT EXPRESS MY LOVE FOR THIS BOOK ENOUGH, AHH.