

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin purple lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming distinct geometric shapes like triangles and polygons. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

The Rest of the Story

Written by Sarah Dessen

Published by sanmarco-sf

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The Rest of the Story

By Sarah Dessen

The Rest Of The Story

Emma Saylor doesn't remember a lot about her mother, who died when she was ten. But she does remember the stories her mom told her about the big lake that went on forever, with cold, clear water and mossy trees at the edges.

The Rest Of The Story Sarah Dessen

Now it's just Emma and her dad, and life is good, if a little predictable, until Emma is unexpectedly sent to spend the summer with her mother's family—her grandmother and cousins she hasn't seen since she was a little girl.

The Rest Of Our Life

When Emma arrives at North Lake, she realizes there are actually two very different communities there. Her mother grew up in working class North Lake, while her dad spent summers in the wealthier Lake North resort. The more time Emma spends there, the more it starts to feel like she is divided into two people as well. To her father, she is Emma. But to her new family, she is Saylor, the name her mother always called her.

The Rest Of The Owl

Then there's Roo, the boy who was her very best friend when she was little. Roo holds the key to her family's history, and slowly, he helps her put the pieces together about her past. It's hard not to get caught up in the magic of North Lake—and Saylor finds herself falling under Roo's spell as well.

The Rest Of Us

For Saylor, itâ€™s like a whole new world is opening up to her. But when itâ€™s time to go back home, which side of her will win out?

If you'll all excuse me, I'll be over here, being Sarah Dessen trash for my whole entire life

The Rest Of My Life

The Queen of YA contemporaries has a new book coming out?

You bet I'm gonna read it. :)

You can make life, or life can make you!

The Rest of the Story, by Sarah Dessen, will likely land as one of my favorite reads this year. That's a bold statement because we haven't even hit the mid-year mark, and I've read over 50 books. However, as my reading buddies can attest to, it hasn't been a good year. So, thank you Dessen for coming out with a story I can fall right into and feel like I'm walking alongside family and friends. This is such a great book because Dessen does what she's best at: You can make life, or life can make you!

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Emma Saylor is on her way to spend a few weeks in North Lake with her estranged family. After the death of her mom, Emma hasn't been around to see her maternal grandmother, aunt or cousins in many years. During her time there, she becomes reacquainted with Jack, Bailey, Roo and Trinity. The relationships are strained at first because of her time away and the fact that her father, who originally comes from Lake North, which is the affluent side of town, have highlighted how different she is and how sheltered her father has kept her from her mother's past and family. During her time at North Lake, she uncovers her history and confronts her father with her decision to stay connected with her North Lake family and friends. Emma Saylor is definitely one of Dessen's more mature and relatable characters. She is extremely loyal to her paternal grandmother and father, as well as, her new step-mom. I loved the way she handled stressful and new situations, especially because there was an under-current of some of her struggles with anxiety. Emma had a quiet strength about her that I loved so much.

There were so many secondary characters that added a meaningful layer of how loyalty, love and support runs deep and is the key to what makes solid friendships and a strong family.

Overall, I have to say that I highly recommend The Rest of the Story by Sarah Dessen, especially if you're struggling to find a novel with meaning, depth and soul. This one was a hit in my opinion.

...more

The Rest Of The Week

Aw, loved this. Classic Dessen featuring some of her most beloved and familiar themes and a new setting - if you want my complete break-down, check out my review here on [Jen Ryland Reviews!](#)

Thanks to the publisher for providing an advance copy for review!

Read more of my reviews on [JenRyland.com!](#) Check out my [Bookstagram!](#)

It's always a good idea to read one of Sarah Dessen's books. They always bring a smile to my face and make me feel like everything will be okay.

One of the things Dessen excels in is writing about different family dynamics. I kind of wish we got to find out more about the family members because I was more invested into that storyline. Romance was...you know...predictable.

The Rest Of The Day

This was really good and perfect for summer. In the vein of past Dessen books, this one did not disappoint! I'd give it a 4.5!

I don't think that I have ever read a Dessen that I didn't enjoy. Her books are like food for me. Definitely perfect for fans of contemporary YA fiction. I think that The Rest of the Story is going to tug at some heart strings.

The Rest Of The Story Paul Harvey

Definitely among my favorite of Dessen's books. It is a little different in the sense it feels especially personal and explores life outside of one's previously-understood sense of self and place in the world. Emma Saylor's mother died of an opioid overdose and she's lived with her father since she was young. When her dad remarries and plans for Emma to stay with her best friend during his honeymoon falls through, she stays with the grandmother from her mother's side she only has ever met once.

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One of the things that really resonated with me was Dessen's depiction of anxiety in Emma. She's not an overly-anxious person, but her anxiety shows up in ways where she has to give up control of a desired outcome. Namely, she is terrified of traveling and driving -- the second being the thing that really worked well with the story and, I think, is something we don't see enough of in fiction but which is a reality in the teen world.

This book isn't set in Colby or Lakeview, but it is set in a new community (pair of communities, really) and explores class issues. Emma is firmly middle class while her mother's side of the family is working class, and the ways she learns how to fit in, as well as the ways she'll never really fit in, is done thoughtfully and realistically. There are some fun Dessen-world treats throughout, including Spinnerbait and more.

Dessen knows how to worldbuild in contemporary YA, and this is no exception. It was like curling up under the well-worn and always comfortable blanket. ...more

Probably more of a 4 star book overall but I had to bump it up to 5 because it made me so damn happy while I was reading it.

Listen, Sarah Dessen is the queen of teen for a reason - she writes solid books. I've probably read all of them and while I didn't love all of them, I at least enjoyed them while I was reading.

But this one.

I don't think I've liked a Sarah Dessen book this much since I read Lock & Key for the first time. And it wasn't just because Emma had major anxiety associated with d Probably more of a 4 star book overall but I had to bump it up to 5 because it made me so damn happy while I was reading it.

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I don't think I've liked a Sarah Dessen book this much since I read *Lock & Key* for the first time. And it wasn't just because Emma had major anxiety associated with driving and that is the most #relatable thing I've ever read. Everything was just so well paced and crafted, the characters were so rich and vibrant and I honestly couldn't pick a favourite out of the bunch no matter how hard you pressed me (except that its definitely Gordon). It was a quintessential Sarah Dessen summer romance slash characters discovering themselves while on a lake book and it just checked all my boxes.

The verdict is: I will be Sarah Dessen trash until the day I die, thanks for coming to my ted talk ...more