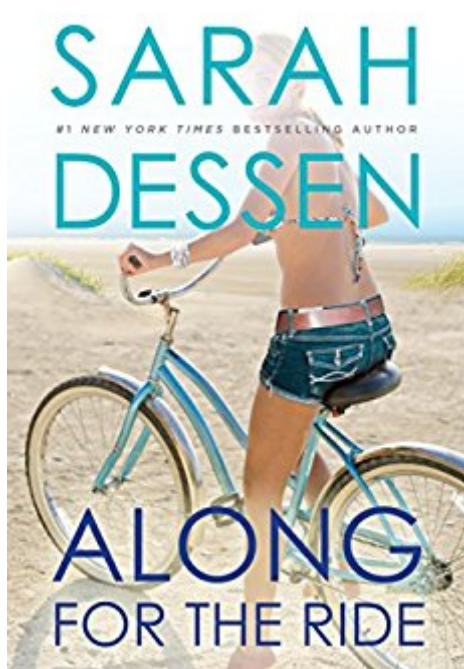


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# Along For The Ride



## Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller Up all night. Nights have always been Auden's time, her chance to escape everything that's going on around her. Then she meets Eli, a fellow insomniac, and he becomes her nocturnal tour guide. Now, with an endless supply of summer nights between them, almost anything can happen. . . . As with all Dessen's books, [this] is a must-have • "VOYA, starred review Also by Sarah Dessen: Dreamland Just Listen Keeping the Moon Lock and Key The Moon and More Someone Like You That Summer This Lullaby The Truth About Forever What Happened to Goodbye From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

File Size: 2749 KB

Print Length: 412 pages

Publisher: Speak (May 22, 2009)

Publication Date: June 16, 2009

Sold by: Penguin Group (USA) LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B002AU7MK4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #93,162 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #5 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce #8 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Marriage & Divorce #23 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Marriage & Divorce

## Customer Reviews

My first Sarah Dessen novel, so I finally get what everyone raves about. I can't even put it into words, there's just something smooth and unassuming about the writing. I was wary at first, b/c Auden is kind of a strange character who is a bit hard to relate to....wasn't sure if I was going to be able to get into it. And yet somehow I found myself up late into the night reading "just one more

chapter". It was the perfect summer coming-of-age tale. It had my required smidgeon of romance in it, but it was really just the story of how Auden grows over the course of one summer spent at her Dad's. Her parents just about put me through the roof....and yet I could see people who would behave that way. I wasn't sure I would get to a point where I forgave them their transgressions, but in the end they were just people, just flawed in a different way than I'm used to. I loved the relationship Auden builds with the 3 girls. I love that as weird and, well, socially awkward as she was, they still sort of absorbed her into their group. I LOVED that Maggie was not all she seemed to be....I felt like there were so many lessons for girls in that one character -- there was a line that I probably should have highlighted, something about how girls can be girly and feminine, but that doesn't have to be all that they are....obviously said way better than that. \*rolls eyes\* And needless to say, I LOVED the relationship that developed between Auden and Eli. I can't even put it into words. It was like two kindred souls finding each other, and learning about themselves in the meantime. Looks like I'm going to take advantage of this sale and pick up a few more Sarah Dessen novels. I'd been in a funk in my reading, and her voice was just what I needed to suck me back in to this reading world I love so much.

This is by far one of the cutest young adult love stories I've ever read. It's a great summer read that really pulls you into the book. I found myself laughing out loud at the dialog and couldn't help but fall head over heels for the characters. I would definitely read more from by this author and would recommend it to others.

Along for the Ride by Sarah Dessen made my flight to a conference in New Hampshire fly by! The interesting characters drew me into the realistic story line. One of Dessen's strengths is her use of dialogue in conjunction with everyday activities. Whether on the phone, walking along the street, or hanging out at work, each conversation provides insights into the cast of characters. Being an awkward nerd myself, I immediately empathizing with Auden. I even liked her name. Although the novel contained classic "coming of age" themes, there were enough unique aspects to hold my interest. I was particularly intrigued by the way Dessen brought Auden and Eli together through their late night exploits. The "it's never too late" theme is often applied in adult fiction with older characters, however Dessen did an effective job applying this concept to a teen character. From bowling to food fights, it was fun trying to anticipate what would be included on her list of activities. Of course I have a few complaints. For instance, the book cover is attractive, but just plain incorrect. It shows an old bike rather than the types described in the book. Also, Auden would not be

wearing that girly pink dress. Also, not being a coffee drinker myself, I found the ongoing references to coffee rather strange. I'm not sure if it's a regional or generational thing, however since all three of my grown children drink coffee I'm guessing it's another one of those things I missed out on as a teen. When reading this type of "summer at the beach" story, it's fun to have a sappy, happy ending. I wasn't disappointed.

There are several layers to this story, and I appreciated the depth in *Along for the Ride* that we don't get in all of Sarah Dessen's novels. Auden doesn't sleep "hasn't since before her parents divorced" and when she decides to spend the summer before college with her dad, his new wife, and their new born daughter, Auden meets fellow insomniac Eli. *Along for the Ride* has some of my favorite Dessen themes: female friendship, great tension between the MC and love interest, and a realistic protag. I remember relating to Auden when I was younger, because I was an insomniac and did everything I could to avoid sleeping. I loved, and still do, the idea of going on a mini-adventure every night while everyone else is sleeping. Like most of Sarah Dessen's books, the family dynamic is tense in this one, but Auden's parents felt so self-absorbed and pretentious, it infuriated me to read. Ultimately this was a middle of the road Dessen novel for me: not the best, not the worst, but overall somewhat forgettable when lumped in with the rest.

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