

The Truth About Forever

Sarah Dessen

Reviewed by: Chi Mai, 16

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

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Forever isn't a sound concept to sixteen-year-old Macy Queen. Her dad had died while going for a run, and since then, she has been trying to be perfect. As she sees it, perfection will overshadow her grief and guilt for not going along when her dad had asked her to join him. Then one night during her mother's open house event, Macy is asked to check in on the catering crew. Inside the kitchen, a chaotic scene greets Macy, one that she ends up helping to contain. Macy finds that she can be someone other than "the girl whose dad died" with the crew and begins working with them. The members—Delia, Monica, Kristy, Bert, and Wes—grow to be her friends. However, she becomes the closest with Wes, whose nature and experiences let Macy shed the mold that she's forced herself into. As summer goes by, Macy's time with the crew and her changing relationship with her quietly-grieving mother and emotionally-absent boyfriend all come together to show that forever does in fact have a truth to it.

One of the reasons why I love Sarah Dessen's books so much is because I can always count on them to have a happy ending. They're predictable in that way and many more, but her books still have substance. *The Truth About Forever* is no exception. Dessen does a beautiful job of outlining what grief can do to people and how different it is for everyone while still maintaining a lighthearted, touching, and funny-at-times atmosphere. She also writes well-developed characters and realistic relationships. Macy is probably the first protagonist I've read who actively tries to be perfect instead of rejecting the label even though everyone else describes her as such. I loved her interactions with the catering crew, especially those with Wes. Their friendship was sweet and exactly what Macy needed. I just wished their eventual romance could've been more detailed.

This is a great read for when you just need to get away from more intense subjects. I've actually reread this several times, and I never get tired of it. There's not a lot of action, but there are plenty of feels. It's what I call a "filler book," one that keeps you entertained and helps you forget about more stressful things for a while. I'd recommend this for readers ages 14 and up.

Recommended Titles

Amy & Roger's Epic Detour by Morgan Matson

The Rest of the Story by Sarah Dessen

Just Listen by Sarah Dessen