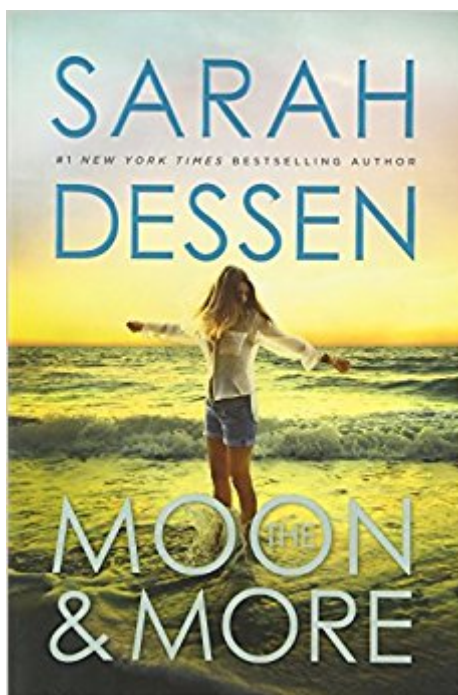


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# The Moon And More



## Synopsis

From the award-winning and New York Times bestselling author of *Once and for All* In her eleventh novel, Sarah Dessen returns to the beach town of Colby, setting of some of her best-loved books. Emaline is a Colby native, and so summer at the beach for her means hard work and a new population of beach goers. During this, her last summer before college, Emaline meets Theo while working for her family's rental business. He's a city boy who's come to Colby as the assistant to a high-strung documentary filmmaker who's in town to profile a reclusive local artist. Emaline knows he's not her type, but she can't help feeling drawn to him. And as their relationship develops, Emaline finds herself questioning her own goals, values, and choices in this classic Dessen romance. Sarah Dessen is the winner of the Margaret A. Edwards Award for her contributions to YA literature, as well as the Romantic Times Career Achievement Award. Books by Sarah Dessen: *That Summer* *Someone Like You* *Keeping the Moon* *Dreamland* *This Lullaby* *The Truth About Forever* *Just Listen* *Lock and Key* *Along for the Ride* *What Happened to Goodbye* *The Moon and More* *Saint Anything* *Once and for All*

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: HL710L (What's this?)

Paperback: 464 pages

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Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 279 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #36,203 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Film #122 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts #152 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-Dessen aims for the Moon with her latest novel and manages the landing quite wonderfully.

Readers looking for a story as warm and real as *The Truth About Forever* (Viking, 2004) need look no further. Emaline works hard, both in school and at her family's realty office with three generations of women handling beach-vacation rentals in the small southern town of Colby. Her efforts get her accepted to Columbia, but when her birth father, back in her life after being absent for 10 years, suddenly and inexplicably withdraws his offer of substantial help, she has to settle for a less-prestigious school just two hours away. One advantage: her boyfriend, Luke, will also be there. Summer starts off normally: her dad, the one who married her teenaged mother and adopted Emaline years ago, is still fixing up their house; her older stepsister is bossing her around at work; and Em is passing out keys and towels and hanging around with her best friends, Daisy and Morris. Characters are crafted with care to be whole and realistic, so readers will be immersed when Emaline meets the New Yorkers who rent a mansion for the summer to make a documentary about local character Clyde, once quite a big deal on the art scene. Theo, the filmmaker's cute assistant, seems smitten with Emaline; and when Luke indulges in clubbing with a pretty tourist, the dream couple breaks up, enabling Emaline to spend some time with someone new. Complications romantic and familial help crystallize the strength in Emaline as her understanding transitions from youth to adulthood. -Suzanne Gordon, Lanier High School, Sugar Hill, GA (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Emaline is on that precipice familiar to most new high-school grads: knowing where you come from, anticipating where you're heading, and struggling to reconcile the two. She's a lifer in the small beach town of Colby (the setting of two of Dessen's previous novels), comfortable with her longtime boyfriend, Luke, her chaotic blended family, and a job at Colby Realty. But when NYU student Theo and his boss arrive to film a documentary about reclusive local artist Clyde Conaway and Emaline's biological father and half brother come to town, summer takes unexpected twists. On the same day that it's over with Luke, Emaline kisses Theo; but is he just a summer fling, or could he be something more? Dessen returns to familiar crowd-pleasing territory here, offering up perfect beach weather, plenty of romance, and a capable protagonist coming to terms with change. As always, she explores YA-relatable themes, from divorce to absentee parents, in nuanced and thought-provoking ways (œYou think it's all obvious and straightforward, this world. But really, it's all in who's doing the looking •). Fans will be waiting; after all, it's not summer without Dessen. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: A national author tour and major media campaign ensure that this is as well received as Dessen's previous best-selling titles.

Grades 8-12. --Ann Kelley --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I struggled with what to write in my review of *The Moon and More* for a long time. I have been a fan of Dessen for many years. I have been reading her novels since I was in high school, and even now, as an adult, I look forward to the releases of all of her novels. I have long since considered her one of my favorite authors, and definitely one of the most talented YA authors I've ever read. That is why I was so disappointed with *The Moon and More*. Overall, I found it to be my least favorite of Dessen's novels. The characters were weak and overly written. I found myself forgetting the names of main characters and getting confused throughout the book. I struggled with what Dessen was trying to portray in Emaline's relationship with Theo. For 3/4 of the book I was extremely upset because I believed that I was supposed to like Theo, when I really did not. I think that my lack of enjoyment of *The Moon and More* stems from the fact that this is not "just another Sarah Dessen novel." Without giving away the plot and ending, I will say that this book does not follow the same pattern as her other books. While I commend her for trying to change, I found it to be too confusing because I didn't realize that she was trying to change it up until I was 90% done with the book. If you are going to go for a change, go big. This book had too similar of a beginning to her other books, thus causing confusion from this reader. The book IS well written, however. It does stay up to par in that area. I was able to find the same humor that I usually find in her novels, and found myself laughing out loud at the situations Emaline got herself into. And I now find myself randomly using the line, "that's so crackers" in day-to-day conversations, which is the catch phrase of Emaline's BFF Morris. And as always, I did enjoy Dessen's Easter egg references to previous characters from her other books. Although she didn't answer the one question I am dying to know- are Auden and Eli still together!? :) I guess I'll just have to use my imagination on that one. Overall, I think that new readers of Sarah Dessen will enjoy this book for its well written dialogue, ingesting plot, and humorous writing. Old readers of Dessen, however, may find it lacking something that is hard to put a finger on.

I'm a huge fan of Sarah Dessen. She has been my favorite author ever since I picked up *Someone Like You* 5 years ago. The stories are always riveting....except for this one. I've had such high hopes for the book. The summary only moved the pedestal I placed for this book just a little higher. I'm not going to write a summary but be warned, this will have spoilers. I loved that the story started off with Emaline being in a relationship. That was a nice refresher. And the whole twist of how they realized that maybe they weren't meant to be together was a nice touch. I was kind of mad at how

they broke up. I felt as though Emaline and Luke were giving up way too easily. But that only added to the fact that they weren't truly in love with each other. Then there's Theo. I wasn't exactly a big fan of his character. I didn't mind him but I was actually more for Luke than I was for Theo. I thought it was cute that he was a nerd who never really got to be a kid. His character just wasn't what I expected. And I wasn't a big fan of the relationship between Emaline and Theo. Not what I was expecting, and I don't mean that in a good way. All and all, this story was boring. Usually when I read a Dessen book for the first time, I'm completely indulged in the work until I'm done. The better the book, the faster I can read it. I've read some of her books in a day before. But this? Well for one, I started to read it about two weeks ago, and I'm only at 83%. I just couldn't take it. The story was very boring and uninteresting. I still love all of her books and I will wait how ever long it takes for the next book to come out. Every author has that one book, therefore I haven't given up on Sarah.

All of Sarah Dessen's books make their way into a special place in my heart. There is a reason she is my favorite author: her stories don't even feel like stories at all—they feel real. With the first line in the first chapter of each book, I am pulled in and I experience the story right alongside the characters, instead of observing them from the outside. I become part of that world, part of that journey, and I live, learn, and grow just like everyone else. There's none of that "Oh-I-remember-experiencing-something-like-that-way-back-when" or "This-reminds-me-of-the-time-I" There is just me. Right then. Experiencing everything right as it happens, not missing a beat. That's why, whenever the story comes to an end, I always feel a sense of hope: I know it isn't the end, but the beginning of the next chapter. I always cry, because the lessons learned are my own. And I always breathe a sense of relief, knowing that, in one way or another, I've grown. I don't know how to explain it, but Dessen just has a magical way with words. Whenever I finish one of her books, I am so overcome with emotion that I am at a loss for words. I feel like I can never do her justice in describing just how amazing her stories "OUR stories" truly are. All I can say is that I love them. Every word, every struggle, every moment of joy | all of it. The moments are my own "part of my own life" and I am always grateful for every one of them. I'm sure that if I really sat down and thought about it, I could think of parts of every story that were my favorite. But it truly seems that I love each book \*that\* much more than the last. Perhaps it is because the experiences have helped me grow, and I've learned how to appreciate each moment more than the last. You could say I'm sentimental, but it isn't just that. I have grown up reading Dessen's novels. They each mark a specific moment in my own

personal life. I've walked alongside each character, learning from their mistakes as though they were my own. At the same time, I've learned my own mistakes. Each book has truly become a significant part of my life. You could even say that each chapter represents one chapter of my life. There is something magical about Dessen's books: somehow, no matter how much I grow, each new book seems to be exactly what I need, hitting shelves at the exact moment I need it. That is the magic of Sarah Dessen: you know that you can always count on her to be there for you when you need someone the most.\*\*\*This story, like all of Dessen's others, is truly beautiful. I love the fact that her stories are more than just coming-of-age stories or cute stories about a boy and a girl. The Moon and More isn't about a summer fling, or the boy-next-door. It's about Emaline. Her friends, her family, her complete journey. Her mistakes, her triumphs, her successes and failures. Her fears and beliefs. Her life. And 21 chapters that amount to just one part of her journey. A journey that we share with her—one that becomes our own. The Moon and More is real. Pure. It isn't a fairytale where everything always comes up roses. It's better than that: it's a real telling of what it is like to truly experience life. The good, the bad, and everything in between. Everything that we know we need in order for life to be just what it should be: wonderful.

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