Saint Anything
Sarah Dessen
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For all her life, Sydney has been in the background, within her brother Peyton's shadow. When Peyton gets himself arrested after his drunken driving accident injured a boy, Sydney finds herself pushed to the side as everyone obsesses over her brother's wellbeing. Sydney feels invisible being the only one grieving for the injured boy. By moving to a new school, Sydney gets the fresh start she has been longing for. Things get better for Sydney when she meets the Chathams, a supportive family running a pizza parlor. She befriends Layla and Mac Chatham, both of whom have finally given her the life she's been hoping for as she tries to find her place in the world.

Saint Anything is a sweet and heartfelt romance story from Sarah Dessen. She explores the depth of difficult and complicated relationships, particularly amongst Sarah's friends and family. Dessen does a great job illustrating the damage done by alcohol and drug use. Her characters are well crafted, having their own preferences, unique traits, and quirks, so I applaud Sarah Dessen on her well-made characters. Teens will connect to and appreciate the positive and negative aspects in this cast of relatable characters. The narrative is smooth flowing and well written, with the plot naturally unfolding at a steady pace.

On the other hand, readers will have to watch out for the mentions of sex, bad language, and minor violence. Saint Anything also came off as a rather unimaginative and underwhelming read. I had trouble feeling anything for the characters in this rather long and boring story. For these reasons, I would suggest this book to anyone 13 years or older. Saint Anything would make an amazing gift for teenagers and fans of romance and coming of age novels.

Recommended Titles:
Just Listen by Sarah Dessen
The Truth About Forever by Sarah Dessen
Along for the Ride by Sarah Dessen
The Lullaby by Sarah Dessen
Lock and Key by Sarah Dessen