

# love & leftovers

*a novel in verse*

by sarah tregay

Publisher: Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins

Audience: 14+

ISBN: 978-0062023582

*"This first novel may make teenage readers' hearts beat a bit faster."*

– Booklist

*"...a realistic look at the emotional roller coaster that is first love."*

– School Library Journal, starred review

*"Amazing. The most delicious love story I've read in ages."*

– Lauren Myracle,  
NYT bestselling author of SHINE

*"A verse novel with real depth..."*

– Kirkus Reviews

## Summary

When her parents split, Marcie is dragged from Idaho to a family summerhouse in New Hampshire. She leaves behind her friends, a group of freaks and geeks called the Leftovers, including her emo-rocker boyfriend, and her father. By the time Labor Day rolls around, Marcie suspects this “vacation” has become permanent. She starts at a new school where a cute boy brings her breakfast and a new romance heats up.

But understanding love, especially when you’ve watched your parents’ affections end, is elusive. What does it feel like, really? can you even know it until you’ve lost it?

## Themes

Moving Away

Fitting In

Poetry

Love

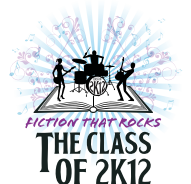
Relationships

Journaling

## Read-Aloud Suggestions:

**Pages 66 to 71:** J.D. asks Marcie to the homecoming dance and she doesn’t have a dress to wear.

**Pages 87 to 92:** Marcie is talking to her dad on the phone and tells him the story behind her new haircut.



### Discussion Questions

Marcie writes poems in her journal in order to make sense of the world around her. Do you journal? How does journaling make you feel? How would you feel if someone read your journal? Would you forgive her/him?

Does your school have a ‘caste system’ or is the concept of putting people in neat boxes a device used in literature and film? Are there Leftovers at your school? Or Floaters, like at Danny’s? What group are you in?

Marcie makes a big mistake. What is it? Did her actions make you not like her? Do you think other girls (or guys) you know would do the same thing? Would you?

Marcie writes notes to her friends when she’s angry. She doesn’t send them. Was this a good choice? Have you ever written notes/e-mails/texts you haven’t sent? What purpose do unsent notes serve (in *Love and Leftovers* or in your experience)?

Linus writes songs about Marcie to express his feelings. Sometimes Marcie gets the hint and other times she doesn’t. Miscommunication causes multiple problems in *Love and Leftovers*. Is there a moment in particular that you related to?

Have you read a novel in verse before? Are you a verse novel fan or not? Why or why not? Why do you think there are so many YA novels in verse?

The working title for *Love and Leftovers* was *Big Panties and Other Parachutes*. What title do you think fits the story best? Would you name the book something different?

### Author Bio

Raised without television, Sarah Tregay started writing her own middle grade novels after she had read all of the ones in the library. She later discovered teen books, but never did make it to the adult section. She lives in Eagle, Idaho with her husband, two Boston terriers and an appaloosa named Mr. Pots.

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