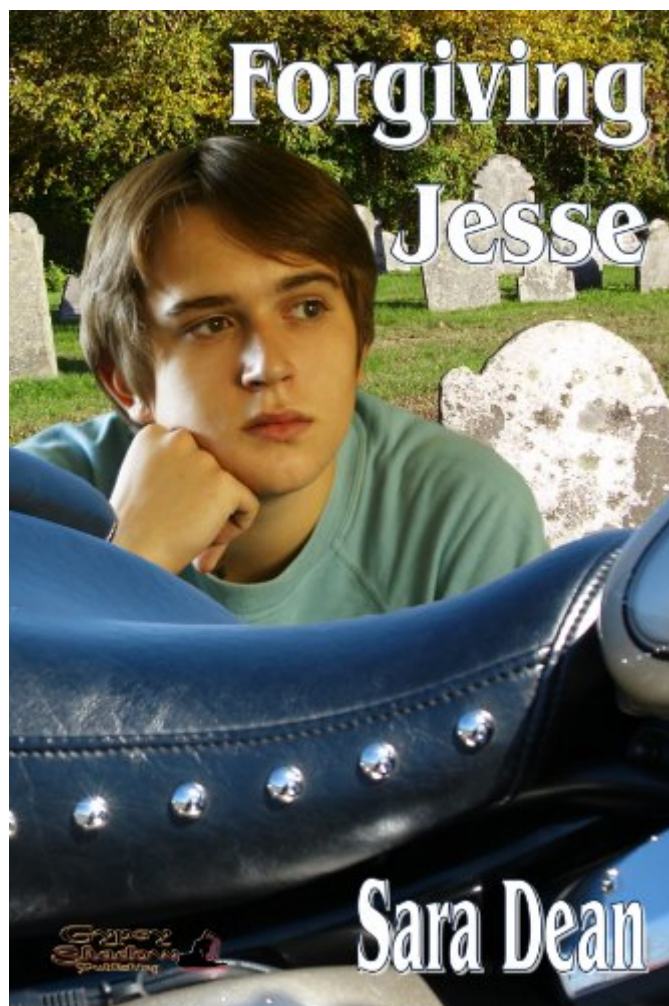


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# Forgiving Jesse



## Synopsis

Seventeen year old Jesse hasn't even tried to get along with his mom since his dad left them because he blames her for his dad's leaving. Desperate to have a relationship with her son again, his mom takes a plane on September 11, 2001 to work things out with his father, and never returns. The father Jesse has always hailed as a hero can't be bothered with his own son, and sends him to live with his grandmother, whom he has never met. While trying to deal with his hurt and anger, he has only two people he can turn to: his best friend Nicky and his girlfriend, Shandy. During the darkest hour of his life, Jesse discovers the only people he has left are hiding secrets, and he is forced to make decisions that will change all of their lives forever.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There was a time when a young boy remembers the closeness of his family, how much he loved both parents, and the joys of childhood. Then one day, his parents were divorced, his teen years were more than complicated and his entire world began to shatter, like broken glass. At the age of seventeen, Jesse began to live in a world of his own. An only child, who was faced with separation,

betrayal, anguish and one brave teenager who fell to the ground in a desperate search for answers on how to survive. What drew Jesse further apart from his mom, and was his dad the hero that he made him out to be? What ran through Jesse's mind, while watching the twin towers in flames, what fears and guilt terrified him? What did his mom write in the note, and what message was left on the answering machine? I highly recommend this book to young adults, parents, and teachers. Sara Dean penned an incredible story that relates to today's society, family unity, divorce, and loss of a loved one. The author takes the reader on an emotional roller-coaster ride from beginning to end, the characters come to life, and the story will tug at your heart, page-after-page. What secret did Shandy share with Jesse, and was she telling the truth? What did Jesse do to Nicky in an outrage, and why? Why did Jesse want to enlist in the Army, and did Nicky follow his footsteps? Does Jesse bond with his grandmother, and does he get his life back? "FORGIVING JESSE" is as heartfelt as PAY IT FORWARD, as entertaining as A WALK TO REMEMBER and as emotional as STEPMOM, with Julia Roberts, and Susan Sarandon.

Author Sara Dean channels an angry teen boy very convincingly in her young adult novel, Forgiving Jesse, and Jesse has much to be forgiven. Since his father left home the high school junior has grown more and more distant from his mother, his studies, and maybe even his friends. The novel opens with his senior year about to start, while Jesse delights in a motorbike's freedom and longs for more. The magic age of eighteen looms ahead of him. Then he'll go to his dad. Then life will be good again. The novel's set in a modern world, where teens drink, smoke, disobey, skip classes and indulge in relationships, off-page, that require far more maturity than they know. There's no easy forgiveness or sweet light of purity here. But there's an angry young man, lost and alone, betrayed by everyone he trusted and finally left in the care of someone he hardly even knows. Life isn't clean and simple, for all Jesse wishes it was. But sometimes a motorbike offers a surprising path to a surprising freedom. Church helps. People help. And love helps. But this is definitely not a preachy tale. It's a sad story of a young man's betrayal, an honest portrayal of his fight for independence, and an uplifting story of his coming of age. Forgiveness, in the end, is given, not earned, and even the cruelest circles can be broken. Disclosure: I was given a free copy of this novel by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Seventeen year old Jesse is having a terrible year. His dad left when he was fifteen and he blames his mom. He hangs out instead of going to school, he smokes and drinks and can't quite get it together. When tragedy strikes he goes deeper into trouble, even his best friend and his girlfriend

are no longer there for him. He feels abandoned and alone and it only gets worse. He can't cope with his life so he runs away to find his dad and live with him, after all since his mom drove him away, he just needs a chance to make it right? Doesn't he? This is a heartfelt story that engages the reader. Jesse's voice is clear and strong and even though he can be a jerk, you find yourself rooting for him. If only he'd get it together and stop being such an idiot! Although there is tragedy, there is also strength and wonder and surprises. I would recommend this book!

This has got to be one of the best books of all time! This is defiantly one of my favorites and is an amazing book! Its well-written, and gives just enough, not too much and not too little, details. Sara Dean did an amazing job with this and im so hoping this gets turned into a movie one day! I really recomend this book for anyone who likes to read!

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