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Skyscraping



Synopsis

A heartrending, bold novel in verse about family, identity, and forgiveness Mira is just beginning her senior year of high school when she discovers her father with his male lover. Her world "and everything she thought she knew about her family" is shattered instantly. Unable to comprehend the lies, betrayal, and secrets that "unbeknownst to Mira" have come to define and keep intact her family's existence, Mira distances herself from her sister and closest friends as a means of coping. But her father's sexual orientation isn't all he's kept hidden. A shocking health scare brings to light his battle with HIV. As Mira struggles to make sense of the many fractures in her family's fabric and redefine her wavering sense of self, she must find a way to reconnect with her dad "while there is still time. Told in raw, exposed free verse, *Skyscraping* reminds us that there is no one way to be a family. Praise for SKYSCRAPING: "Exquisite free-verse poems...illuminating and deeply felt." "Booklist *STARRED* "This book should be popular with fans of Sarah Dessen and would be a worthy addition to most high school library collections." "VOYA" "Jensen's spare free-verse poems and accessible imagery realistically portray the fraught moments of adolescent identity formation with great empathy. Compelling snapshots of contemporary family drama and the AIDS epidemic as captured through a teen's eyes." "Kirkus Reviews" "Written in straightforward, accessible free verse tinged with celestial metaphors, this story--set in a well-rendered 1993 NYC--is sincere, touching, and heartwrenching." "Horn Book" "It left me speechless. *Skyscraping* is like a regular book with wings." "Becky Albertalli, author of National Book Award finalist *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*" "In gorgeous poetic verse, Jensen captures the raw emotions and hard truths of a family dealing with forgiveness and love.... Your heart will soar and break and heal anew." "An Na, author of Printz Award winner and National Book Award finalist *A Step from Heaven*" " *Skyscraping* is brilliant, sharp and bright. A stellar story. Jensen has written a powerful tale about love and loss, a story that will stick with readers long after they've reached the end. Her poetry is vivid, tangible, and visceral. She's a rising star with a breathtaking debut. This is a novel made of star stuff." "Skila Brown, author of *Caminar*" From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

I am going to try my best to write a coherent review that isn't a bunch of fangirl gibberish. But I can't make any promises. I have been waiting for this book all year. This book was one of my most anticipated releases of 2015 and I am so happy that it did not disappoint. This book was amazingly flawless. I really cannot think of a single bad thing about it. When I first heard about this book, I didn't realize it was written in verse. I am not typically a fan of books written in verse. Sometimes the writing style can make me feel a bit disconnected with the main character. But that was not a problem with this book. I could feel Mira's pain so clearly. The poetry was exquisitely beautiful. I loved Mira's obsession with astronomy and the metaphors Mira weaved throughout the poetry. I loved the realistic portrayal of her relationship with her parents. Mira's mom was always kind of absent and actually left the family for a period of a year to go to Italy. Because of that, Mira is holding onto a lot of resentment towards her. She has always been much closer to her father until she catches him with his lover, James. Suddenly her whole world is thrown into chaos and she doesn't know how to handle the fact that she feels everything is a lie. She starts pushing her friends away, skipping school, and rebelling against her parents. When Mira realizes her father is sick, she struggles to come to terms with everything going on. Her confusion and sadness were so heartbreaking. This story took place at a time when people were still terrified of AIDS and thought they could get it just by drinking out of the same glass. I swear I spent the second 50% of this book crying my eyes out. The author's acknowledgements at the end made me tear up even more.

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