



Saint Anything

By Sarah Dessen

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A New York Times bestseller

A TIME Magazine Top 10 Children's Book of 2015

"*Saint Anything* is a poignant, honest story about how we might suffer the misfortune of someone else's bad choices, how people who love us can become family when we desperately need it, and how starting over might - miraculously - mean taking a solid leap forward." —**Jodi Picoult**, *New York Times* bestselling novelist of *Leaving Time* and *My Sister's Keeper*

Sydney has always felt invisible. She's grown accustomed to her brother, Peyton, being the focus of the family's attention and, lately, concern. Peyton is handsome and charismatic, but seems bent on self-destruction. Now, after a drunk-driving accident that crippled a boy, Peyton's serving some serious jail time, and Sydney is on her own, questioning her place in the family and the world.

Then she meets the Chatham family. Drawn into their warm, chaotic circle, Sydney experiences unquestioning acceptance for the first time. There's effervescent Layla, who constantly falls for the wrong guy, Rosie, who's had her own fall from grace, and Mrs. Chatham, who even though ailing is the heart of the family. But it's with older brother Mac—quiet, watchful, and protective—that Sydney finally feels seen, really seen, at last.

Saint Anything is Sarah Dessen's deepest and most psychologically probing novel yet, telling an engrossing story of a girl discovering friendship, love, and herself.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up—Sixteen-year-old Sydney has always felt overshadowed by her handsome, popular, and troubled older brother Peyton. Now, he is in prison for a drunk driving accident that paralyzed another teen boy, and despite his incarceration, Sydney finds her mother's only focus is Peyton and that her dad has pretty much checked out of any decision making. When Sydney decides to leave her expensive private school and go to the local public school, her parents agree to allow the change. After her first day of school, she stops by a pizza shop where she meets brother and sister Layla and Mac, whose father owns the shop. In the duo, Sydney finds much needed acceptance. In their mother, she discovers a person she can talk to who will listen and give her the advice she craves. Dessen delves deeply into family relationships and roles. Because of Peyton's actions, Sydney's family is unable to handle what has happened. Layla and Mac's family also has its problems with a wayward daughter and an ill mother, but instead of being torn apart, they have drawn closer together. The contrast between the two families—economically and in their ability to function—provides added tension. Although this work is darker than her other romances, the light and joy of first love, friendship, and self-discovery remain important aspects of the book. VERDICT Taut, tightly structured with well-rounded characters, this novel is sure to please Dessen's many fans and attract new ones.—Janet Hilbun, University of North Texas

Review

Praise for Sarah Dessen:

"Sarah Dessen is something of a rock star in young adult fiction. Her bestselling coming-of-age novels are warmly written explorations of teens in transition that are, by turns, questioning, humorous and hopeful." -- "Los Angeles Times"

"Dessen is as skilled as ever at turning out steady, satisfying stories about teens that are easy to fall for." -- "Publishers Weekly," starred review for "The Moon and More"

"Readers can count on Dessen; she's a pro at creating characters caught at a nexus of change, who have broken relationships and who need to make decisions. . . Readers will enjoy every minute they spend with her." -- "Kirkus Reviews" on "What Happened to Goodbye"

"Realistic teen dialogue, authentic girl friendships, and a complex underlying question: Can people really change?" -- "Kirkus Reviews" on "Along for the Ride"

"Good story, real characters, happy ending. . . another must-read." -- "VOYA" on "Lock and Key"

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"A quiet marvel" "LA Times"

"The novel's strengths how it unpacks the perplexities of guilt, friendships, and family dynamics are what readers will remember." "Boston Globe"

*"Dessen delves deeper than ever into the complex dynamics of families suffering loss and confronting changes that upend everything. Once again, Dessen demonstrates her tremendous skill in evoking powerful emotions through careful, quiet prose, while delivering a satisfying romance. The author's many devotees are sure to enjoy this weighty addition to her canon." "Publishers Weekly," starred review

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"Sarah Dessen is the patron saint of realistic romance. . . we think "Saint Anything" might be one of her best ever." "Justine Magazine"

"In "Saint Anything," Dessen gives readers a sensitive and touching look at how loss can affect a family and the importance of finding those who support you, no matter what." Bookish

"Saint Anything" may seem like a quiet read at first, but remember what is said about still waters. What begins as a somber story, carefully narrated by a polite young woman, builds to a gripping and unexpected climax and a satisfying conclusion." "NY Journal of Books"

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"Clearly any new release from the queen of YA romance is going to be huge. But "Saint Anything" is exciting in its own right, focusing on the complicated bonds of family, particularly in the wake of tragedy and misfortune." Bustle

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"A heartfelt, appealing story." "RT Book Reviews"

"We love anything Sarah Dessen pens. . . ["Saint Anything"] explores how sometimes starting over is the best way to move forward." "Glitter Magazine"

"Dessen is a superstar of young adult literature, and "Saint Anything" (about finding friendship and finding yourself) has delighted (and added to) her legions of fans." "News & Observer"

"Dessen's characters are so vividly created their actions and emotions so genuinely authentic that it almost seems that Dessen has a psychological advantage in understanding our human condition." "Heroes & Heartbreakers"

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About the Author

Sarah Dessen is one of the most popular writers for young adults. She is the #1 "New York Times" bestselling author of many novels, which have received numerous awards and rave reviews, and have sold more than nine million copies. She lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, with her husband, Jay, and their daughter, Sasha Clementine. Visit her online at www.sarahdessen.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Timothy Bennington:

What do you concerning book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question because just their can do that will. It said that about book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this Saint Anything to read.

Debra Davis:

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