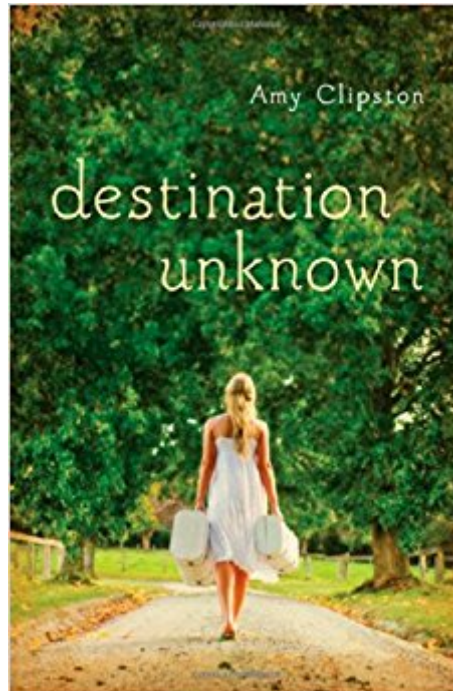




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Destination Unknown



Synopsis

It's senior year, and Whitney Richards is tired of the constant pressures to be perfect. When she gets a D in Calculus, her mother immediately hires a tutor, worried Whitney won't get into the "right" college—her alma mater—with imperfect grades. Her tutor, Taylor, is a quiet, mysterious boy who is unlike anyone Whitney has met before. But Taylor's rougher upbringing has her mother and friends discouraging any type of relationship. Tired of having to play a part for everyone else, Whitney quits the cheerleading squad that once defined her social identity, and begins spending more time with Taylor. Her mom and friends worry Whitney is making a huge mistake, and even Taylor begins to show concern for some of her choices. But for the first time, Whitney is in the driver's seat of her life. Will she be able to find her identity—and God's plan for her life—before she throws everything away?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up—High school senior Whitney Jean Richards appears to have it all: security, status, success. She drives a brand-new car and lives in a large brick colonial, complete with an Olympic-size swimming pool. Pretty and popular, she reigns as both the captain of the cheerleading squad and girlfriend of the football team captain. With a 4.0 grade point average, the teen has been accepted to all three of her top college choices. But cracks in Whitney's idyllic life begin to surface when she gets a D on a Calculus test. Outraged, her critical and controlling mother demands that Whitney bring her grade up with the help of a tutor. Enter Taylor Martinez, a motorcycle-riding math genius from the wrong side of town. What starts off as a rebellious flirtation evolves into true love, as

the two young people bond over their deep, shared faith in God. Fans of YA Christian fiction will appreciate the guiding role which prayer plays in Whitney's journey toward self-discovery. Unfortunately, readers who enjoyed Clipston's *Roadside Assistance* (Zondervan, 2011) will be disappointed by this book's comparative lack of authenticity and depth. A narrow worldview persists throughout and conveys a certain judgmental smugness. For example, Whitney feels "truly blessed to come from a family that was still intact," while Taylor is pitied for "growing up without a father." Predictable plot and flat writing make this a strictly additional purchase. — Susan Wengler, Saint Dominic Academy, Jersey City, NJ

Amy Clipston is the award-winning and bestselling author of the Kauffman Amish Bakery series. Her novels have hit multiple bestseller lists including CBD, CBA, and ECPA. Amy holds a degree in communication from Virginia Wesleyan College and works full-time for the City of Charlotte, NC. Amy lives in North Carolina with her husband, two sons, and three spoiled rotten cats. Visit her online at amyclipston.com Facebook: AmyClipstonBooks Twitter: @AmyClipston

I have been waiting for the sequel to *Roadside Assistance* to come out. I really enjoyed the first one and wanted to see how Whitney's life turns out. Well, I was equally happy with the second book. Now we await the third. Whitney is a senior in high school. She should be having the time of her life. Her grades have always been good. She has a football player boyfriend. She is in the popular crowd. However, things start to unravel around Valentine's Day. Her boyfriend breaks up with her and letter to her mother comes in the mail. Her Calculus grade is way less than spectacular. Her mother feels that she needs a tutor in order for her to get into the right school. Whitney is feeling the pressure to be perfect in everyone's eyes. She doesn't want to admit she needs help at first. She just wants to finish her senior year and move on to her own life. Whitney's mother is very annoying in the book. She is very demanding and very controlling. Her father is more laid back and tries to understand Whitney's point of view. Whitney's friends add to the pressure on Whitney. She must have the right boyfriend to suit them even though Whitney is starting to have feelings for someone they deem less than stellar. She is so confused at this point. Taylor, her unpopular tutor, starts to make Whitney question her priorities. He makes her look at and want things that her mother and friends do not want. This adds pressure to Whitney. What path does she want? Why is she trying so hard to push some paths away? Will she be able to find her way? With the help of some well respected people and God's nudges, Whitney begins to find the path that she feels is best. She begins to see new opportunities with different eyes. This is a great series for young adult girls and

even guys who may be struggling to find their own way in life. The teenage years can be full of pressures that make one feel like you need to take only one path. However, as Whitney discovers, God places opportunities in your life for a reason. Don't just push things aside because someone is expecting you to. You need to find your own way despite what others say.

I've read most of Amy's books and am a huge fan. I was very excited to learn that she would be writing a book with many of the same characters as *Roadside Assistance*. In *Destination Unknown*, Whitney is the main character and the primary focus is on her relationship with her mother who attempts to control all aspects of her life. Whitney is expected to succeed in all aspects, and when she receives a D on a Calculus exam her mother is quick to coordinate a tutor for her. Taylor Martinez is assigned to tutor Whitney and their relationship brings out much in Whitney that she had never been willing to admit to herself. Taylor and Whitney develop a close friendship and find themselves falling in love. Their relationship is very sweet, and I think it is what most of us dreamed of finding while we were in high school. Whitney quickly realizes that she has not been true to herself with her choice of friends and by listening to her mother's input as to who she should date. Whitney considers herself to be dealing with an identity crisis like so many of us encounter as a teenager. I don't want to spoil this book for anyone by providing more details. I'm a busy mom that usually takes a good few weeks to finish a 200-300 page book and I read this book in 4-5 days. I couldn't put it down. I was so drawn to the relationships and the conflicts that were occurring between Whitney and her mom, friends, and eventually Taylor. Even though Whitney was raised in an upper class home, I think everyone will be able to relate to the story and will find a lot of joy in the message of the book. Whitney holds onto her faith in God and although she feels the urge to rebel from her controlling mom, she always makes decisions that are decent and moral. Although she is 1/2 my age I enjoyed each page and would recommend this book for all ages, probably 12 and up. I love that Amy's books are always pure and she consistently demonstrates that you can create a wonderful storyline without any type of vulgarity. Please write another book with these characters, Amy! We would love to see Whitney, Emily, Taylor, and Zander at college! You could have each chapter focus on a different character. I just think that there need to be more authors like Amy Clipston and less books focused on the darkness of life. Amy brings so much light into her stories and they are very refreshing and uplifting for each of us.

Title: *Destination Unknown* Author: Amy Clipston Series: sort of a sequel to *Roadside Assistance* Chapters: 22 Pages: 267 Genre: Christian Teen Rating: 5 stars *Destination Unknown* is the

companion novel to Roadside Assistance; Whitney Richards is the cousin to Emily Curtis. When I read Roadside Assistance I really didn't like Whitney but after getting to know her in Destination Unknown I found myself relating to Whitney and I ended up liking her as much as I did Emily. Whitney starts off as the typical cheerleader at least what people think when they think of cheerleaders. But when she starts failing her math class and has to get a tutor; things start to change. Do in part to Taylor Martinez her math tutor, her friends and mother doesn't think he's good enough for her. He's from the wrong part of town, the same part of town her cousin Emily is from. I thought Zander from Roadside Assistance was my favorite male character but Taylor is growing on me. Just like with the first book a classic car plays a part. Destination Unknown is more than a teen novel about teenage drama and love. It is a novel about learning to trust God's plans and His timing. Even when it's not our timing. That it's alright to want to be your own person but not to hurt others in the process. I really enjoyed this book. I kind of wish there would be a third and fourth book that show Emily and Whitney at college.

This was a great young adult read. I would recommend to start with Roadside Assistance then read Destination Unknown. This is a pure love story and depicts in my opinion the cruel ways kids can treat each other but the flip side of how others are not sucked into that way of thinking and turn things around. I have recommended it to many of my friends for their teens.

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