



# The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight

By Jennifer E. Smith

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*Who would have guessed that four minutes could change everything?*

Today should be one of the worst days of seventeen-year-old Hadley Sullivan's life. Having missed her flight, she's stuck at JFK airport and late to her father's second wedding, which is taking place in London and involves a soon-to-be stepmother Hadley's never even met. Then she meets the perfect boy in the airport's cramped waiting area. His name is Oliver, he's British, and he's sitting in her row.

A long night on the plane passes in the blink of an eye, and Hadley and Oliver lose track of each other in the airport chaos upon arrival. Can fate intervene to bring them together once more?

Quirks of timing play out in this romantic and cinematic novel about family connections, second chances, and first loves. Set over a twenty-four-hour-period, Hadley and Oliver's story will make you believe that true love finds you when you're least expecting it.

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## The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight By Jennifer E. Smith Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

#### Amazon One-on-One: Jennifer E. Smith and Margaret Stohl

*Margaret Stohl is the bestselling author of the Beautiful Creatures series.*

**Margaret Stohl:** Okay, Jen, it has to be asked: What's your own take on the statistical probability--or even the vague possibility--of love at first sight? More to the point, has it ever happened to you? Would you know if it had? Would any of us? I wonder...



**Jennifer E. Smith:** I'd like to think it exists. I'm an optimist and a romantic--both key ingredients for believing in this sort of thing. But for me, time is also such an important part of any relationship--time to get to know each other, time to share stories, time to grow--so it's hard to imagine that kind of instant connection. That said, I do know people who have experienced it firsthand, couples who have been together happily for a very long time, so it's hard to argue with that. I guess that anecdotally--if not statistically--it seems to be possible, and since I'm in the business of telling stories rather than compiling statistics, that's good enough for me!

**Stohl:** Your boy-meets-girl-meets-world happens on a flight across the Atlantic to Heathrow. My own teens are fencers, and we spend half our lives making that same flight for European tournaments. But why did you pick such an unusual setup? What's the backstory there for you?

**Smith:** I suppose it could have been set on a flight headed anywhere, but there's something about flying at night that seemed like an interesting backdrop for this type of story. Unfortunately, I have a complete inability to fall asleep on planes, so I've spent plenty of trips wide awake as the rest of the passengers doze off, and the cabin is always so hushed and dark and dreamlike during those hours. It seemed like the perfect setting for two people to get to know each other.

**Stohl:** I've had some of the strangest encounters of my life on planes. I've met people who have read my books or drawn me a map of recommended towns in Southeast Asia or recounted their entire life stories. How about you? Was there an encounter that inspired this story?

**Smith:** A few years ago, on a flight from Chicago to Dublin, I was seated next to a man from Ireland. He was reading a book that I loved, and we started chatting, and ended up talking for much of the flight. He was older--probably in his sixties--and there was nothing romantic about it, but it was nice to meet a kindred spirit, someone who loved books the way I do, and it made the hours pass quickly. When we arrived in Dublin, we walked off the plane together, but we ended up in separate lines for customs, since he was an Irish citizen. We didn't exactly say good-bye; I think we both thought we'd see each other on the other side, but my line ended up being really slow, and when I finally made it through, he was gone. It was obviously a much different situation than the one in my book, but it definitely provided some of the initial inspiration for the story of Hadley and Oliver.

**Stohl:** What about your worst in-flight experiences? Perhaps not involving children and bodily fluids...?



**Smith:** Well, that narrows it down quite a bit! I've had a few harrowing experiences involving turbulence, one emergency landing, and a couple of awfully long flights to places like South Africa and New Zealand. But I can't really complain too much. My worst experiences usually have to do with the fact that I can't sleep on planes, and while there's nothing quite like being wide awake for nine straight hours in a middle seat on a red-eye flight, I've actually been pretty lucky in the grand scheme of things.

**Stohl:** So much of our life is conducted in transit. We read on the subway or watch movies on trains or text someone on the way to work. What is *Statistical Probability* saying about the speed or the connectivity of modern life?

**Smith:** I definitely think it's about slowing down and recognizing the possibilities. I'm as guilty as anyone of moving too fast. If the love of my life sat down next to me on a plane, I'm honestly not sure I'd give him much of a chance. When I'm traveling, I have my book and my music, and I'm in my own little world. It's a good thing to remember to look up every once in a while.

**Stohl:** I loved the imperfect, fumbling family relationships in your novel; there was something so honest about your protagonist and her father. I identified with her fragmented emotions, with feeling two ways at once. How did you go about crafting such a layered character? Who do you identify with, on the page?

**Smith:** I definitely identified the most with Hadley, the main character. It kind of amazes me how easily I'm still able to see the world from the point of view of a seventeen-year-old. Maybe that's true of everyone. Maybe we all carry around a little piece of our former selves, the teenagers we once were. But I think YA authors must be particularly attuned to this; perhaps our inner seventeen-year-olds are just a little bit closer to the surface.

**Stohl:** How is it, setting a story in modern-day London? Did you feel an obligation to get everything exactly "right"? Did you travel to the UK for research?

**Smith:** I did my graduate degree in Scotland a few years ago, and while I was there, two of my best friends were studying in London. I went down to visit them pretty often, and spent a lot of time wandering around

the city on my own, taking it all in. It was a few years before those experiences worked their way into my writing, but if I'd never lived in the UK I probably wouldn't have ever written this book, so I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity, in more ways than one. I was also lucky to make some great friends over there, and one of them was nice enough to read a very early draft for me. I managed to get most things right, but she definitely caught me out on a few Americanisms--using yard instead of garden, for example--so I was happy to have a Scottish consultant!

**Stohl:** Most writers are passionate readers; I know that the Dickens book *Our Mutual Friend* plays an important role in your story, just as *To Kill a Mockingbird* is significant in *Beautiful Creatures*. How often do books you've read feed directly into books you write?

**Smith:** I have a friend who refers to these as "book chains"--where you read one book and it leads you to another. As a passionate reader, I love when that happens. And as an author, what better way to highlight the books that have meant a lot to you? In college, my senior seminar was on Dickens, and so I read a lot of his work, but for some reason *Our Mutual Friend* was the one that really stuck with me. The quotes that I used in *Statistical Probability* are ones that I underlined in my old paperback edition of that book almost ten years ago, and I guess they never quite left me.

**Stohl:** What's the statistical probability of another young adult romance from Jen Smith? Anything we can do to improve the odds?

**Smith:** The statistical probability is very, very good. I'm actually working on another one right now, a love story called *This Is What Happy Looks Like*. So stay tuned!

## Review

"A gorgeous, heartwarming reminder of the power of fate... an endearing and lushly written account of how it feels to fall in love, the unique heartbreak of parental disappointment and what it means to forgive those who've hurt us deeply." *The New York Times Book Review*

"A sweet, character-driven, romantic comedy with plenty of twists to keep readers engaged and is sure to delight teens from beginning to end. Young adult readers will enjoy reading about Hadley and Oliver, two characters who are familiar, witty, and have terrific chemistry together. This book is highly recommended and would be a great addition to any library serving teens who enjoy romance and realistic fiction. Be prepared to have this book fly off the shelves."

**VOYA (starred review)**

"A closely observed, ultimately moving tale of love, family and otherwise....Smith's acute insights make Hadley's heartache and loss as real as the magical unfurling of new love."

**Kirkus**

"The teens are realistic and empathetic characters, and their story unfolds effortlessly, quickly capturing readers' interest. Fans of Sarah Dessen will enjoy this enchanting novel of family quandaries and love at first sight."

**SLJ**

"A falling-in-love story as comfortable as an old sofa, and those looking for pages that turn easily will find a good candidate here."

**Booklist**

"An extraordinary look at chance, connections, and the power of family and love, *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight* will make your heart sing."

**?Elizabeth Scott, author of *Between Here and Forever* and *Something, Maybe***

"This phenomenal depiction of an instant connection shows that everything happens for a reason. Smith's unique story will make you contemplate the magic of fate. I've been waiting for a love story like this forever." ?**Susane Colasanti, bestselling author of *So Much Closer* and *When It Happens***

"Romantic and wise, *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight* is a must-read. And the second you meet Oliver, you're going to pray you miss your next flight."

**?Sarah Mlynowski, author of *Ten Things We Did (and Probably Shouldn't Have)***

"Romantic, witty and real - it is a statistical certainty that you will love this book." ? **Margaret Stohl, bestselling author of the *Beautiful Creatures* novels**

"Sparkly dialogue and a great setting make this a Nora Ephron-esque treat."

**?Elle Magazine (UK edition)**

"This irresistible novel seems set to become one of the most talked about books of the year - think David Nicholls' *One Day* meets TV's *24*... a brilliantly conceived read."

**?Glamour Magazine (UK Edition)**

About the Author

Jennifer E. Smith is the author of *Hello, Goodbye, and Everything in Between*, *The Geography of You and Me*, *This Is What Happy Looks Like*, *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight*, *The Storm Makers*, *You Are Here*, and *The Comeback Season*. She earned a master's degree in creative writing from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, and her work has been translated into thirty-three languages. She currently lives in New York City.

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Suzanne Macdougall:**

Book will be written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can realize everything you want by a guide. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading skill was fluently. A book *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight* will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think this open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or suitable book with you?

**Christopher Hannah:**

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### **Virginia Benoit:**

People live in this new time of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the extra time or they will get wide range of stress from both everyday life and work. So , if we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer may unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the book you have read is definitely The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight.

### **Wendy Fuller:**

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