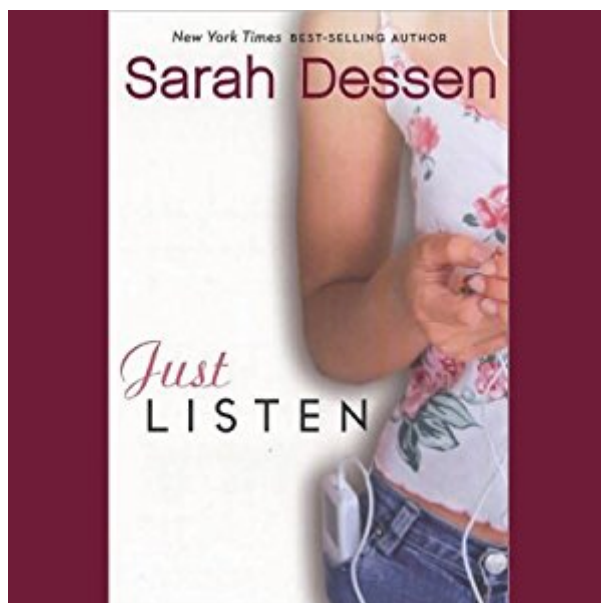


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# Just Listen



## Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller To find the truth you've got to be willing to hear it. When she's modeling, Annabel is the picture of perfection. But her real life is far from perfect. Fortunately, she's got Owen. He's intense, music-obsessed, and dedicated to always telling the truth. And most of all, he's determined to make Annabel happy. . . "This is young adult fiction at its best." • School Library Journal

Also by Sarah Dessen: *Along for the Ride* *Dreamland* *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* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours and 52 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: October 14, 2008

Language: English

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Best Sellers Rank: #23 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Music  
#136 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Siblings  
#197 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings

## Customer Reviews

How many white lies do you tell in a day? And why do you feel you need to lie to your friends, your family? Why say "I'm fine" when your really breaking apart inside? This is what this book addresses. Annabel is a girl who's stuck in the middle. She has a terrible secret which she desperately needs to tell, but she doesn't know how to. When her sister gets anorexic, Annabel needs to be the strong one. She needs to continue doing something she's beginning to despise to keep her mother happy and from falling apart. But Annabel realises that she is the one that is threatening to fall apart. When something terrible happens, she becomes an outcast at school. She's the hot topic among everyone around her, and those she thought she could trust are the ones running the rumour mill. But when Annabel starts talking to Owen, a music-obsessed, completely honest outcast like herself, Annabel begins to see the light. Don't think or judge, just listen. And

Owen slowly but surely helps Annabel confront her fears and face the light, holding her hand along the way. This is a very sweet, very light read. If you're looking for something to read that isn't part of a series and doesn't have any complicated plot or characters, this is the book to read. However I would recommend it to a younger age, maybe 13-14-15, as I did find that it was a little too young for me (19), but again, it was something I still enjoyed.

AMAZING!!! Of course Sarah Dessen strikes again. With one of her heartwarming novels that leave you with a good theme, good message and good read. I personally am in love with Sarah Dessen as they say "read once and fall in love." That was legit me, after I read "Lock and Key," I immediately came up with a mission. That mission is to read all of her books! Wish me luck!

On first glance I didn't think I would enjoy this novel. It involves topics I did not think I would be interested in: rape, eating disorders, anger management. The male character is not the attractive, charming young man one would expect. It is very different from Dessen's other books--darker, and though not as deep or meaningful as *The Truth About Forever*, it deals with issues most people wish to ignore as too intense or unpleasant and I learned a lot from it. I found this novel a surprisingly enjoyable and rewarding read. I learned a lot that I had not previously realized about the world around me and saw things from Annabel's point of view. It did not have the typical ending I would have expected--I was pleasantly surprised on that count as well. I especially love the way Dessen incorporated characters from two previous novels (my two favorites, as it happens). This is overall a great read. Some mature content, ages 15+.

PROS1.) It's truthful, honest, witty, and well written2.) It's one of those books that makes you actually feel the anger, happiness, shock, etc of the characters, which is very rare in a book, and very hard to do.3.) Makes you want to just keep reading and finish it already because you're dying to know what happens, but you also don't want it to end because you're enjoying the book/ reading it so much, also very rare and hard to do. CONS1.) Sometimes in books (and this is just my opinion, and I am not trying to be rude or judgmental) you just get sick of hearing the same thing over and over again, and sometimes you need to have a little bit of a surprise here and there. (Again, just my opinion) (I felt that this book, even though there are many pros and cons, and I don't think that with either one can outweigh the other, given the fact that everyone has a different opinion,) was, in my opinion, was sort of predictable on some accounts.2.) This may be just because I have read better material, given the fact that I am constantly reading, but I think that this book could've been

made better. Now, I am not saying this to offend the author or the readers, because I myself am a writer and I don't want to be rude, but I think that the book, if written a little differently, could be much better if there were some things added. I am not saying to change the original story line, which I think is very good, but to, let's say, spice it up a little bit. Obviously since the story has already been written it can't be changed, but I feel it could have been better this way.<sup>3</sup>) Lastly, I think that this story sort of pales in comparison with Sarah Dessen's other books, such as, *Along for the Ride*, *Dreamland*, *Keeping the Moon*, etc. Don't get me wrong, it's a good book, but in my opinion she has written far better books. Overall I think that *Just Listen* is a good book, but maybe for younger or less advanced readers. (Again, this is just me stating my opinion and I am not trying to be rude, and I have read very advanced material, so it may be normal for me to feel this way.) It has its pros and cons just like any other book, and everyone is entitled to their own opinion, and I'm just stating mine. So, I guess in other words that while I enjoyed the book, I would've enjoyed it much better if there were some changes made to it. Written by Grace Will (age 11)

Wonderful read! This was exactly what I have been looking for and I loved it. Coming of age or getting to know who you are. Seeing yourself through the eyes of other people. Falling in love. This is how a true YA novel should be done. I kept smiling and frowning through the whole book. Thoroughly enjoying every word, every page. So refreshing, so right. Thank you! I've said this before but adult books really should take note on how to tell a story in the right pace, with enough depth to the characters like a book like this actually does. The romance is very subtle, but you can FEEL it so much. And then everything else besides the romance. I'm so content right now!

What starts out as merely a superficial YA novel, quickly morphs into a tender story of sisterhood and young adulthood. I read the book in one day on my sister's suggestion and was pleasantly surprised. The author deftly captures the young adult voice and I was reminded of some of my favorite Judy Blume books. I lost myself in the book. My favorite part, of course being a writer myself who loves weaving music in, was how the author brought music into the book. And The Clash reference was a plus. This is a must read and I've already downloaded her latest book!

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