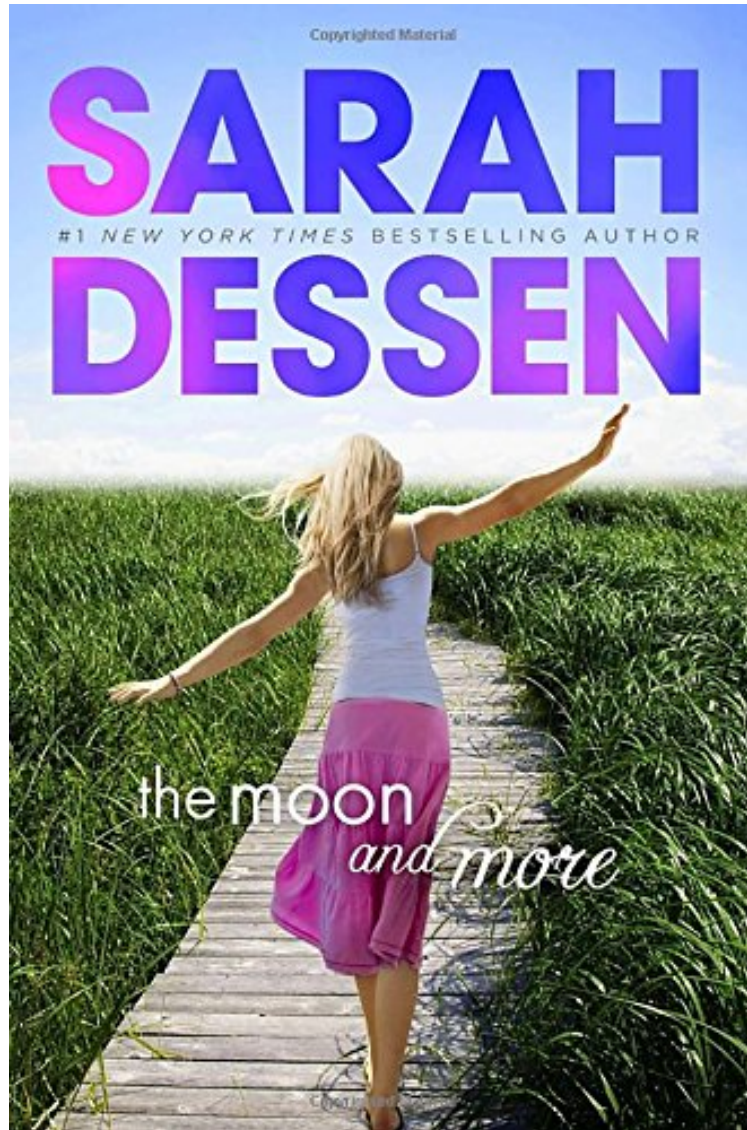


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The Moon and More

Sarah Dessen

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Sarah Dessen : The Moon and More before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Moon and More:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I didn't enjoy her most recent books By Olga Fry Even when I took a break from reading young adult literature, I always returned to Sarah Dessen when she had a new novel out. Her novels have begun to feel a little formulic to me. I didn't enjoy her most recent books, probably starting with "Along for the Ride" but I love her old material so I keep coming back. In "To the Moon and More," Emaline is enjoying her

last summer before her first year of college. It's a recycled theme: that last summer before she goes away, a mysterious boy appears, they start a relationship, etc. I wanted to like her. She's motivated, she's smart, she's nice. I thought that parts of her were great, such as when she ended up babysitting her half-brother Benji. She just felt flat on the page to me, as did her relationship with Luke, who she had been involved with since the 9th grade. I thought that Emaline and Luke's break-up happened too conveniently in the novel. I know I was supposed to like Theo (or Luke, even) as the love interest but I couldn't. Given the duration between her "break-up" and the reason for it, I thought she was more concerned with being in a relationship than being single, figuring out how to be alone. I struggled to like the characters, especially having loved so many of her previous characters, like Remy in "This Lullaby." There were also so many characters to become invested in: Clyde, Theo, Margo, Daisy, Morris, etc. Morris and Daisy are supposed to be Emaline's best friends yet I didn't feel a particular closeness between them. Given that the title referenced a saying between Emaline and her mother, I expected them to be closer, or at the very least, to have more interaction together. It seemed that most of their time together was her mom objecting to Emaline enjoying her summer at Colby. Their relationship wasn't as fully fleshed out on the page. It was a solid read but I found myself skimming it toward the last quarter of the book. Ultimately, it just felt too long for me. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Disappointed By Young Critic I'm a huge fan of Sarah Dessen. She has been my favorite author ever since I picked up *Someone Like You* 5 years ago. The stories are always riveting....except for this one. I've had such high hopes for the book. The summary only moved the pedestal I placed for this book just a little higher. I'm not going to write a summary but be warned, this will have spoilers. I loved that the story started off with Emaline being in a relationship. That was a nice refresher. And the whole twist of how they realized that maybe they weren't meant to be together was a nice touch. I was kind of mad at how they broke up. I felt as though Emaline and Luke were giving up way too easily. But that only added to the fact that they weren't truly in love with each other. Then there's Theo. I wasn't exactly a big fan of his character. I didn't mind him but I was actually more for Luke than I was for Theo. I thought it was cute that he was a nerd who never really got to be a kid. His character just wasn't what I expected. And I wasn't a big fan of the relationship between Emaline and Theo. Not what I was expecting, and I don't mean that in a good way. All and all, this story was boring. Usually when I read a Dessen book for the first time, I'm completely indulged in the work until I'm done. The better the book, the faster I can read it. I've read some of her books in a day before. But this? Well for one, I started to read it about two weeks ago, and I'm only at 83%. I just couldn't take it. The story was very boring and uninteresting. I still love all of her books and I will wait how ever long it takes for the next book to come out. Every author has that one book, therefore I haven't given up on Sarah. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Absolute Must-Read By EmmiR5 All of Sarah Dessen's books make their way into a special place in my heart. There is a reason she is my favorite author: her stories don't even feel like stories at all they feel real. With the first line in the first chapter of each book, I am pulled in and I experience the story right alongside the characters, instead of observing them from the outside. I become part of that world, part of that journey, and I live, learn, and grow just like everyone else. There's none of that Oh-I-remember-experiencing-something-like-that-way-back-when or This-reminds-me-of-the-time-I There is just me. Right then. Experiencing everything right as it happens, not missing a beat. That's why, whenever the story comes to an end, I always feel a sense of hope: I know it isn't the end, but the beginning of the next chapter. I always cry, because the lessons learned are my own. And I always breathe a sense of relief, knowing that, in one way or another, I've grown. I don't know how to explain it, but Dessen just has a magical way with words.

Whenever I finish one of her books, I am so overcome with emotion that I am at a loss for words. I feel like I can never do her justice in describing just how amazing her stories are. All I can say is that I love them. Every word, every struggle, every moment of joy all of it. The moments are my own part of my own life and I am always grateful for every one of them. I'm sure that if I really sat down and thought about it, I could think of parts of every story that were my favorite. But it truly seems that I love each book *that* much more than the last. Perhaps it is because the experiences have helped me grow, and I've learned how to appreciate each moment more than the last. You could say I'm sentimental, but it isn't just that. I have grown up reading Dessen's novels. They each mark a specific moment in my own personal life. I've walked alongside each character, learning from their mistakes as though they were my own. At the same time, I've learned my own mistakes. Each book has truly become a significant part of my life. You could even say that each chapter represents one chapter of my life. There is something magical about Dessen's books: somehow, no matter how much I grow, each new book seems to be exactly what I need, hitting shelves at the exact moment I need it. That is the magic of Sarah Dessen: you know that you can always count on her to be there for you when you need someone the most. ***This story, like all of Dessen's others, is truly beautiful. I love the fact that her stories are more than just coming-of-age stories or cute stories about a boy and a girl. *The Moon and More* isn't about a summer fling, or the boy-next-door. It's about Emaline. Her friends, her family, her complete journey. Her mistakes, her triumphs, her successes and failures. Her fears and beliefs. Her life. And 21 chapters that amount to just one part of her journey. A journey that we share with her one that becomes our own. *The Moon and More* is real. Pure. It isn't a fairytale where everything always comes up roses. It's better than that: it's a real telling of what it is like to truly experience life. The good, the bad, and everything in between. Everything that we know we need in order for life to be just what it should be: wonderful.

A New York Times bestseller Luke is the perfect boyfriend: handsome, kind, fun. He and Emaline have been together all through high school in Colby, the beach town where they both grew up. But now, in the summer before college, Emaline wonders if perfect is good enough. Enter Theo, a super-ambitious outsider, a New Yorker assisting on a documentary film about a reclusive local artist. Theo's sophisticated, exciting, and, best of all, he thinks Emaline is much too smart for Colby. Emaline's mostly-absentee father, too, thinks Emaline should have a bigger life, and he's convinced that an Ivy League education is the only route to realizing her potential. Emaline is attracted to the bright future that Theo and her father promise. But she also clings to the deep roots of her loving mother, stepfather, and sisters. Can she ignore the pull of the happily familiar world of Colby? Emaline wants the moon and more, but how can she balance where she comes from with where she's going? Sarah Dessen's devoted fans will welcome this story of romance, yearning, and, finally, empowerment. It could only happen in the summer. Completely engaging, infused with moments of sweetness, humor and major epiphanies. Kirkus Reviews Also by Sarah Dessen: Along for the Ride Dreamland Just Listen Keeping the Moon Lock and Key Someone Like You That Summer This Lullaby The Truth About Forever What Happened to Goodbye

From School Library Journal Gr 9 Up-Dessen aims for the Moon with her latest novel and manages the landing quite wonderfully. Readers looking for a story as warm and real as *The Truth About Forever* (Viking, 2004) need look no further. Emaline works hard, both in school and at her family's realty office with three generations of women handling beach-vacation rentals in the small southern town of Colby. Her efforts get her accepted to Columbia, but when her birth father, back in her life after being absent for 10 years, suddenly and inexplicably withdraws his offer of substantial help, she has to settle for a less-prestigious school just two hours away. One advantage: her boyfriend, Luke, will also be there. Summer starts off normally: her dad, the one who married her teenaged mother and adopted Emaline years ago, is still fixing up their house; her older stepsister is bossing her around at work; and Em is passing out keys and towels and hanging around with her best friends, Daisy and Morris. Characters are crafted with care to be whole and realistic, so readers will be immersed when Emaline meets the New Yorkers who rent a mansion for the summer to make a documentary about local character Clyde, once quite a big deal on the art scene. Theo, the filmmaker's cute assistant, seems smitten with Emaline; and when Luke indulges in clubbing with a pretty tourist, the dream couple breaks up, enabling Emaline to spend some time with someone new. Complications romantic and familial help crystallize the strength in Emaline as her understanding transitions from youth to adulthood.-Suzanne Gordon, Lanier High School, Sugar Hill, GA(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. From Booklist Emaline is on that precipice familiar to most new high-school grads: knowing where you come from, anticipating where you're heading, and struggling to reconcile the two. She's a lifer in the small beach town of Colby (the setting of two of Dessen's previous novels), comfortable with her longtime boyfriend, Luke, her chaotic blended family, and a job at Colby Realty. But when NYU student Theo and his boss arrive to film a documentary about reclusive local artist Clyde Conaway and Emaline's biological father and half brother come to town, summer takes unexpected twists. On the same day that it's over with Luke, Emaline kisses Theo; but is he just a summer fling, or could he be something more? Dessen returns to familiar crowd-pleasing territory here, offering up perfect beach weather, plenty of romance, and a capable protagonist coming to terms with change. As always, she explores YA-relatable themes, from divorce to absentee parents, in nuanced and thought-provoking ways (You think it's all obvious and straightforward, this world. But really, it's all in who's doing the looking). Fans will be waiting; after all, it's not summer without Dessen. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: A national author tour and major media campaign ensure that this is as well received as Dessen's previous best-selling titles. Grades 8-12. --Ann Kelley "Dessen is as skilled as ever at turning out steady, satisfying stories about teens that are easy to fall for." Publishers Weekly, starred review "Completely engaging, infused with moments of sweetness, humor and major epiphanies." Kirkus s Quintessential Dessen The Horn Book