



## As Ever, Gordy

By Mary Downing Hahn

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Gordy couldn't be more unhappy about moving back to his hometown of College Hill, where everybody knows his family's troubled history. In North Carolina, Gordy's life had finally seemed to be on the right track. But in College Hill, Gordy and his sister, June, move into a cramped apartment with their brother Stu and his new family. The principal at Gordy's school immediately has it in for him, his old pals encourage him to cause trouble, and his one-time nemesis, Elizabeth, hates him more than ever. It seems to Gordy as though the whole world is against him. Will he slip back into his old trouble-making ways for good, or will he be able to keep growing into the successful person he was striving to become?

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## As Ever, Gordy By Mary Downing Hahn Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5<sup>^</sup>-8. When his grandmother suddenly dies, 13-year-old Gordy and his younger sister must move from Grandville back to College Hill to live with their older brother's family. Under his grandmother's steady influence, Gordy had turned his life around, but he soon finds trouble in his old town. Friends egg him into a number of scrapes yet quickly abandon and even betray him. Attracted to his old friend Elizabeth, Gordy wants desperately to impress her but sabotages himself at every turn. Caught in a downward spiral, Gordy seems destined for reform school until his family and Elizabeth reveal how much they care for him. The post<sup>^</sup>-World War II setting is merely cosmetic, but Gordy is a painfully believable adolescent, angry with the very people who love him and trapped by the town's knee-jerk judgment of his family. A worthy sequel to *Stepping on Cracks* (1991) and *Following My Own Footsteps* (1996), but this also stands well on its own.  
*Linda Perkins*

From Kirkus Reviews

An eighth grader finds that his tough-guy persona doesn't fit as well as it used to in Hahn's third book about the fragmented Smith family (*Stepping On The Cracks*, 1991; *Following My Own Footsteps*, 1996). After his grandmother's sudden death, Gordy has to move back to the hated Maryland town in which he grew up. Discovering that the intervening two years have done little to dim his family's white-trash reputation, and that his ne'er-do-well friends, Doug and Toad, haven't changed, Gordy slips back into his old troublemaking ways. The role begins to chafe, however, when he develops a yen for old rival LizLizzy the LizardCrawford, and learns that his abusive father and reform-school- graduate older brother aren't the best role models when it comes to human relations. Hahn expertly shows how the expectations of others influence Gordy's behavior, as he struggles to step away from his bad old self; in the end he takes that step, though not without a realistic amount of backsliding. To Gordy's surprise and pleasure, Elizabeth is willing to meet him half way. While Gordy's anger is the dominant feeling here, flashes of humor and deftly inserted historical details of the postWW II era lighten the load. (Fiction. 10-13) -- *Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

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