

# Watch, Read, & Listen

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and occasionally eat...

## Gatsby's American Dream

# Inspiration from unrealistic dreams broadens horizons for unknown band

By Nicole Marshall

Most punk-rock bands are frowned upon in the music world. For **Gatsby's American Dream**, girls fall over screaming.

Gatsby's started in Seattle, in 2002; the band formed when two former bands, One Point Two and Good For Nothing, disbanded. Bobby Darling was a guitarist for One Point Two and met up with Nic Newsham and Ryan Van Wieringen who were the lead singer and guitarist for Good For Nothing. The finalization of Gatsby's didn't come until they recruited Kirk Huffman to play bass and Dustin McGhyc as their drummer, to make themselves a five-piece band.

Gatsby's first album, *Why We Fight*, was released in 2002, signed by Rocketstar Recordings.

**Gatsby's American Dream**

was named after F. Scott Fitzgerald's book *The Great Gatsby*. The reason they chose is unknown the book's unique title for their name.

*The Great Gatsby* was written about love and unrealistic dreams, whereas **Gatsby's American Dream** is about heartbreak and overly emotional lyrics.

While on a hiatus, most of the members of **Gatsby's American Dream** each have their own side project bands. Some are called Wild Orchid Children, Redredblue, Keith Ledger, and Zero Cool.

"We're not gonna just play to play," Newsham said. "The only way I'll do



more Gatsby's is if we are making new music. Which I am totally open to."

Gatsby's sound is outlandish and different than what most teens would enjoy listening to. However, don't judge a band by its name. After listening to these guys, you'll be living the American dream.

## To stay or not to stay?

# If I Stay, good book that addresses hard life choices

By Britnie Jenkins

"Just listen," Adam says with a voice that sounds like shrapnel.

I open my eyes wide now. I sit up as much as I can. And I listen.

"Stay," he says.

Imagine that there are two versions of you. One version of you is lying in a hospital bed, unconscious, and the other is fully aware of everything going on, but unable to be seen or heard by anyone around.

This is exactly the predicament 17-year-old Mia finds herself in after her family is in a car crash on the way to visit her grandparents.

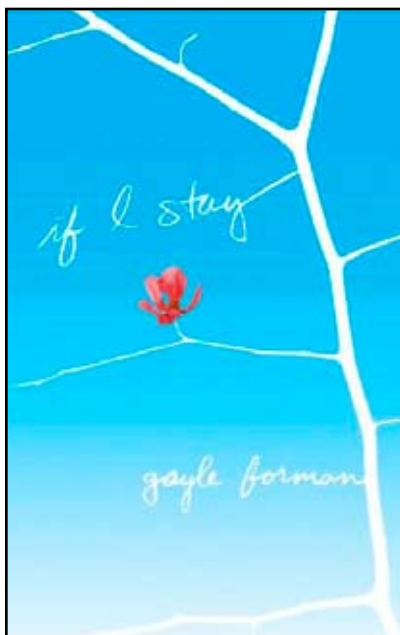
*If I Stay* by Gayle Forman is Mia's story while she's in a coma intertwined with important memories of the past year. In these

memories, she goes through meeting her best friend, Kim, and her boyfriend, Adam. The reader also finds through her memories, that Mia is a very talented cellist with hopes of attending Juilliard.

Mia has a tough choice: stay (even though her entire family is dead), or die (which is the easy way out).

Throughout the story, different influential people in Mia's life talk to her comatose body about why they think she should stay alive.

Overall, *If I Stay* is an excellent book about family, love, loss, and tough decisions that have to be made. It's a very short book and quick to read, so if you're looking for a quick book to reach that A.R. goal, this is the perfect book! It makes you think, but it's definitely worth every minute.



# Mitch Chalkley: little drummer, big dreams

By James Rittenhouse

Keep in mind; this interview is with a drummer.

Mitch Chalkley is a small guy, standing at just over five feet tall, but that doesn't stop him from playing the drums like a total boss.

Chalkley has been a drummer for six years, and has the skills to show that he knows what he's doing behind the drum set.

"I went to a Van Halen concert when I was nine and watched Alex Valhalla the whole time," Chalkley said. "Ever since then I've been interested in the drums."

Chalkley has had an obsession with hitting things since he was a small child.

"When I was little I made my own drum set out of pots and pans," he said, "but I mean who hasn't?"

Chalkley is influenced by some of the greatest drummers to walk the earth.

Drummers like Tommy Lee, Travis Barker, Jon Wysocki, and Neil Peart have influenced Chalkley throughout his drumming career.

Chalkley hasn't had any professional training either.

"I actually learned by myself," he said, "I just picked up my sticks and started hitting stuff."

To teach himself Chalkley had to practice nearly every second of every day.

"I'm practicing all the time," he said. "There isn't a single day that I'm not banging the drum."

Playing in a band, guitarists get a lot of the attention. Drummers stay in the background and don't get as much attention as the rest of the band.

"Not everyone appreciates the drummer, especially me because I'm hidden behind my trap set," he said.

Chalkley also has high aspirations for his drumming career.

"I'm going to be a rock star," Chalkley said. "I'll be rocking the world with Contingency."



## Noodles & Company blows diners away with noodly goodness

By Kyle Maddox

Tucked away in a neat little corner of Massachusetts Street in Lawrence, there is a tiny little restaurant called Noodles & Company. While on a college visit to KU, a woman at the visitor's center recommended the quaint little restaurant to me. The name itself intrigued me, so I decided to seek it out. It just so happens that we decided to stop there on their opening day.

There are three major aspects of a restaurant that make us want to come back: atmosphere, taste, and convenience.

Immediately when I entered the door of the aptly named Noodles & Company, I was hit with a stunning atmosphere. The music they

were playing was both quality and current, and I recognized many of my favorite songs from bands like The Postal Service and Kings of Leon. After ordering, we took our seat, and they brought our food to us. It didn't have quite the feel of a fancy sit-down restaurant, but it certainly didn't feel like the neighborhood McDonald's.

Their menu was rather varied, with no central theme except for that wonderful starchy god, pasta. Every possible item, from Wisconsin Mac & Cheese to Japanese Pan Noodles, was on the menu. Being a stickler for Asian food, I ordered the latter. It was very good (besides the bean sprouts, yuck) and had me ready to come back as soon as

possible.

When we entered the restaurant, it was very clean, and although it was somewhat crowded, the staff made every effort to get to us immediately. We placed our order, sat down, and within ten minutes, our food was on the table.

The whole restaurant gave off a fun, friendly, and noodly atmosphere. Coupled with great food and timely service, Noodles & Company can't be beat. I'd highly recommend this restaurant to anyone with taste buds. Anyone seeking more info on the company can visit their website at [www.noodles.com](http://www.noodles.com).