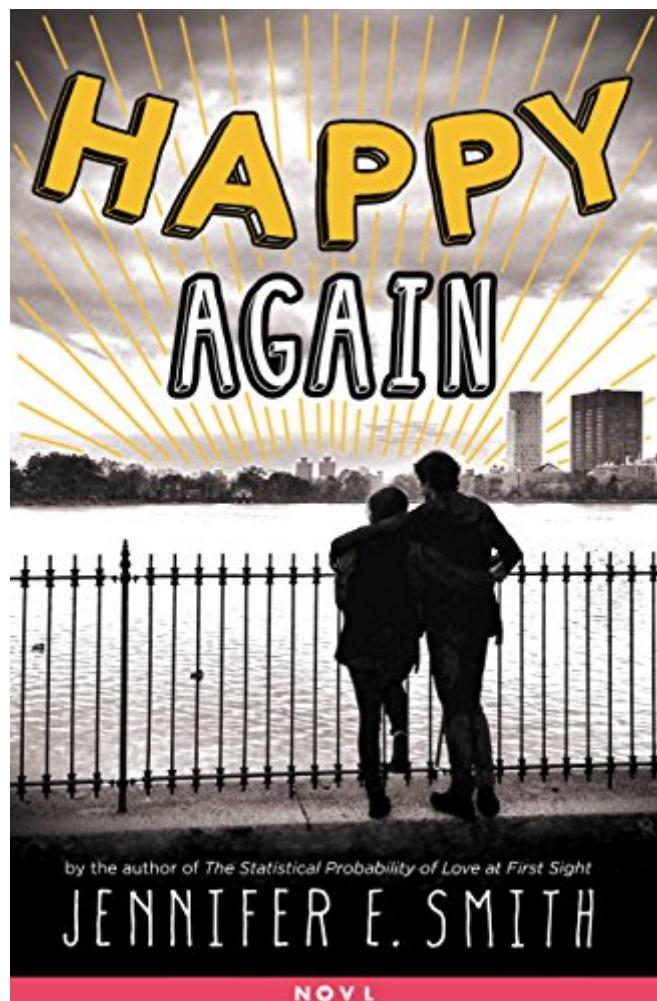


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## Happy Again



## **Synopsis**

Ellie O'Neill and Graham Larkin fell hard for each other when a misspelled email address unexpectedly brought them together. Now, over a year has passed since they said goodbye with the promise to stay in touch, and their daily emails have dwindled to nothing. Ellie is a freshman in college and has told herself to move on, and Graham has kept himself busy starring in more movies, as well as a few tabloid columns. But fate brought these two together once before--and it isn't done with them yet. In this sequel novella to *This is What Happy Looks Like*, Jennifer E. Smith revisits two beloved characters to tell the story of one magical night in Manhattan. When Ellie and Graham come face to face once more, can they get past the months of silence and the hurt feelings to find their happily-ever-after again? Word Count: ~18,000

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

When *This Is What Happy Looks Like* ends, Ellie and Graham are in a happy place, but there definitely seem to be problems in their future if they want to keep their relationship strong. He is a

movie star. She is a relatively ordinary high school senior. Their worlds are so very different. It is going to be a complicated relationship, no matter how wonderful things are as that novel ends. But ... the great thing about the way that that story ended was that things were open enough that I could make up my own ideas about how things turn out between them. I could imagine them heading off into the sunset and their very own Happily Ever After, and it would be okay because it was my imagination fueling the perfection. But then I found out that Jennifer E. Smith decided to revisit this couple and see what happens next. I was sooooo excited to hear about this little novella ... but also a bit nervous. After all, I had already made up my own Happily Ever After for Graham and Ellie. I didn't want to hear that things didn't go so smoothly. There was a huge potential that this story could have ruined all the good feelings I had after finishing *This is What Happy Looks Like*. I'm happy to say that I finished *Happy Again* even more smitten with this couple. This was a sweet, sweet extended epilogue to their story, and I liked it a lot. It is a quick read. It only took about an hour to complete. But in that short story a lot happens, and many of the loose ends, the 'what ifs' of the main novel are tied up. It was a satisfying way to finish out the story of this unlikely story. The hardest part of reading this story was reading about how Graham and Ellie drifted apart. This novella takes place more than a year after the events of the main novel, and in that time Ellie and Graham have been slowly disengaging from one another as their emails become less personal and finally non-existent. While the main novel has a third person narration that alternates between Ellie and Graham's points of view, this one is entirely told from Ellie's POV. Even though we aren't in Graham's head, through conversation and well written descriptive narration it is clear how he feels. The first half of the novella is awkward, and that is entirely because Ellie is awkward. She is awkward at Harvard, both in class and with her friends, and she is painfully awkward when she accidentally walks up on the premier of Graham's movie on a weekend trip to New York. So many times I wanted to yell at her to get a spine and just talk to the guy. After all, when I last left these two they seemed like they were in a wonderful relationship. This awkwardness seemed ridiculous to me. That made the first half of the story hard to read. But ... hooray for Harry, Graham's agent. When he stepped forward to get Ellie into the theater with her friends and then told Graham that she was there, despite Ellie's wish to remain anonymous, the story took off. When Graham shows up and encourages Ellie to be bold the magic of the first book finally shows up in this story. I LOVED the conversation Graham and Ellie had as they walked away from the theater for a short night on the town. As they opened up about their loneliness, their awkwardness, and their insecurities they finally became themselves again, and that is what I loved most about the original novel. These two on paper seem like an unlikely and mismatched couple. It doesn't make sense for them to be together, and that is the logic that keeps

Ellie from believing that she could ever be with someone like Graham. But it is when the two of them are together that they truly feel like who they are. I love that, and I love how this novella puts all the issues and the insecurities on the table and allows these two to make a conscious decision to be bold and strong and to live for what they truly want in their lives. This is a super short story, and I would love to know lots more about these two people, but I thought that the epilogue was **PERFECT**. I brought everything back to the very beginning, and it was super satisfying. I loved it! Thank you, Jennifer E. Smith, for this little gift for all the fans of *This is What Happy Looks Like*! Four stars!

This novella was pretty good. I bought it while I was still reading *This Is What Happy Looks Like* because I was so in love with the characters and their adorable romance. Unfortunately, what I loved best about the book was Graham's voice, and the novella doesn't have that. It's written entirely in Ellie's point of view. And rather than continuing their romance where we left off, the story begins with them having lost touch with each other. Why do authors have to make things fall apart only to come back together in sequels? And this wasn't even a full sequel. I enjoyed reading it because it was more of the characters I love, but I was disappointed that there wasn't more **HAPPY** in this book, given the title. I really wanted a full sequel instead of just a novella. And I wanted more than just a snippet of happiness. This "book" just left me wanting more. [...]

<http://www.theinkgobbler.wordpress.com/> I usually tend to stay away from novellas accompanying a series. I don't know why, exactly. Maybe it's because I feel like they're not as central to the ongoing storyline, or simply because they're too short, and I'm afraid that I won't have that same depth and experience as I would reading a full-length novel. Luckily, "Happy Again" proved me wrong. I decided to give the novella a go because I remembered just how much I enjoyed its precursor, "This is What Happy Looks Like," especially the butterflies it conjured in my tummy as Ellie and Graham's romance unfurled across the pages. It's crazy how, a whole year later, I still felt those flutters as I read "Happy Again," but ones that were made almost infinitely sweeter in its familiarity. Being back with Ellie and Graham after so long was like meeting up with old friends you haven't seen in ages. The connection forged between the reader and the characters in "This is What Happy Looks Like" clearly is one that lasts, rendering the experience of reading the sequel novella a wonderfully familiar and natural one. It's like wrapping yourself up in your old baby blanket - it's worn and bleached with time, but comforting like nothing else. One of the major reasons behind this, I think, is the warm and personal narrative voice imbued in the writing, which allows the reader to bond with

the characters on an intimate level. I felt like I was there inside Ellie's mind as she goes through freshman year of college, and, most importantly, when she - by a stroke of luck (or fate?) - stumbles into Graham. And let me tell you, those butterflies most definitely came from experiencing that fateful encounter vicariously through Ellie as the story unfurled. That being said, I do have to say I wish there could've been a more nuanced transition from Ellie's nervousness and unease at meeting Graham after such a long time to being happy and flirtatious with him. It just felt a little too sudden to be entirely believable, but I was too excited at seeing Graham myself that it didn't bug me too much. Overall, it was very interesting to see the changes in both Ellie and Graham's lives since the end of "This is What Happy Looks Like," and how much the two characters themselves had changed since we last saw them. I can now fully appreciate what a sequel novella can do for a book - and especially a standalone novel. It's like an epilogue of sorts, allowing the readers a glimpse into life after the original novel, and sweetly ties everything together in a way that recalls the emotions developed previously, and let you indulge in the comfort of slipping back into the past, at least for a little while. Rating: 4/5

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