

### **Abuse: Physical & Psychological**

*Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson

*Wonder When You'll Miss Me* by Amanda David

*Skinny* by Ibi Kaslik

*Leslie's Journal* by Allan Stratton

*Every Time a Rainbow Dies* by Rita Williams-Garcia

### **Love & Romance**

*Boy Proof* by Cecil Castellucci

*Better than Running at Night* by Hillary Frank

*The Summer I Turned Pretty* by Jenny Han

*13 Little Blue Envelopes* by Maureen Johnson

*Rock Star Superstar* by Blake Nelson

*Something, Maybe* by Elizabeth Scott

*What My Mother Doesn't Know* by Sonya Sones

### **Pregnancy & Teen Parents**

*Borrowed Light* by Anna Fienberg

*Get it While Its Hot. Or Not.* By Valerie Hobbs

*Dancing Naked* by Shelley Hrdlitschka

## **Who is Sarah Dessen?**

Sarah Dessen first made her mark on young adult publishing in 1996 with *That Summer*. Since then many of her books have been recognized for their character-driven plots and relevance in addressing issues that affect teenagers. Her works have been recognized by the American Library Associations' Best Books for Young Adults and have appeared on the *New York Times'* Bestseller List.

[www.sarahdessen.com](http://www.sarahdessen.com)

### **Moore Memorial Public Library**

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Phone: 409.643.5977

Website: [www.texascity-library.org](http://www.texascity-library.org)

Moore Memorial Public Library

## **Sarah Dessen's Stories and Other Similar Novels**



July 2009



## Sarah Dessen's Stories and Other Similar Novels

### Her Novels

#### ***Along for the Ride (2009)***

Auden realizes she missed out on a lot during high school. During her last summer before going off to university, Auden visits Colby, a beach town, which exposes her to a whole new world of "girl": gossip, boys, and friendship. Auden suffers from insomnia and spends her nights driving around. These all-night adventures eventually lead to a friendship with Eli, who also suffers from insomnia. Both have obstacles they need to overcome, and during the summer they learn to rely on one another and face the things that may hold them back from living the lives they desire.

#### ***Lock & Key (2008)***

Ruby's mother abandoned her, so she has to go live with her estranged older sister and brother-in-law, who are able to provide her a life she never had. However, Ruby is reluctant and defensive about embracing her new life.

#### ***Just Listen (2006)***

Annabel's real life is not as picture perfect as the character she plays on TV. Her struggles with her former best friend and at home has her feeling desperate and alone. Annabel meets Owen Armstrong, the handsome musician with incredible truth-telling abilities. He just might be the remedy to all her problems.

#### ***The Truth about Forever (2004)***

Macy dreads summer because her boyfriend is away and she has to work at the library shelving books. One night she meet the Wish catering

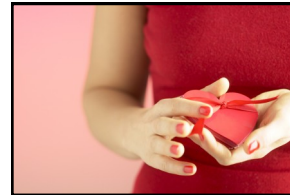
crew, including the artsy Wes, who changes her perspective on the summer and life afterward.

#### ***This Lullaby (2002)***

Remy is afraid of relationships based on her mother's track record. Her mom is working on husband #5. So instead she focuses on school and her future. When Dexter, a musician who rolls at the beat of his own drum, comes into her life, Remy's world is rocked.

#### ***Dreamland (2000)***

16-yr-old Caitlin falls for Rogerson, who seems perfect on the surface. However, she soon discovers his dark side and becomes a victim of his abuse.



#### ***Keeping the Moon (1999)***

Colie was once chubby and remains insecure. While summering with her aunt Colie learns to love herself and the true meaning of friendship.

#### ***Someone Like You (1998)***

Halley and Scarlett are best friends. Halley, has always been in the shadow of Scarlett's personality. When Scarlett's boyfriend is killed in an accident and then finds out she is pregnant, Halley emerges from the shadows and demonstrates her strength as a friend.

#### ***That Summer (1996)***

Haven's future is looking grim. At 15 Haven is almost 6 feet tall, her father is remarrying, and her older sister, Ashley, is also planning her wedding. She longs for the past until Ashley's old boyfriend shows up and help Haven work through her past to move toward her future.

### If you like Sarah Dessen try these books:

#### ***Identity, Image, & Coming of Age***

***The Fire-Eaters* by David Almon**

***Catalyst* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

***Harley, like a Person* by Cat Bauer**

***Boy Proof* by Cecil Castellucci**

***A Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly**

***Who am I without Him?: short-stories about girls and boys in their lives* by Sharon G. Flake**

***The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things* by Carolyn Mackler**

***Sloppy Firsts* by Megan McCafferty**

***All Rivers Flow to the Sea* by Alison McGhee**

***The Shell House* by Linda Newberry**

***Tribute to Another Dead Rock Star* by Randy Powell**

***Lucy the Giant* by Sherri L. Smith**

***What's in a Name?* by Ellen Wittlinger**

