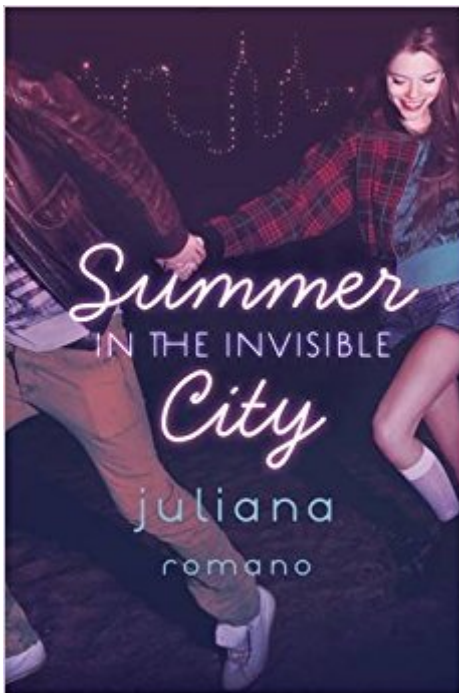


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Summer In The Invisible City



Synopsis

Perfect for fans of Jenny Han and Sarah Dessen, a sparkling coming-of-age story about self-discovery, first love, and the true meaning of family. Seventeen-year-old Sadie Bell has this summer all figured out: She's going to befriend the cool girls at her school. She's going to bond with her absentee father, a famous artist, and impress him with her photography skills. And she's finally going to get over Noah, the swoony older guy who was her very first mistake. Sadie wasn't counting on meeting Sam, a funny and free-thinking boy who makes her question all of her goals. But even after a summer of talking, touching, and sharing secrets, Sam says he just wants to be friends. And when those Sadie cares about most hurt her, Sam's friendship may not be enough. Sadie can see the world through her camera, but can she see the people who have loved and supported her all along? Set against a glamorous New York City backdrop, this coming-of-age romance is a gorgeous summer read—one whose characters will stay with you long into the fall.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up • It's Sadie's last summer at New York School of Arts, and she's spending it in a darkroom. She has been devoted to photography ever since her famous father, Allan Ball, gave her his old camera. Sadie knows her notoriously absent dad mostly through Google Alerts. Her search for paternal validation seeps into all her other relationships, and her life has felt upended ever since she lost her virginity. What Sadie thought was an intense connection with cool senior Noah was

merely a fling du jour for him. A beach party invite from the popular Izzy raises the opportunity of seeing Noah again. Instead Sadie meets Sam, an outdoors enthusiast from New Hampshire. Sam wants to be just friends, and Sadie isn't sure she is ready for anything serious, but when she talks to Sam, she finds herself telling him things she has never told anyone before. As her summer draws to a close, Sadie learns to distinguish between false and real friends, discovers the inadequacies of parents, and starts to accept life as it is. Examining life through a camera lens, Sadie begins to understand that appearances can be deceiving. Her misplaced search for fatherly love and acceptance adds an extra level of depth and introspection to the author's sophomore novel. The story is sectioned by months; the counting down of time heightens the tension and captures the urgency of a fading summer. VERDICT A recommended purchase for fans of teen romance. —Jocelyn Charpentier, Brooklyn Public Library

Praise for *Summer in the Invisible City*: "Romano's novel wanders languorously through Sadie's summer, treating readers to the same lushly detailed writing that distinguished her previous book | readers will enjoy meandering through the joys and disappointments of this quiet, reflective teen." —Publishers Weekly "A lovely summer romance with plenty to say about art, friendship, and love." —Booklist "Her misplaced search for fatherly love and acceptance adds an extra level of depth and introspection to the author's sophomore novel... A recommended purchase for fans of teen romance." —School Library Journal "An engaging coming-of-age tale." —Kirkus Reviews "Full of wonderful details of the daily life of an interesting central female character... as she navigates through a tough summer of learning about herself, what she wants for the future, and how her past defines her path forward." —VOYA Praise for *First There Was Forever*: "Fans of Sarah Dessen and Jenny Han won't want to miss this sensitive exploration of romantic and platonic relationships in flux, and young women coming into their own." —Publishers Weekly, starred review "With descriptions that are rich, intimate, and a pure pleasure to read... [Romano] captures the awkwardness of teenagers grappling with feelings for which they have no language yet. In Nate and Lima, young readers will find a relationship that is both deliciously dreamy and achingly real." —The Los Angeles Review of Books "An emotionally rich coming-of-age love story." —Kirkus Reviews "Romano succeeds in capturing the awkwardness of first romantic encounters and in navigating the growing gray areas in life that emerge with age. Hand this one to fans of Jenny Han and Morgan Matson." —Booklist "The author weaves her story together

with expressive, figurative language...Recommend this novel to older teens who are romance fans. VOYA

What does life look like when you've gotten mixed messages about your father for as long as you can remember? Add in the confusion stemming from losing your virginity the first time you meet an older guy and then realizing it was a fling for him and not the beginning of something really romantic like you thought. Pile on the reality that your friends are wealthy, while you and Mom are getting by, but without much wiggle room in your budget. This is Sadie Bell's reality as summer begins. When she accompanies her fellow summer photography student Izzy to the beach, a chance meeting with Sam as the two go to retrieve more bottled water from Izzy's car starts her journey to a future she couldn't have imagined. Sam isn't a city person. In fact, he came to New York from New Hampshire after his mom decided to move in with her boyfriend. Even so, he and Sadie hit it off almost immediately and she soon discovers she can tell him things that she's never said to anyone else. Getting some of the stuff out of her head is important because she has more accumulating in it daily-things like what her relationship with her artist father really is, how she fits in with friends, what photography really means and how she feels about Sam, despite his insistence that they're just friends. Following Sadie and Sam as they navigate through his stuff, her stuff and eventually their stuff is an enchanting journey, one that I greatly enjoyed and believe teens who like complex relationships, intelligent romance and conflicted family issues will too. A good add for school and public libraries.

I really wanted to like this book. I went into really excited, the cover is beautiful and the premise sounds so good, but it pissed me off a lot. I get that this is a coming of age story but do we have to keep having books about a girl who has spent the last year of her life moping around in life because she slept with some guy and he hasn't called her at all in a year? Our main character lives in New York City where there are a million things she could be doing to get over this loser but No she's looking for him everywhere she goes hoping she will run into him. The cover which I loved made me think she was going to spend her summer doing a bunch of amazing things. I feel like authors don't give young girls enough credit. Girls these days are so much smarter than what they get credit for. And I think in today's world they get over things a lot more quickly. Just my thoughts. Sadie the main character is your typical girl with daddy issues and wants so badly for her dad who she knows only what she has learned from the internet to give her the attention she wants and deserves I get it but she has an awesome Mother who does the best that she can and just seemed like it wasn't enough.

She was just an irritating point of view to read. Sorry not sorry. Hopefully someone else has a better experience reading this book, I just hope young girls read this and don't think this is the way to be.

"In some ways, it doesn't matter what happened next, or in the year and a half since then. That night was perfect and I'll always have it. I'll hold on to the memory tight as I want, because it's mine." Sadie Bell knows exactly what she wants to happen during the summer before her senior year of high school. She is going to befriend the popular girls at her school after bonding during their summer photography class. She is going to see her father for the first time in years and it will be better this time because they'll have art in common and she can finally impress him with her photos. She is definitely going to get over Noah after pining over him and stewing over all of the mistakes she made with him eighteen months ago. Almost as soon as it starts, Sadie's summer isn't what she expects. Her photography class is great. But making new friends comes with new challenges. Her father remains as distant as ever. Noah seems to be popping up everywhere both in Sadie's memories and in real life. Then there's Sam--the boy Sadie never expected to meet--who only wants to be friends even as Sadie thinks she might want more. Life seems simple when it's seen through a photograph and the details are clear. Real life, it turns out, is much less focused. To understand all of the things she's had along, Sadie may have to give her entire life a second look in *Summer in the Invisible City* (2016) by Juliana Romano. This standalone contemporary novel is set over the course of one summer in New York City (mostly Manhattan). Readers familiar with the city will recognize familiar settings and smart nods to the city (high school friends from Xavier, movies in Union Square with candy smuggled in from Duane Reade) while realizing that Sadie lives in a privileged (largely white) version of New York. Narrated by Sadie both in the present and in flashbacks of time spent with Noah or her father, *Summer in the Invisible City* asks a lot of questions about relationships and how much someone should have to give up to maintain them. Sadie is desperate for approval from the people she thinks matter whether it's popular girls, older guys, or her father. Sadie is so eager to show that she belongs with them that she spends most of the novel alienating the friends and family who have always been supporting her including her single mother and her best friend, Willa. Readers will soon realize that Sadie is sometimes self-destructive but her growth and development during the novel is all the sweeter because of that. This nuanced story is further complicated by the poorly executed plot surrounding Sadie's efforts to connect with her father. By the end of the story Sadie's fraught relationship with her father is explained and reaches an unsatisfying but realistic resolution. What doesn't make sense at any point in the story, is how things get to that point. Sadie has a loving and supportive mother. She is already eight or nine when

she first meets her father and has seen him scant times since. Where does the idolatry come from? Sadie's mother, unlike a lot of fictional parents, doesn't sugarcoat his shortcomings anymore than she encourages a false sense of closeness and connection. That all comes from Sadie for reasons that are never clearly articulated in the text. (On a separate note, given the father's absence for most of Sadie's life, it's also unclear why or how he and Sadie share a last name.) Summer in the Invisible City is partly a summery romance and partly a story about a young artist finding her eye and voice with what she chooses to capture and present in her artwork. Reading about Sadie's process and vision as she searches out new photography material is inspiring and compelling enough to erase questions debating whether or not print photography is on the verge of obsolescence. Recommended for readers who are fans of novels set in New York City, artists or aspiring artists, and fans of contemporary romances with a healthy dose of introspection. Possible Pairings: Guy in Real Life by Steve Brezenoff, City Love by Susane Colasanti, How to Love by Katie Cotugno, My Life Next Door by Huntley Fitzpatrick, Just One Day by Gayle Forman, Making Pretty by Corey Ann Haydu, Lola and the Boy Next Door by Stephanie Perkins, The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon

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