

Kenwyn Brosmer

Dear Sarah Dessen,

In the Webster's New World Dictionary they explained forever as for eternity, for always; endlessly. After reading *The Truth About Forever*, I know better, and just like you said, forever is everything, an instant that I wish would just last and last. That is what I feel forever is most about. It is the little moments that I wish could just go on forever and ever...

When I was fifteen, my dad passed away suddenly. My world fell apart, nothing was ever going to be the same again and that is what scared me the most. I have never been through anything like that before, and didn't know how to cope with it. It was actually ironic that I read this book, because I could relate to everything Macy was going through. It was almost like we were battling the loss of our fathers together. In a way, she was helping me through the long journey of being "okay" again.

At first, I didn't think I could read this book because it made me think too much about my dad and that was hard for me at that time. At the time, I was afraid that if I thought of him too much, it would be hard for me to move on. On the same note, I felt that if I didn't think about him enough, it would feel like he was never there. My head was full of unnecessary thoughts, and it just kept building up. I didn't know where to start and how to exactly get my life together. Reading *The Truth About Forever* helped me have a balance of everything. It made me realize that it's okay to have unwanted drama or crazy families, because without that, I would not be the person I am today. Macy struggled in the same ways I did, so for me, it was good to be able to relate to her. She made me understand that life is always going to be chaotic; you just have to cherish it, instead of resent it.

Some days there are moments when I know my dad is still with us, I can just feel his presence. Sometimes, I think he leaves us little "gifts" to let us know that he is still there, watching over us always. In the book, Macy's dad left the EZ gifts. That was his way of letting his family know that he will always be with them. I've learned never to look for the unexpected presents, but to wait for them. The best is when they come out of the blue, for me, it makes me break out in smile and that is when I want my little moments to last forever.

Right after my dad died, my family clung together, and we knew that all we had was each other. There are definitely days where I absolutely cannot stand them, but at the end of the day, we know that it's our family who will love us unconditionally. Macy's family was a lot smaller than mine, but we still had the same problems. Whereas her mother became distant and unemotional, my mother felt the best way to heal was to let

her emotions all out. At times, it bothered me, because it felt like she was never going to heal if she kept living like that. Now, I'm glad she wasn't like that. If she kept all of her feelings bottled inside of her, she would just be like Macy's mother and one day just crack. I don't think I could stand seeing my strong mother do that, she is our rock of the family and without her, I don't think my family would be still be as we are today.

*The Truth About Forever* helped me in so many ways, it was by far the best book I have ever read. For me, it was more than just a book, I became so engaged with the characters and the way that the whole atmosphere made me feel. It helped me bring memories back that I tried to leave alone, reading it just made me a stronger person.

Sincerely,

Kenwyn Brosmer