



Dear Reader,

Do you have a winter storm story? Maybe you've slid off an exit ramp, built a giant snow fort with your kids, or shivered in your house as a storm coated the entire state in a thick layer of ice. The thing about a winter storm is that it causes the world to shift gears. Traffic slows down. People stay home. Flights are canceled. And since rush hour is twice as miserable with a few inches of the white stuff, I think the best course of action in such weather is to stay home curled up with a good book.

Perhaps I'm biased, but it appears you've already taken my advice.

*FIVE TOTAL STRANGERS* started as a kernel of an idea, one inspired by my own terrible experiences with bad winter weather. From the snowstorm that stranded me on the side of a rural highway, to the multi-car pile-up that I feel lucky to have survived, to the ice storm that took out power for a week the night my mother died, winter storms have set the stage for many of my own most frightening nights. I can't think of a better setting for Mira's story.

Because Mira isn't just desperate to get through the mountains of Pennsylvania in a blizzard—she's forced to make the journey home with five complete strangers. And one of those strangers doesn't want her to make it home at all. How does that road trip turn out for everyone? Well, you'll just have to read *FIVE TOTAL STRANGERS* to find out. I can't tell you all my secrets!

I hope you enjoy Mira's story, and if you'd like to share your winter storm experience, I'd love to hear it! Write me at [natdrichards@gmail.com](mailto:natdrichards@gmail.com) anytime.

Safe travels and happy reading,

Natalie

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