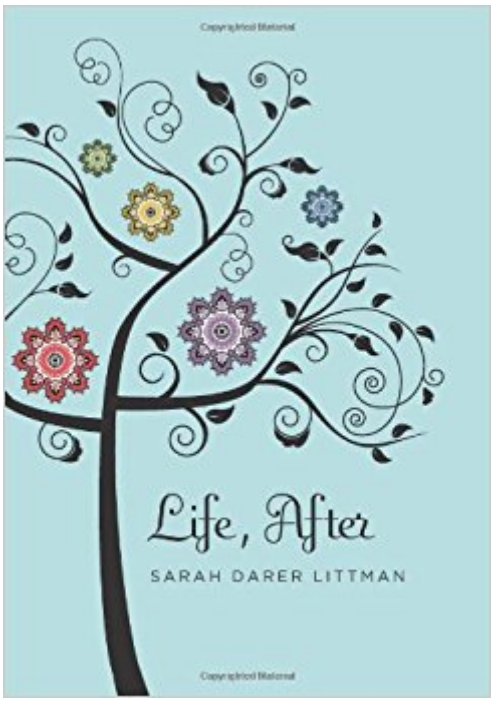
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Life, After



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Synopsis

From the author of PURGE and CONFESSIONS OF A CLOSET CATHOLIC, a new book that is searing, gripping, and impossible to put down.Dani's life will never be the same again.After a terrorist attack kills Dani's aunt and unborn cousin, life in Argentina-private school, a boyfriend, a loving family-crumbles quickly. In order to escape a country that is sinking under their feet, Dani and her family move to the United States. It's supposed to be a fresh start, but when you're living in a cramped apartment and going to high school where all the classes are in another language-and not everyone is friendly-life in American is not all it's cracked up to be. Dani misses her old friends, her life, Before. But then Dani meets

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up
Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 UpÃ¢â ¬â œIn 2002 in Argentina, Dani Bensimon weathers the political and economic crisis that is dragging her middle-class Jewish family into poverty and her formerly loving father into depression. They are all still grieving over the death of her pregnant aunt and her unborn child in the 1994 terrorist bombing of the AMIA building, the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires. Many of the teen's friends have left the country, including her novio, Roberto. Eventually, the Bensimons relocate to the New York suburbs and Dani must work hard to remain the dutiful, perfect, helpful

daughter. While the plot is predictable, supporting characters are direct from after-school-special casting, and the narrator is at times a bit too wholesome, this affecting book works in its entirety. It shows a place and part of recent history left mostly unexamined in YA literature, highlighting an act of terrorism in Argentina and a Latin American immigrant. Dani's experiences give her insight and empathy into a community suffering the aftermath of 9/11. Littman's sprinkling of Spanish words and phrases throughout gives a genuine feel to her dialogue, and her references to Jewish customs also fit smoothly into the context. This immigrant story is easy to swallow, if a bit weighty in tone, very much like Christine Gonzalez's The Red Umbrella (Knopf, 2010).Ã¢â ¬â œRhona Campbell, Washington, DC Public LibraryÃ Â (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

In this lachrymose emigration story, hard economic times in Buenos Aires, the steady flight of friends and neighbors to Israel and the U.S., and finally her motherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s injuries in a flash mob prompt teenage Daniela Bensimon and her parents to relocate to suburban New York. The transition is a hard oneÃ¢â ¬â •particularly for her father, who lost his small business and a close relative in a terrorist bombingÃ¢â ¬â •but thanks to high-school friendships with a classmate with AspergerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s syndrome and his protective twin sister, as well as a deepening relationship with another student named Brian, Daniela makes it over the rough spots, and by the end she is feeling Ã¢â ¬Å“a little less like an extranjera and a little more like an americana.Ã¢â ¬Â• Littman definitely overuses tears as an intensity-builder but weaves sensitively articulated themes (the story is set in 2003, when the impact of 9/11 was still sharp) and credible teen banter into an emotionally complex tale. DanielaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s many amusing encounters with idiomatic expressions in her new language may provide an additional draw for ELL readers. Grades 6-9. --John Peters

Grade: C+Even since a terrorist bombing killed her aunt, when she was seven, life in Argentina has been difficult for Dani and her family. Eight years later, her family emigrates to NYC. Her father is unemployed, depressed and short tempered, her mother works all the time and much of the care of her little sister falls on Dani's shoulders. She's slowly adjusting to the cultural changes, her new school, and making friends while missing her best friend and her boyfriend.LIFE, AFTER starts off slowly and was fairly slow-paced. I had a very hard getting into the story, because Sarah Darer Littman used primarily telling, rather than showing the extensive backstory. Littman seemed to randomly sprinkle Spanish into the dialogue without rhyme or reason in a manner that didn't always feel organic. I'm a big fan of Littman's, this just wasn't my favorite.While Dani was a strong

character, she was rather bland. My favorite characters were twins Jess and Jon, her new friends. Jon, a high functioning boy with Aspergers and Jess, the mean girl carrying the pain of September 11th in her heart.THEMES: immigration, cultural differences, surviving terrorism, Jewish culture, friendship, moving, familyLIFE, AFTER is a slow paced, but interesting story about a young girl and her family's adjustment to immigrating to NYC from Argentina.

Dani's life will never be the same. She lives in Argentina where life for Jewish families is beginning to deteriorate. She has lost her Aunt and unborn cousin in a terrorist attack. Her father has lost his business and there isn't enough money to put food on the table for her family. But Dani just wants life to return to normal. But what is normal? After much thought the family decides to immigrate to New York for a "fresh start". But a new start in a new city with a new language and no jobs isn't that easy. Dani's family moves into a tiny rented apartment provided by the Jewish Family Services with hand-me-down clothes. Dani's father is clinically depressed and her mother is now the major breadwinner for the family. Dani finds that living in America isn't all that it is cracked up to be. She misses her old friends, her home, her private school and especially her novio, boyfriend. But suddenly life changes when Dani makes a new friend Jon, who isn't like the other kids. Soon in this new life she learns about healing and forgiveness and about moving on to the life after....This is a great story about life changes and coping with a loss. This story, written by Sarah Littman, the author of the 2006 Sydney Taylor Teen Book Award, Confessions of a Closet Catholic, is another authentic story about teens with real feelings. In real situations. A recommended read for grades 6-9th.

Timely delivery Granddaughter loves this author. Thanks

This is a lovely story, written for young readers, yet appealing to the hope and zest for life in all of us. Although the novel is tied to the most terrible events of our time, it gives us a chance to think instead about how the young people can survive and flourish.This is a healing book to read. What great insight and understanding the author must have! I look forward to reading her other books too.

This book is awesome I can relate to it in some ways and I like how its the life of a teenager which I am.

i love it!! best read ever i highly recomend this to any one who injoys interesting happy books. it will

make you cry buy more importantly laugh! (:

Good book , keeps you engaged throughout .

There’s not an excellent enough word out there to describe just how amazing, touching, and beautifully written this novel is or how it pulls on your heart strings one second, having you close to tears, but at the next moment has you smiling with a slight giggle escaping from your mouth, your tears drying instantly like they weren’t even there one second ago. Life, After is a book that touches on the important but sad parts of life- tragedies, terrorism, and coping; they are all there within the pages along with the happiest parts of life- love, friendship, strength, and hope.Life, After is a novel told from the viewpoint of Dani, an Argentina teenager dealing with the after affects of The Crisis- a crisis that has left her dad jobless and desperate, her mother working constantly, trying to keep her family alive, and her friends, herself, and boyfriend defenseless against the grim future ahead of them. But soon enough comes a chance, a chance to start over in brand new country, and opportunities that will give them hope, even if it’s definitely not an easy task in the long-run.To me, Dani is an immensely strong teenager. One that not only serves as a role model because of the way she acts, but someone who I’m sure most readers could relate to, because who hasn’t had a bad year because of a tragic event? Or maybe has started in a new country or place were they didn’t no anyone? Or felt so broken to the point were they doubted they could never be fixed again? Or feel in love with a boy who made them smile in the best or worst of times? Or-well, you get the picture. I couldn’t help but relate and root for Dani in the tragic and good parts of her life. I also adored reading about her blossoming romance with Brian and her friendship with Jessica, Jon, and Gaby; four people any girl would be lucky to have.One of my favorite parts of this novel was the fact that Sarah had Argentina serve as the setting for part of it because I learned a great deal from Dani’s experiences there, but I have to admit I would have loved to have had just a little more information and development into The Crisis there. Also, another favorite and interesting part was seeing Dani begin her new life in America. To someone like me who’s so well-adjusted in America because of the fact I’ve lived here my whole life, I sometimes forget how hard it is for immigrants to come and start over here. But Sarah showed a light into this, one that has made me greatly appreciate those immigrants who have worked so hard to get well-adjusted to their life here.In all, Life, After is a book I highly suggest you pick on your next trip to the book store, because I pinkie-promise you, you won’t regret it for one second after beginning this wonderful story of falling down and learning how to bloom and grow again. Lastly, this review wouldn’t be complete if I didn’t share my favorite line of

the book, which I feel perfectly sums up the themes and purpose of this novel:"Because with joy, we overcome the terror. With love, strength, and hope we prevail." (page 278)Grade: A+

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