



How to Love

By Katie Cotugno

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For fans of Sarah Dessen and John Green, this is a breathtaking debut about a couple who fall in love...twice.

Before: Reena Montero has loved Sawyer LeGrande for as long as she can remember. But he's never noticed that Reena even exists...until one day, impossibly, he does. Reena and Sawyer fall in messy, complicated love. Then Sawyer disappears without a word, leaving a devastated—and pregnant—Reena behind.

After: Almost three years have passed, and there's a new love in Reena's life: her daughter. Reena's gotten used to life without Sawyer, but just as suddenly as he disappeared, he turns up again. Reena wants nothing to do with him, though she'd be lying if she said his being back wasn't stirring something in her.

After everything that's happened, can Reena really let herself love Sawyer LeGrande again?

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How to Love By Katie Cotugno Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The Official *How to Love* Playlist By Katie Cotugno

From Joni Mitchell to Leann Rimes to Te Vaka, I listened to all of it while I wrote this book. Songs that fit the story, songs I thought Sawyer and Reena might like, songs that just plain gave me a lot of Big Feelings. Here are a few that are still in heavy rotation:

1. “Down in the Valley” by the Head and the Heart

Live music plays such an important role in *How to Love*, and the Head and the Heart puts on maybe the best live show I’ve ever seen. This track in particular is such a Sawyer song to me.

2. “You’re Gonna Make Me Lonesome When You Go” by Bob Dylan, performed by Miley Cyrus

This is a Bob Dylan song, but I have to say that Miley’s version is my very fave. “You’re Gonna Make Me Lonesome” is a song about knowing you’re going to get left behind and not being able to do a single thing to stop it.

3. “So Far Around the Bend” by the National

I mean, if “I know you’re a serious lady” isn’t a perfect description of Reena, I don’t know what is.

4. “I Dream of Chicago” by Parlours

This one’s a traveling song, and a beautiful one.

5. “Reunion” by Indigo Girls

“Reunion” always makes me think of Reena’s relationship with her family—both the Monteros and the LeGrandes—especially the lines “I have no need for anger with intimate strangers/I have nothing to hide.”

6. “Poison and Wine” by the Civil Wars

This one’s about a good/bad love affair, and it aches.

7. “Bring It on Home to Me” by Sam Cooke, performed by Tony Lucca

This song is actually mentioned by name in the book. It’s a Sam Cooke song, but the Tony Lucca cover is the sexiest. It’s just science.

8. “All This and Heaven Too” by Florence and the Machine

In my head, “All This and Heaven Too” is Reena’s theme song. To me, at least, it’s about a smart girl trying to figure out, you know—how to love.

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Sawyer LaGrande's unexplained disappearance rocked Serena Montero's world. It was love at first sight, and then he ran away and left her pregnant. Now he's back in town and ready to pick up where they left off. Serena, however, has a steady boyfriend and is now the mother of a two-year-old. She had to repair her broken heart and make peace with her very Catholic father, who does not approve of her out-of-wedlock child. She is older and wiser, but Sawyer was the love of her life. Will she make the same mistake twice? The language and content of this novel will appeal to teens, but the structure is an issue. Every other chapter is a flashback, making the plot seem choppy and disjointed. The portrayal of a Catholic Hispanic family in modern-day Florida is refreshing, but the shuffling between the present and the past may make it hard for readers to lose themselves in the characters. The story's mood is rather depressing; Serena deals with the death of her mother, the death of her best friend, Sawyer's abandonment, her child, her family's disapproval, and her father's heart attack. Yet, despite her struggles, she is still able to find her silver lining at the end of the story. *How to Love* may not appeal to a wide audience, but patrons who read and enjoyed Jamie McGuire's *Beautiful Disaster* (S & S, 2012) will find Sawyer and Serena's frustrating relationship familiar.—Jeni Tahaney, Duncanville High School Library, TX©(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From Booklist

The before: responsible 16-year-old Reena pushes to graduate from high school early so that she can get the hell out of Florida and attend Northwestern. But Sawyer LeGrande, a boy who has been in Reena's life forever—and who she has loved forever—finally notices her. After a few months of dating, troubled Sawyer disappears and Reena discovers she is pregnant. The after: Sawyer returns after several years away, and it turns out he still stirs something in Reena that can't be ignored. The "Before" and "After" chapters alternate and can be summed up by the following: "I didn't understand what I had with Sawyer: I couldn't figure out how he could make me so happy and so miserable all at once." Cotugno's debut ambitiously, and intriguingly, follows a couple who fall in love twice, over two different time periods. But Sawyer and Reena don't appear to change much, and their constant arguing may leave readers wondering why—other than a clear physical attraction and a shared daughter—the past appears to be repeating itself. Still, the compelling voices of the characters and strong writing should carry readers along. Grades 9-12. --Ann Kelley

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eddie Drennan:

What do you concerning book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. They must answer that question simply because just their can do that. It said that about publication. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is proper. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this *How to Love* to read.

David Rivera:

The ability that you get from *How to Love* is a more deep you looking the information that hide within the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but *How to Love* giving you buzz feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by simply anyone who read the item because the author of this book is well-known

enough. That book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this specific How to Love instantly.

Bernice King:

Reading a book being new life style in this yr; every people loves to study a book. When you learn a book you can get a wide range of benefit. When you read guides, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information on it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your research, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, and also soon. The How to Love will give you a new experience in reading a book.

Barbara Robbins:

As a scholar exactly feel bored to be able to reading. If their teacher expected them to go to the library in order to make summary for some reserve, they are complained. Just minor students that has reading's heart and soul or real their leisure activity. They just do what the instructor want, like asked to the library. They go to right now there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that reading through is not important, boring in addition to can't see colorful pictures on there. Yeah, it is being complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this age, many ways to get whatever we want. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this How to Love can make you sense more interested to read.

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