

What Happened to Goodbye

Sarah Dessen

Reviewed by: Anika 16

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

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McLean has been moving town to town ever since her parent's divorce. At each town she has assumed different identities, wiping the slate clean every time. McLean's life was intact when her parents were together, but her sense of self fell apart after her mother had an affair with a famous basketball coach. And now McLean has moved to a new town with her father. She meets and befriends new people without realizing. Like when she stumbled into Dave, the very person who could help McLean find her true identity.

What Happened to Goodbye was certainly a story about one's identity. Dessen does an amazing job crafting a cast of characters and the relationships between them. All of which contribute to how the different characters get to know each other and form strong bonds. Dessen allows the reader to discover new things about each character every step of the way. For me especially, I enjoyed the family dynamic between McLean and her mother. I also noticed that Sarah Dessen uses much detail to wow the readers.

Despite that, there are some things readers may not enjoy. I find this story to be incredibly long and slow to build. Dessen's attention to detail and description is great, but it was rather overwhelming in this book. Bad language, alcohol, and intimacy are present in the story. But these elements are rather minimal compared to other books. Which is why I recommend this book for anyone 12 years or older. Sarah Dessen's coming of age novel would make a great gift for teens everywhere.

Recommended Titles:

Just Listen by Sarah Dessen

The Truth about Forever by Sarah Dessen

Saint Anything by Sarah Dessen

This Lullaby by Sarah Dessen