

This Lullaby

Sarah Dessen

Reviewed By: Stella Ho, 15

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

www.bethestaryouare.org

Eighteen-year old Remy Starr has always had a very cynical view on love. She's watched her mother go through four failed marriages, now preparing for her fifth, and this history of broken hearts hasn't helped change her beliefs one bit. Although she does date (in fact, she's notorious for dumping guys), Remy has never once met a boy that can prove her wrong. No boy has ever taught her how love is something special.

Then she meets Dexter. He persistently tries to ask her out, and she refuses at first, but ends up agreeing to date him later in the book. He's disorganized, a klutz, overly optimistic, and the complete opposite of Remy's ideal type. Even worse, he reminds Remy of her late father, a musician who never met her but wrote a famous song for her. So what is it about Dexter that she likes? Why is she breaking all her rules for him? Remy had a plan. She and her best friends agreed to date their way through the summer with "casual flings". Come August, she'd head off across the country to college without anything holding her back. Dexter wasn't a plan of her plans, and she knows she should just break up with him. The sooner the better. That way, no one gets hurt. But maybe there's something different about this boy, and this relationship. Could she possibly be in love?

I enjoyed how honest *This Lullaby* was, how realistic and relatable the characters were. Though Remy thinks of herself as a girl with a cold, hard heart, she's actually, in Dexter's words, "sweet". She's thoughtful and caring for her friends and family and likes Dexter a lot more than she'd admit. Remy's journey to discovering love and the benefits of risk-taking is an amazing story and I highly recommend this book. Though it's targeted more toward teenage girls, I think anyone could read it and learn a thing or two about life.

Recommended Books:

Along For The Ride by Sarah Dessen

The Truth About Forever by Sarah Dessen

Second Chance Summer by Morgan Matson

Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell