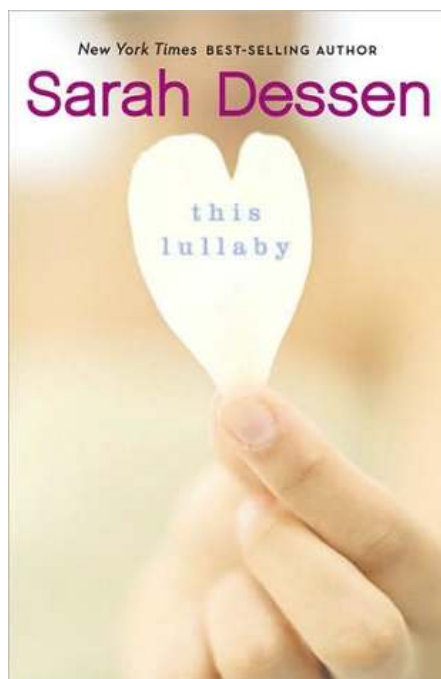




This Lullaby

Sarah Dessen

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This Lullaby Sarah Dessen

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When it comes to relationships, Remy doesn't mess around. After all, she's learned all there is to know from her mother, who's currently working on husband number five. But there's something about Dexter that seems to defy all of Remy's rules. He certainly doesn't seem like Mr. Right. For some reason, however, Remy just can't seem to shake him. Could it be that Remy's starting to understand what those love songs are all about?

This Lullaby Details

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From Reader Review This Lullaby for online ebook

Laura says

Edit May 2015: Still one of the best contemporary books I've ever read.

MY ALL-TIME FAVORITE SARAH DESSEN BOOK!

Love is needing someone. Love is putting up with someone's bad qualities because they somehow complete you.

I totally love love love this story! If you haven't read This Lullaby yet, stop what you're doing right now and freaking read it!! It's that good!

I first read this probably like a year ago and have reread it a few times since. It's one of those books I pick up when I need a story that makes me laugh or when I just feel the urge to meet Remy again! She's one of my favorite heroines ever. Especially since she isn't at all like Dessen's other heroines. Most of them are shy, insecure, troubled girls with huge family issues. Well, the latter applies to Remy, but she's definitely not shy. She knows exactly what she wants, is independent, has a temper and always says what's on her mind. Oh, and she doesn't believe in love. At all. Based on the model of her mother (who is busy with husband number five in the beginning of the book), Remy has a lot of boyfriends. In fact, she's sort of a slut. She has tight dating rules and dumps the boyfriend when things get too hard or too serious. Despite her issues I totally loved her sassy, confident self. Remy is just awesome.

“Love is an excuse to put up with the shit that you shouldn't. That's how it gets you. It throws off the scales so that things that should weigh heavily don't seem to. It's a crock. A trap.” - Yep, that's Remy!

The other main character is as awesome as Remy. I completely adored and swooned over Dexter. There was none of the usual annoying talk about how hot, handsome and perfect the hero is because Dexter appeared in fact real. He was just as mess. Literally. Untied shoelaces and clumsy - that pretty much describes Dexter. But also cheerful and really funny. Anyway, I loved him. It was so cute how he was so persistent and determined that he and Remy should be together. Even though she turned him down for a while and was usually icy and sort of mean towards him. I thought they were awesome together.

“I just thought to my self, all of a sudden, that we had something in common. A natural chemistry, if you will. And I had a feeling that something big was going to happen. To both of us. That we were, in fact, meant to be together.” - Dexter

So yeah, that's Dexter when he first meets Remy and (literally) bumps into her. I loved how he was always cheerful and in a good mood while Remy was the total opposite. I felt they completed each other perfectly.

"Plastic ware," he said slowly, "like knives and forks and spoons?"
I brushed a bit of dirt off the back of my car—was that a scratch?—and said casually,
"Yeah, I guess. Just the basics, you know."
"Did you need plastic ware?" he asked.
I shrugged.
"Because," he went on, and I fought the urge to squirm, "it's so funny, because I need plastic ware. Badly."
"Can we go inside, please?" I asked, slamming the trunk shut. "It's hot out here."
He looked at the bag again, then at me. And then, slowly, the smile I knew and dreaded crept across his face. "You bought me plastic ware," he said. "Didn't you?"
"No," I growled, picking at my license plate.
"You did!" he hooted, laughing out loud. "You bought me some forks. And knives. And spoons.
Because—"
"No," I said loudly.
"—you love me!" He grinned, as if he'd solved the puzzler for all time, as I felt a flush creep across my face. Stupid Lissa. I could have killed her.
"It was on sale," I told him again, as if this was some kind of an excuse.
"You love me," he said simply, taking the bag and adding it to the others.
"Only seven bucks," I added, but he was already walking away, so sure of himself. "It was on clearance, for God's sake."
"Love me," he called out over his shoulder, in a singsong voice. "You. Love. Me."

...aaand that was Remy breaking one of her dating rules! 'Never buy your boyfriend something that lasts'. Like ... plastic ware!! :D

"This Lullaby is only a few words, a simple run of chords, quiet here in this spare room, but you can hear it, hear it, wherever you may go, even if I let you down, this lullaby plays on..."

For more of my reviews, please visit:

emma says

man oh man there is nothing better than a good sarah dessen binge read in the summer.

this book is Especially good, because it's pret-ty different from the typical dessen. it's a kinda bad girl protagonist!!! who knew that was even possible?? didn't we all think that the female main characters that populate sarah dessen books just came in barely-varying flavors of Vanilla.

remy is a bit o' a badass - she dates around, she smokes sometimes, she drinks underage (gasp!). basically she's a much more normal and interesting specimen. a pleasant surprise.

the group of friends in this is pretty fun too. the ever-present family drama is dramatic as ever. the unfortunately the equally-unavoidable romance is the most boring, uninteresting plotline in the history of the universe, but you win some you lose some you know?

bottom line: WHY DIDN'T I DO THIS SARAH DESSEN REREAD YEARS AGO. my god, what a blast.

Henz says

“Some things don't last forever, but some things do. Like a good song, or a good book, or a good memory you can take out and unfold in your darkest times, pressing down on the corners and peering in close, hoping you still recognize the person you see there.”

Most people did not like reading about **Remy**, the heroine in this book mostly because she's so cynical about relationships that she's actually keeping tables and graph to when a relationship is going to end. I mean you can't blame her for losing faith in love since her mother have had that share of love and misadventures, married too many times and somehow she felt the need to protect herself from that kind of pain and save herself from unnecessary heartaches. What's funny about reading her character is that she's also relate-able. Sometimes girls can be a clean freak and likes everything to be in order but Remy just takes it up a notch. I completely understand where her obsessive-compulsive behavior is coming from and I hope you can see that as you read along. I really enjoyed reading about her plus the banters going on between her friends made me crack.

Dexter on the other hand is the complete opposite of her personality, happens to be bold, enjoys taking risk and just this happy-go-lucky guy. Him being in a band was not too appealing, and it's funny because musicians should somewhat have that appeal but Dexter was so average but I had a few laughs about his straight-from-the-book cheesy lines he's dropping when he was professing his love and admiration. His tenacity was so cute that even thru so many eye balls rolling he still managed to get through my heart.

I hope he does the same to you too! *wink*

Isamlq says

After Just Listen, let's just say that I wasn't all that impressed with Sarah Dessen. And to be honest? I just couldn't see why she was so popular.. so with great reluctance (a month after reading Just Listen in fact,) I went ahead and read This Lullaby. Well, this review is me eating my words: Sarah Dessen deserves all the praise she has gotten/gets.

I loved it! (Yes, this is even despite my having come across what one reviewer calls the “the Sarah Dessen Syndrome,” of a female protagonist who is most likely troubled (either because of her family, friends or emotions,) who meets a boy (preferably crush/swoon worthy) the latter most likely helping her get over her issues.

Remy cannot wait to get away from home and be independent; her mother and her mother's relationships have drilled into her what she doesn't want to become. Thank gosh, she's got a brother and friends who are more or less just as cynical as she is, and consequently, very accepting of her quirks. Quirks? From being an anything goes party girl to an almost sort of anal retentive perfectionist who requires everything in place and everything pegged. Then came Dexter; he is everything she normally wouldn't go for- sloppy, clumsy, and without plans. Yet, they just click. Until her quirks get in the way, she just over thought everything!

One would think that it was Dexter that got me to change my mind, but nope.. it was all Remy. Her hard-ass-ness was not all there was to her. Dexter really got her and I loved that! She really was a softy, even if she

tended to overreact and sometimes overanalyze things. And yeah, Dexter did in fact play a role in my becoming a Dessen fan.

I do hope her other stories live up to how good This Lullaby is.

4/5

Tatiana says

"This Lullaby" was my first Dessen book and will probably be the last. It has nothing to do with the writing, but this kind of fairly depressing YA chick lit a la Jennifer Weiner is simply not my cup of tea.

This book is normally described as a super sweet romance, but it never felt like one to me. Rather, it was a story of a girl disillusioned in love who finally allowed herself to open herself up to an honest relationship with a man.

There was really nothing wrong with this story. The characters were very well drawn in comparison to those in many other YA novels I've read. They were compelling and understandable and their relationships with each other felt real. Dexter as the main male lead was extremely likable. Remy appeared a little harder to understand and appreciate. For her 18 years of age she was awfully negative and cynical and I found it very hard at times to remain in her head, because it seemed to me she never took any pleasure in anything, even in her short relationship with Dexter. Maybe I would have understood her better if her personality was explored more thoroughly: Why exactly was she so angry with her father, after all, he never did her any harm, he died when she was just a toddler? What made her clean up her act and abandon her promiscuous life style and drug use? Why, with all her disillusionment in love, did she keep having these 2-months romances? What exactly did she want from these relationships? I also wanted to know more about Remy's friends, especially about always in a background Jess, and about Chloe, who was as cynical as Remy, but what was her reason? And lastly, these 4 girls seemed strangely too mature and jaded for their age. Throughout the book I kept thinking that if you take the words "high school graduation" and "college" out of the story, you basically get on your hands a group of "Sex and the City" girls.

"This Lullaby" was by no means a bad book, it was a fast and engaging story, but it left me fairly unsatisfied and not really inspired to read any other books by the author.

Reading challenge: #29.

Norah Una Sumner says

I kind of feel tired after finishing this.

I love Sarah Dessen. Even with her novels which I didn't particularly like or connected with, like this one, I still feel well and satisfied with her stories. Her writing is so good, her characters always really well developed and I love that she always has a family portrayal - even if one of the parents is absent, they are still a big part of the story.

What happened here, I feel, is that Remy wasn't actually that well developed. We see her, we hear her but... we don't actually get to know her. Why is she the way she is? Why is she THAT salty and dismissive of her father if she never met him? Why is cynical to the point where it really starts to make the readers, like it happened with me, exhausted to read about her? And, if she's that cynical why is she constantly in relationships? Two months, two months, it's still longer than any relationship I've been in. Dexter got sucked into this mess and honestly I don't think he was treated properly even after she realized her mistakes. He just blindly accepted everything which made me really sad.

The family portrayal and her relationship with her mom was the thing that kept me reading the most, the thing that sucked me into the story. Her mom is such a great character and I loved reading about the two of them together. Overall, a really nice summer read, but far from Dessen's best work in my opinion obviously.

Annabelle says

Let me begin yet another Dessen review on a high note: Remy Starr is officially my favorite Dessen girl, hands down. She actually actively took part in what happened around her, making her mistakes big and bold and beautiful. Her cynical rants immediately captured my heart and her wit and vulnerability sealed the deal. I just got her.

I also fell in love with Dexter from the moment he appeared on the page. His charm and all around adorableness made me want to reach into the story and pull him out. The way him and Remy clicked was somehow both magical and real and their playful interactions had me smiling and laughing out loud. The book in general was a perfect blend of laughter and tears; most scenes had me in one or the other.

Sure, the break-up-then-quick-make-up was alive and kicking, but either it simply worked better here because I was already smitten with the love story, or I'm just becoming immune to Dessen's signature moves. Either way, the novel was sweet and enjoyable and my one complaint is that the actual plot surrounding the characters and their greatness was slightly lacking. And of course there can never be enough Remy/Dexter. This will most likely not stop me from picking up *yet another* Dessen book in the future.

Rachel says

I was 18 when I read This Lullaby, and it was the first Sarah Dessen novel that I had read. To this day, it is still my favorite book by Dessen.

The main character Remy is very relatable to many teenage girls, and even to young women who remember being the way Remy is when they were in high school. Remy's family and friends are a very loveable group of characters and their development is flawless.

There are little twists here and there that carry the book toward the end. It does start off a little slow, but Dessen has a way with words and really knows how to get into the minds of young women and tell their stories with honesty and innocence.

Warda says

Sarah Dessen's books always leave my heart feeling so full. I loved Remy's cynicism, Dexter's optimism, the idea of taking risks and opening up yourself to every opportunity. Such a great story!

Brittany (Hiatus-On/Off) says

Short review: FINALLY FINALLY, FINALLY I'm finished this book (Did you see the date I started and finished this novel? Life gets in the way book lovers as you know. Life and school.) but no....it's over?! No! I loved it so much! I thought I would be happy that I got it done because one more book read right and I could chat with my friend Erin, whom I buddy read this wonderful gem of a novel with? No. I wish there was more! I'm sad now but in a good way. ;-) I guess I will read another Sarah Dessen book! <3

Long review to come with time, figuring things out, (quotes (man, this book had some great ones)), and love <3 ;-)*wink ,wink* or hint, hint to those of you who have read this wonderful novel and those of you who I haven't, I definitely recommend you should! There are some great words to read and lessons to learn!

Ta ta for now!

*Buddy read with my good friend Erin. :)

Erin Dunn says

<http://angelerin.blogspot.com/2016/08...>

To be honest This Lullaby took me a bit of time to read. To start off I really haven't been in the mood for this genre. I decided to make it my pool read for a while and so I read it pretty slowly. Even though I read it slowly and I wasn't really in the mood for it, I still enjoyed it a lot once I got into it.

#ItsMeNotYou

I love how Remy and Dexter are so different, but they fit together really well. I love their romance and also I can relate to Remy in some ways. She's a bit of a hard ass on the outside and a little bit anal, but she's secretly a softie!! Dexter is very flawed, but he's super sweet and I love that accepts Remy for who she is. I just really enjoyed reading a book about a guy that can see through a girl's bitchy facade and into her heart. I love how Dexter could see that Remy has gone through things in her life and she's just trying to protect herself. It reminded me a little bit of my hubby and myself when we first got together actually. I'm sure that's part of why I like the romance so much.

#AwwwSweetRomance

Overall I really like This Lullaby quite a bit. It's not my favorite book ever, but that's okay they all can't be favorites. Plus it was a struggle to get through at times because I wasn't in the mood the genre. However, I found it to be very relatable and I love when I can connect to the characters. Also, the romance is top notch! This is the second Sarah Dessen book that I've read and it certainly won't be the last!

#RelatableAndEnjoyable

I recommend This Lullaby for YA Romance fans looking for a great pool/beach read!!

#QuickToThePoolBeforeSummerIsOver!

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

To truly live life is to always make risks. I'm a living testimony to this philosophy or more like a fact of life. But to a cynic, everything has measures, standards and requirements. Things have always to be in control because a step to an unknown direction will lose the balance that one keeps or at least hopes to maintain.

To Remy, the main character in the story, her lack of faith in relationships and love is reasonably based on her own personal experiences, on what she has witnessed all through her life. Who can really blame her when her own father left her with nothing except a song and with all the marriages and re-marriages she has personally planned and arranged for her mom? But at some point, a straight road has to reach a curve and so does Remy when her path crosses with that of the imperfect, awkward, easy-going, positive-thinking Dexter.

This is my third book by Ms. Sarah Dessen and I've learned to be comfortable with her writing style much like I have learned to be cozy with that of Jennifer E. Smith. There isn't really a "wow factor" in their stories, most are actually a bit predictable, the pacing kind of mellow but the messages and the themes are always relatable and significant.

But what made me appreciate this particular novel more than the others is the characterization which usually is the main thing that captures me in a story. I really liked that while Remy is flawed, "a complete bitch" as she says, she is also very smart, independent and strong-willed and her relationships with her friends and her family are quite very realistically portrayed.

Overall, it is an enjoyable (there were several lol moments), worthwhile read and of the three books I've read by the author, I'd probably recommend this.

P.S. Happy birthday to Ana {The Good Gif Fairy}, one of the coolest, most awesome people on Goodreads. Love yah, girly! <3

Margaret Stohl says

Ah, Dexter...

Maru says

Rating: 5 STARS

This Lullaby is my favourite Sarah Dessen book along with The Truth About Forever. There is no denying that Sarah Dessen follows a specific formula when writing a novel, a formula that doesn't change too much (if at all) from book to book. But not only does this formula work, she manages to make it work wonderfully. In my opinion, Dessen has a gift, in that she is able to turn simple plots into beautiful and deep stories that work when in the mood for an entertaining, light, fun book, but one that really leaves you with something

too.

In *This Lullaby*, Remy has very strict rules about relationships. These rules come from the fact that her mom is currently on her fifth marriage, so it is from experience that Remy knows: relationships don't last. To avoid herself the pain she has seen her mother go through again and again she has always followed specific guidelines about dating, which -in general- have the purpose of her never getting too involved. However, one summer Remy meets Dexter and his personality starts making her change these rules, so Remy goes on an emotional journey, trying to come to terms with the fact that sometimes it's ok to take a chance.

From the description of the plot, one might think they have the story figured out, from beginning to end. In a sense, this can be correct. We know that by the end the character will have grown and there will be a happy ending. However, as I said before, Sarah Dessen manages to turn simple plots into stories that go so much deeper. This isn't just about Remy's relationship with Dexter, it's about Remy's relationships with *everyone*. It's about *how* she relates in general, how she learns to deal with people, with her feelings, with her experiences. It is about Remy learning to have a bit more freedom, to *free herself from herself*. I think we can all identify with this, at least I know I can. This is where the heart of the story really is, and it's where Sarah Dessen really shows her talent. She is able to develop likeable, and relatable characters. Maybe not all of us make conscious rules, like Remy, about how to relate to other people. But we all have a way of thinking, we all have a way of relating, a way we have adopted from experiences, from people we have met, from parents, since our childhood, and some of these schemes that we operate under sometimes prevent us from enjoying different ways of relating with other people. This is not a story about a girl meeting a guy, falling in love, and changing for him. This is a story about a girl growing up, learning to break out of her structured thoughts, learning to be more free, learning to stop defining herself and her life by her past experiences, or by the things her mom goes through, and in that process learning to be happy.

Remy and Dexter are both likeable characters, with flaws, they are not perfect, in fact they are far from it. **Remy** can be stubborn, close-minded, and cold, but she's also vulnerable and the most important thing is that she *knows* she has flaws, she *knows* the way in which she has always related to people, the shell that she has created to protect herself, is not always healthy. She *wishes* she wasn't like that. And that's what's beautiful about our story. I always believed that your worst enemy is always yourself. Our mind is the most powerful thing, it can have a great hold on how we act, and it can prevent us from being happy. Remy sees this, she wants to change, and she tries to... Even though she knows that by doing it she's opening herself to a huge amount of hurt. *That's* what makes her a great character. **Dexter** is outgoing, perhaps he can come on too strong, he's friendly and unafraid to speak his mind. He lives his life much more relaxed than Remy does, and so he teaches her how to let go a little and just *relax*. Together they are very fun to be around, I extremely enjoyed their conversations, I laughed out loud at Dexter's challenges, I continually looked forward to their interactions.

Every single character, however, no matter how minor their role might be, influences Remy in one way or another, and so in turn, they influenced me as well. They are all flawed, but they are all trying to be better people. And that's just it right? It's not about being perfect, there are no rules for perfection, it's just about being permeable to change. In one's journey towards happiness, or towards being a better person, sometimes you might get it right, and sometimes you might not. It's about being flexible, and open, and ultimately just - free.

This is what I was personally left with after reading the book. Please consider the fact that I read this when I was thirteen, *nine* years ago, and I remember exactly what I learned from Remy, I remember exactly how it made me feel. To think that after all this time the lesson I took still applies to my life, *I constantly remind myself to stop controlling my actions so much, my thoughts, to try and stop analyzing every outcome possible to an obsessive degree, and to be a bit more free from my own mental structures, and in turn, happier...* Well **that's why I'm giving it five stars**. I don't know if it's much of a review, maybe someone else will read this

book and just see another teenage romance, but for me, at the age I read it, it was much more than that. So I thought I would share what I took away from 'This Lullaby', what makes it a worthwhile read in my opinion.

Hilda says

*This lullaby is only a few words
A simple run of chords
Quiet here in this spare room
But you can hear it, hear it
Wherever you may go
I will let you down
But this lullaby plays*

Remy doesn't believe in love. Her mother's fifth marriage only encourages her to stop believing in the nonsense. To her, love means having fun with guys, making sure that they know the relationship won't last long, and leaving before things get complicated. No worries. No entanglements. The no-strings-attached rule has worked well for Remy, until her encounter with Dexter. Dexter is the only exception from the long list of Remy's perfect exes. He's messy, hyperactive, and a musician with seemingly no future. Remy has vowed to herself to think of Dexter only as a summer boyfriend, but what if Dexter wants more? What if their relationship means something more than just summer fling?

This is official: Sarah Dessen is the best when it comes to contemporary YA. Her books may follow similar path, but each of it remains unique and special. Some people may find the slow pacing in her stories boring, but I think that's what makes her books amazing. The progress in the relationship between the main characters is very subtle. There are so much deeper meanings in the sweet little things they do. I really like it that what starts the relationship is always offer of kindness and friendship.

In the last part of the book, it's always the heroine who takes the important action to alter their story. I think that's very crucial, because then it means there is no magical salvation or something like that. Dexter may help Remy to believe in love, but he can't fix Remy's problem with her mother or her sarcastic attitude toward people around her. Remy has to be the one who takes the last step if she wants to change herself.

I think my most favorite part of this book is the time when Remy thinking to buy plastic ware for Dexter. Dexter is living with his band mates in a house where the only dish-ware consists of one ceramic plate, a few mismatched forks and knives, gas-station freebie coffee mugs, and some paper goods. Remy, being a neat freak and perfectionist girl, wants to buy plastic ware for Dexter but she is afraid that the gesture means so much more. This is her first time she is tempted to buy something more permanent than a Zip Coke for his boyfriend. It is very cute to watch her struggling whether or not to buy Dexter plastic ware. I have no idea that something as simple as forks and spoons can be a really romantic thing in a book.

Remy is one wonderful character I warmed throughout the story. I really like her rational thinking and how she is very protective of people she loves. Dexter might not be my favorite Sarah Dessen hero, but he is certainly very funny and sweet! The songs he writes, like The Potato Song, are simply ridiculous but somehow, it makes him even more adorable. I would recommend you to read This Lullaby during summer time because then you can also experience the humid, hot summer nights when Remy and Dexter fall with each other.

And so, while the rest of the world went on unaware, drinking their coffee, reading the sports page, and picking up their dry cleaning, I leaned forward and kissed Dexter, making a choice that would change everything. Maybe somewhere there was a ripple, a bit of a jump, some small shift in the universe, barely

noticeable.

I didn't feel it then. I felt only him kissing me back, easing me into the sunlight as I lost myself in the taste of him and felt the world go on, just as it always had, all around us.

Read other reviews in my blog! :)

Catch the Lune

Maggie says

It feels almost sacrilegious to run a Young Adult blog without having read Sarah Dessen. She's one of the biggest names in YA with a massive, devoted following. I wasn't sure where to start but when Anna suggested **This Lullaby** and threw in **Veronica Mars** as a selling point, I couldn't resist.

This book definitely surprised me. I expected Dessen to be light and fluffy. However, instead of *The Sisterhood of Traveling Pants*, I got *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Diet Zip and Cigarettes*. I know it's chic to be geek right now, but I love that Remy, the main character, drinks, smokes, cusses and has sex. And she still got into Stanford! She's not the girl standing in the corner hoping that the boy will notice her. She's the girl guys crash into hoping *she* will notice *them*. Believe me, I was not that girl, but there were other elements of her personality I related to, like when she says,

"The only I can't stand more than seeing something done wrong is seeing it done slowly."

Preach! She also does her crosswords in ink. Basically, she's a Type A personality. This is what got her into Stanford while her mother flitted from husband to husband. She also has Chloe, Jess, and Lissa, her core group of friends. Though they are all friends, they don't necessarily all get along.

This Lullaby starts right after Remy graduates from high school and right before her mother's fifth wedding. While waiting at her soon-to-be stepfather's car dealership, a guy named Dexter clumsily enters her life.

I really liked Dessen's portrayal of family and friendship, but with all the dramatic exits and declarations and breakups, it felt more like a romance book. It was like a YA version of a Kristan Higgins book, aka *Type A Bitches Deserve Love Too*. (Not that there's anything wrong with being Type A. Or a bitch.) There's even a dog! Dexter was so sweet and rumpled and lovable and his dog, Monkey, just killed me, but there was such a quick turnaround from first meeting to True Love. A lot of issues are brought up and not really explored. It was all very dramatic -- and very high school. Sometimes, like with **Sloppy Firsts** by Megan McCafferty, it works for me. Sometimes it doesn't. In the case of Sarah Dessen, I liked **This Lullaby** and can see her appeal, but I'm okay with being one and done.

This review appears on Young Adult Anonymous.

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Okay, Anna, you've convinced me to try my first Dessen:

"My all-time favorite Dessen book is *This Lullaby*. It's sweet and lovely and main character Remy has a semi-*Veronica Mars* "I'm independent and smart and sarcastic and kind of really angry so while I wait to get out of town and head to Stanford, I'm going to pretend I'm not emotionally vulnerable even though really, I'm a marshmallow" vibe."

Pinky says

“Love is needing someone. Love is putting up with someone's bad qualities because they somehow complete you.”

I really enjoyed this book, I feel like it was much better compared to The Moon and More. My marathon for Sarah Dessen books is going really great and I haven't been in a Reading Slump so I am really happy! I loved this book although I was expecting more for the ending. So many people recommended that I should read this or Just Listen and those two are my favorites, along with Along for the Ride and What Happened to Goodbye.

“I am coming to terms with the fact that loving someone requires a leap of faith, and that a soft landing is never guaranteed.”

Remy doesn't believe in long relationships and love. After all, her mother is marrying for the fifth time. Remy believes that relationships with boys last only a few months. She has a set of rules for her relationships and if anyone messes with those rules, she won't have them in her life anymore. But then she meets Dexter, a guy in a band. One of her rules was for her not to date a musician, but for some reason, she broke that rule. Is Remy starting to understand the real meaning to relationships and love?

“You know, when it works, love is pretty amazing. It's not overrated. There's a reason for all those songs.”

I know that Remy is so cold-hearted at times but people didn't understand the fact that she thought of this because of her mother. Her mother kept marry men and then divorcing them, I mean, what was Remy supposed to think? Although I didn't agree with some of her choices, I believed that she was living in an environment that made her think this. And it was really sad because I could relate to Remy in so many ways. And I understood how she felt because of the fact that it was so easy to relate to her.

“Everything, in the end, comes down to timing. One second, one minute, one hour could make all the difference.”

All her friends were so funny but at times, I didn't like how they would force Remy to do things. They would keep bothering her to do something in order for them to get their way. But I like how Remy, Chloe, Jess, and Lissa have each other's back. I love the diet coke thing that they do, it is hilarious. The way their friendship works is really nice and they all have a good understanding about each other.

“I just thought to my self, all of a sudden, that we had something in common. A natural chemistry, if you will. And I had a feeling that something big was going to happen. To both of us. That we were, in fact, meant to be together.”

Dexter was probably my favorite part of the story, he was just so funny and straight-forward. I really liked his personality and he was so different. He listens to everything you have to say and is honest with you. Even though he could be pushy at times, it's not in a negative way like Theo from The Moon and More. He was the more funny, pushy type who would make you laugh. And the bonding between Remy and him was so nice and sweet. Monkey and Dexter's relationship was the best! Monkey is the best fictional dog ever, I wish I could meet Monkey in real life. And not to mention John Miller's relationship with Dexter. I loved the scene where they were all like "HUFFAH"!

I feel like Dexter would look like Dexter from Ever After High without glasses. :)

The plot of this book was another thing I liked about this book. I loved Remy's mom and I didn't like Don at all. The pacing of the book was fast-paced and I got through it in one sitting. It was just so good, I couldn't stop reading! That's another thing I love about Sarah Dessen, she makes the book easy to relate to and fast-paced.

“Right now, though, I wanted not to think forward or backward, but only to lose myself in the words.”

I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in reading Sarah Dessen's book. You should start on this one because it might be my second favorite book by her. Or, if you have read a Sarah Dessen book, I highly recommend you pick this book up, it's hilarious.

“The fate of your heart is your choice and no one else gets a vote”

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Jocelyn Pearce for TeensReadToo.com

Sarah Dessen's THIS LULLABY is one of the best teen books I've ever read. It's the story of Remy, a girl who has no faith in love. Part of this is because her own father never even saw her, only wrote a now-famous song, called "This Lullaby," about her before he died. It certainly doesn't help that her mother has been married four times, and, at the beginning of the novel, is about to have her fifth wedding. Remy says about her mother's marriages, "She 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 likes to feel in control of things when she's got a boyfriend. She knows all about getting into relationships, the first romantic rush, and ending them before there's any emotional attachment. She's almost always the one to dump guys, not the other way around. She's got plenty of practice at it, too.

One day, at the car dealership owned by her mother's next husband, she meets a guy named Dexter. He's very determined to get to know Remy, and, at first, she thinks he's ridiculous and ignores him. Dexter, however, is persistent. When the two finally get together, everyone is shocked that Remy's staying in the relationship. Dexter is so many things Remy could never put up with. He's messy and impulsive, but, most of all, he's a musician. Until Dexter came along, Remy had a "no musician" rule, and now she's broken it.

Signs point to Remy ending this relationship and not looking back. Everyone thinks that's what will happen. Everyone except Dexter, who wants it to be more than a summer thing, who has faith in their relationship. How will it all end?

This is an amazing young adult book by a brilliant author. Sarah Dessen, author of several other books including THAT SUMMER and SOMEONE LIKE YOU, does an awesome job of keeping the reader's attention throughout THIS LULLABY. She does it with her original story, told in Remy's unique voice. It doesn't hurt that Sarah Dessen is great at creating fresh, original, believable characters. Thoughtful and powerful, this book also has its moments that will make readers laugh, which is a nice change of pace in the story. Every aspect of this novel surpasses expectations.

Patricia says

I did *not* like this book. I found the main character to be completely unsympathetic and I could not relate to her or with her to save my life. I understand WHY she was a bitch at time to Dexter but quite honestly, I didn't really care. I just couldn't really get into it. Especially towards the end, when she flipped out on Dexter over the whole picture incident. I wanted to rip out my hair, throw my book against a wall and throw her over a bridge all at the same time..ok, well maybe the last bit is going overboard but it. drove. me. CRAZY. And then her slutty friend (don't remember her name) told her not to even apologize to Dexter? Yeah, that enraged me. Also it was annoying and got old how she would always think to herself and wonder why she felt a pang in her chest or a tug in her heart when she was dating that retarded frat boy and then would run into Dexter. I felt like screaming BECAUSE YOU ARE IN LOVE WITH HIM YOU DUMB ASS!!! I don't know the book, to me, was a hell of a lot more annoying than it was entertaining. I will say that the ending was perfect and I enjoyed it but..ugh..as a whole didn't really like it all that much.

Lola says

I've been reading a lot of children's classics lately, so it felt good to pick a young adult romance novel by a familiar author to switch atmospheres. This is exactly what I expected and wanted from Sarah Dessen: a profound, but not too heavy, relationship-focused contemporary book.

You've probably read dozens of novels, if not more, like this one. Or so you might think. The main character—Remy—doesn't believe in everlasting love, which is why she breaks up with her boyfriends after a certain amount of time, never getting too attached. Until she meets that special someone who makes her see things differently.

Admit it, this seems like a very familiar storyline. But still I decided to read this book nonetheless, because I trust Sarah Dessen to write engaging and meaningful stories, whatever the themes are. And I was right to trust her. As always, she doesn't only focus on one thing—the romance—but on other important topics as well.

Remy has had many boyfriends before, that's true. But she doesn't take them seriously, just like she doesn't take her relationships seriously, so you don't have to worry about her obsessing over guys. Even Dexter takes time to warm up to her. What troubles her is her mother's new husband, who she is sure won't last, just like the others. And then there's her brother who seems to have changed tremendously lately. Now she doesn't know how to connect to him anymore.

Luckily, Remy has her friends, who support her in her decision to keep things between her and guys light. The great thing about this young woman is that she is an authentic person. She is strong, intelligent and determined, but she also has her weaknesses that sometimes keep her from looking at the bright side of things. Her pessimistic view of love keeps her from experiencing the wonders of it. That's why Dexter could be a good match for her, if she would only open herself to the possibility of it.

I think if this had only been about Dexter wooing Remy I would have enjoyed this a lot less, but because Remy's mind is on different things too—college, her mother, her brother, her future, her father, her friends—the romance is never overwhelming. In the contrary, this novel isn't necessarily “romantic.” But it does illustrate the beginnings of a promising relationship and explore the importance of love and relationships. I especially loved Remy's mother's discourse on why we should always take a chance on love, even if we don't believe it's forever.

