

## **The Rest of the Story**

**Sarah Dessen**

**Reviewed by: Haasini Tatti, 14**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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Emma's life was going great, she was going to stay with her friend while her newly married Dad and Stepmom were going on a honeymoon and her grandmother was going on a cruise, but Emma's friend had an emergency and Emma couldn't stay over. Plans had to be changed, and Emma didn't want to ruin her Dad's honeymoon and her Nana's vacation so she went to stay with her other grandma, her mother's mom. Emma hadn't been to the lake where her family lived, since she was four, and couldn't really go once her mother died from overdosing, so the time there was great to catch up with relatives and friends that she hadn't talked to in years. When she arrives, she realises how much she had missed, how much her mother didn't tell her in her stories about the lake. She realises how her name, her real name, Emma Saylor plays a big part. Meeting her cousins, aunts, and grandparents, she realizes that she isn't just Emma, but maybe Saylor? Lost between two worlds, Emma doesn't know what to do as she learns more about her heritage and where she's really from.

This book represents finding yourself and understanding who you really are. The character development in this book is quite prominent and needed as not just Emma, but others around her find out who they are, and find out how to accept things that might be different. Trinity, one of Emma's cousins, has lots of character development which readers, like myself, really enjoy. I also enjoyed how Dessen implemented the importance of settings and which side of the lake the story takes place on. Something else I really liked and know that the other readers have or will like is how Emma slowly realises how she is Saylor and how much of her life she missed. Her self-journey is something that inspired me and was primarily why I really loved the book.

*The Rest of the Story* by Sarah Dessen is a great coming of age novel for young adults. Those interested in realistic fiction and contemporary books might enjoy this book. It is a great read for those of ages 12 to 17 as I believe it is appropriate enough for pre-teens and young teenagers but is still interesting for older teenagers. The story is mainly about needing to choose a side in your life and can be related by many as the two sides may not be rich and average, but two different cultures, or two different families. I believe this is a great book to gift to teenagers as it might cheer them up on a bad day.

### **Recommended Titles:**

Once and for All by Sarah Dessen

That Summer by Sarah Dessen

The Loneliest Girl in the Universe by Lauren James

Tweet Cute by Emma Lord