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Reviewer Name: Carol Hubler

## Missing

## **AUTHOR: KELLY ARMSTRONG**

The word missing can be interpreted in different ways. A piece of puzzle may be missing, an arrow has missed its target, or a friend moves away, and we miss him. The author of this book has built a story of suspense around people who are missing. The main character is a young woman named Winter Crane. By day she is a doctor's assistant and by night a wilderness warrior who is skilled in trapping animals. She also has a keen sense in tracking down what is missing. The setting of this story is a small town close to wilderness in Kentucky. Winter stays in a trailer but prefers a shack in the woods. When she finds a sneaker has set off a trap, the adventure into the great unknown takes off like a fast-moving train.

The sneaker belongs to a young man named Lennon Bishop who is looking for a missing friend who is also a friend of Winter's. They decide to search for her together. Lennon talks about his brother who he has lost contact with, and when the two become separated, Winter strikes out on her own. She soon runs into Lennon's brother, Jude, who so happens to be looking for Lennon. Over a course of time they discover that even though Winter lives in poverty and Jude lives in wealth, there are important things that matter like being understood and feeling accepted. With unexpected turns and twists, this unlikely couple unearth a sinister plot that uncovers what has been missing as victoriously found.

If you or some one you know likes to explore the great outdoors, looking for adventure under a rock or over a ridge, this is a book you would enjoy. The author is tremendously talented in visual effects without becoming overly graphic. This book helped me to see different perspectives on what can be missing not only physically, but mentally and emotionally as well. It is easy to misjudge others because of their lifestyles, but if we take the time to understand who they really are, we discover there is a lot to learn from each other. It is especially helpful to understand the heart language each character speaks. This book is written for older teens and I believe the main characters are easy to relate to. I highly recommend this book and believe it adds value to the young adult collection of books.