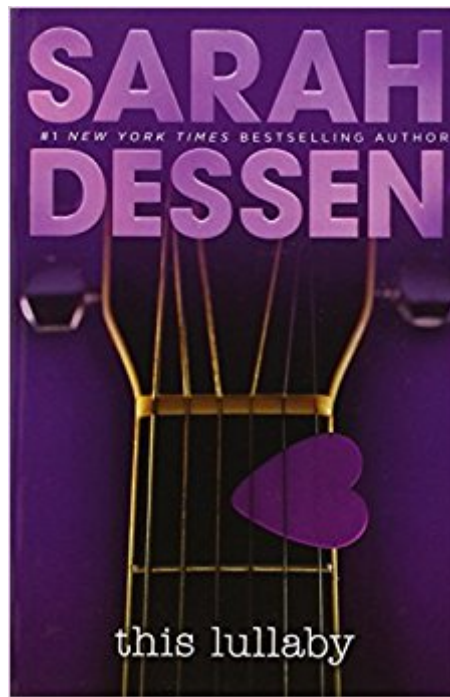


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This Lullaby



Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller
She's got it all figured out. Or does she? When it comes to relationships, Remy's got a whole set of rules. Never get too serious. Never let him break your heart. And never, ever date a musician. But then Remy meets Dexter, and the rules don't seem to apply anymore. Could it be that she's starting to understand what all those love songs are about?
Remy and Dexter jump off the pages into the hearts of readers, who will wish for a romance like this of their own.

Booklist
Also by Sarah Dessen: Along for the Ride, Dreamland, Just Listen, Keeping the Moon, Lock and Key, The Moon and More, Someone Like You, That Summer, The Truth About Forever, What Happened to Goodbye

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #45,962 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #131 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction #132 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Dating & Sex #139 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Being a Teen

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Sarah Dessen quickly became one of my favorite authors after I read her books "Dreamland" and "Someone Like You". I was super excited when I found her new book, "This Lullaby", and settled down to read it right away. I was not disappointed. This book is amazing! It made me laugh out loud in some parts (Dessen has remarkable prose, and just her word choice and descriptions make for a humorous time), gave me butterflies in others, and had me feeling pretty sorry for the characters during certain scenes. Remy has got the guy thing figured out -- once the first heady, romantic

feelings start to fizzle and "cracks" begin to appear in the guy's personality, Remy's out of there. Remy has plenty of experience -- her father left before she was born, leaving her with his sappy one-hit-wonder, "This Lullaby". Not a great gift, considering the lyrics "I will let you down." Plus, Remy's mother, a romance author, is now on her fifth marriage -- "This time it will work, Remy." But Remy doesn't share her mother's hopeful outlook on love. Then she bumps into Dexter, quite literally. She avoids him as much as she can, but he manages to pop up everywhere, and just where she needs him the most. He's the exact opposite of her usual guy -- messy, clumsy, and, of all things, a musician like her father. She runs away from him until he crashes through her bedroom window, and she finally decides to take a risk with this guy. They're a couple from then on. But Remy's done this before -- have a fun time with a guy through the summer, move on in September. Remy wants to head to Stanford in the fall leaving nothing messy behind her -- but Dexter might make this hard. The Dexter/Remy romance is just perfect.

While I enjoyed the lightness of this read, I just can't love this book. I would definitely recommend it as a happy read and to someone who likes a love story. I love a good love story, but this one didn't catch my interest. Don't get me wrong at the end of the book I still got the "Oh, that's a good way to end it" feeling, just not the "Wow, that floored me even though I expected it" feeling. Remy's character is very cynical about love, and I really enjoyed seeing her transformation. She had a really cool personality, and sounds like someone who would be my friend but definitely not me. But, the fact that she just kept pushing Dexter away kinda bothered me. I was wondering why she couldn't just see the relationship for what it was, love. I get that she had issues with it because of her mom, but I still couldn't push someone away like that and I have seen my fair share of troubles with divorce. And while Dessen's writing was very interesting I didn't find anything really deep about it this time around. Yes, she had family issues, but the goal was really more her resolving them by being in a relationship, not coming out and telling her mom her problems or doing something that stood up against the issues. It was kind of like, well if you are in this relationship with Dexter you won't have family issues anymore. That is a complete lie, in my opinion. It was also really hard for me to understand her issues with her father who died when she was young. He sounded like a jerk, but she was always flip-flopping around on what she thought of him. Of course he is her father and I will admit sometimes I love my dad, but sometimes I hate him. Overall Remy's character was confusing, but entertaining, and I did really love her.

If put down in a nutshell, the plot of this book might sound uninteresting, cliché, or something

equally bad. However, I have read other books by Sarah Dessen as well, and this is by far the best. And not only is it the best of her books, it's also one of the best teen novels I've read in a long time. THIS LULLABY is the story of a girl who has grown up with a mother who takes on husbands "the way other people change their hair color: out of boredom, listlessness, or just feeling that this next one will fix everything, once and for all." Remy never knew her own father even, and all she has of him is the song, "This Lullaby," that he wrote on the road the day of her birth. By the time she graduates from high school Remy has developed a careful schedule for all relationships she enters in to, and never allows any boy to get close to her heart, convinced that it is better to keep all guys at arms length so that they are unable to hurt her. Then, while planning her mother's fifth wedding, Remy meets Dexter, a boy who has so many qualities she dislikes. Though at first reluctant, Remy is eventually charmed by Dexter, who's shoelaces are always untied, and who insists on challenging people to do things such as eat ten bananas, or name more states than him before a specific lady is through picking up her dry-cleaning. Remy still believes that love is foolish, but Dexter helps her to learn otherwise. As I said, the plot sounds quite cliché. However, it's a lot more complicated than all that, the writing is superb, the dialogue is at times very witty and entertaining, and this is an all around enjoyable book. I was completely engrossed, and reluctant to put it down even when I was in desperate need of something to eat.

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