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love & leftovers

by sarah tregay



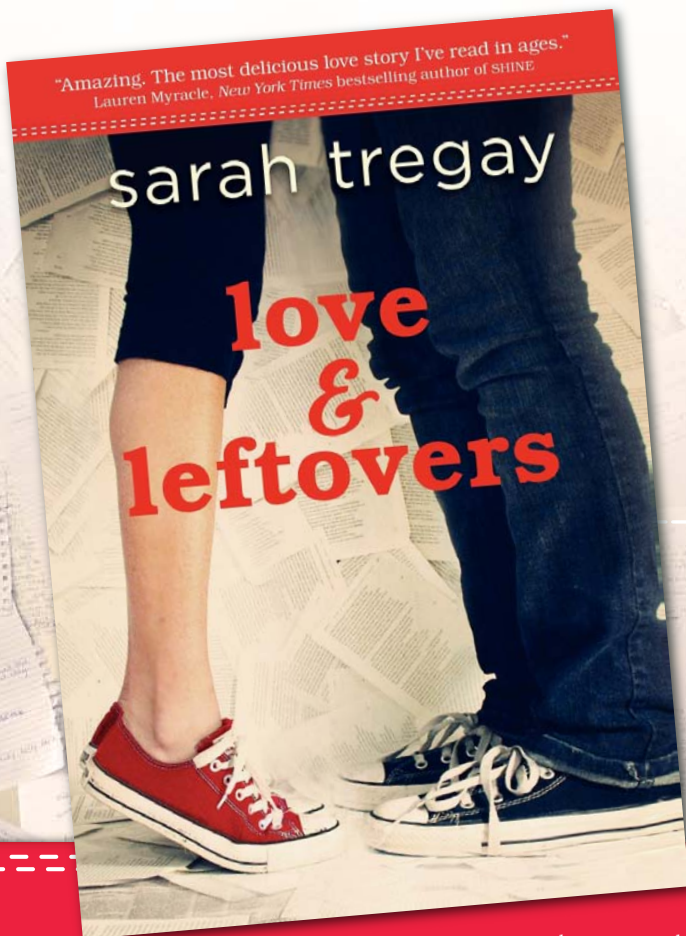
Raised without television, Sarah Tregay started writing her own middle grade novels after she had read all of the ones in the library. She later discovered YA books, but never did make it to the adult section. When she isn't jotting down poems at stoplights, she can be found hanging out with her "little sister" from Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Sarah lives in Eagle, Idaho with her husband, two Boston terriers, and an appaloosa named Mr. Pots.

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?

Love and Leftovers is a beautifully written story of one girl's journey navigating family, friends, and love, and a compelling and sexy read that teens will gobble up whole.



A verse novel with real depth to accompany all that white space.

— Kirkus Reviews, October 1, 2011

Although the words are simple, the themes of Love and Leftovers are not... It is worth the read.

— Ed Goldberg, VOYA, November 2011

Poems, IM conversations, and emo love songs make up Tregay's emotionally turbulent debut novel in verse... there's more than enough angst to go around, as Marcie rages against the decisions her parents have made, as well as her own.

— Publisher's Weekly, November 28, 2011

a novel in verse available in hardcover & e-book from
Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins
ISBN: 978-0062023582 • Ages 13 up/Grades 8 up

sarहतregay.com

an interview with sarah tregay

What, exactly, is a novel in verse?

A novel in verse is a complete story told in a series of poems. If you haven't read one yet, let me assure you that today's verse novels are nothing like the daunting epic poems that you probably read in high school English. Today's verse novels are more like fiction without the fat—you won't be reading about the hero's eyes or the best friend's perfect figure for the next ten minutes. You will be reading the heart of the story, the heartbeat of the characters' emotions, the pulse of the action.

Today's verse novels have made the *New York Times* bestseller list (Ellen Hopkins), won the Newbery (Karen Hesse), and just recently, the National Book Award (Thanhha Lai). Verse novels cover many genres, most falling into middle grade and young adult fiction, although there are a growing number of adult titles.

Why verse and not prose?

Many verse novels are character-driven, and the choice to write in verse is often influenced by the characters themselves. Mine is no different, when I first imagined my main character's voice, it was in little bursts—she wasn't a talker and didn't go on and on about everything. She also writes poems in her blue notebook, which plays a part in the plot.

Why young adult fiction?

I've always been interested in YA, perhaps because I read so much as a teenager—my parents didn't believe in television—or maybe because I never outgrew it. Fiction written for teens is fast paced, character driven, and never without heartfelt emotions. There's so much to love.

So, is there a local connection?

Yes, the second half of *Love and Leftovers* is set in Boise. My main character, Marcie, and her friends, the Leftovers, attend a fictionalized version of Boise High. When they skip school, they toss pennies in the fountain on Capitol Blvd., hang out in Julia Davis Park, and have lunch at Zeppole. And because Marcie's favorite food is pizza, she is, of course, a patron at Flying Pie.

HarperCollins is one of the big six, what was that journey like?

Five years of writing and four complete manuscripts had won me the prize of a three-ring binder filled with rejection letters. Then I met an editor at an Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators conference here in Boise and he requested the full manuscript of *Love and Leftovers*. At the same time, I had query letters out to agents. So when an agent wrote to request a full, I let her know about the editor's interest. She stayed up late to read manuscript and offered me representation.

My agent and I collaborated on changes to the manuscript, including rewriting the ending. We ended up with three offers from three great houses. In the end, we chose Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins.

Are you available for school and library visits?

Yes. I'd be happy to meet with small groups who have read *Love and Leftovers*. The best way for people to contact me is the e-mail form on my website, sarahtregay.com.

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