Twenty Boy Summer by Sarah Ockler

Excellent Portrayal Of Grief

Dont worry, Anna. Ill tell her, okay? Just let me think about the best way to do it.

Okay.

Promise me? Promise you wont say anything?

Dont worry. I laughed. Its our secret, right?

According to her best friend Frankie, twenty days in ZanzibarBay is the perfect opportunity to have a summer fling, and if they meet one boy every day, theres a pretty good chance Anna will find her first summer romance. Anna lightheartedly agrees to the game, but theres something she hasnt told Frankie---shes already had that kind of romance, and it was with Frankies older brother, Matt, just before his tragic death one year ago.

Beautifully written and emotionally honest, this is a debut novel that explores what it truly means to love someone and what it means to grieve, and ultimately, how to make the most of every single moment this world has to offer.

TWENTY BOY SUMMER
SARAH OCKLER
Young Adult Romance

Rating: 5 Enchantments

Matt Perino, best male friend turned boyfriend, or something like it. Sister to Frankie Perino, Annas best friend since time existed. The three of them grew up together, Matt acting as big brother to both girls until one evening when everything changes. A kiss transforms Matts relationship with Anna and starts a relationship that pulls their two souls together. Hes the perfect
big brother and wants his sister to hear the news from him. He plans on
telling her during their annual summer vacation getaway, but he never gets
the opportunity. Instead, he dies.

Anna, our heroine and the voice of the story is an intelligent and well-
behaved daughter. Devastated by Matt’s death, she keeps her promise to
him and hides their secret relationship from Frankie, even after he’s gone.
Anna is Frankies protector, always looking out for her and ensuring that
she goes on, even when Anna herself is dying inside.

TWENTY BOY SUMMER is the story of life after Matt’s death. Two
summers after the tragic loss, the Perinos decide to continue their vacation
tradition, hoping that it will bring some normalcy back to their lives.
Frankie brings Anna along and together the girls attempt to plan the best
summer ever. Completely boy crazy after Matt’s death, Frankie devises a
scheme whereby the two girls will attempt to meet twenty boys by the end
of the summer. Hopefully, by the time they go home, at least one of them
will have found a true summer romance. Sunny beaches, thrilling
adventures and boys aplenty color their vacation. But when emotions run
high and memories are stirred, will it all prove to be too much for Matt’s
survivors?

I really loved this story. Sarah Ockler did an amazing job of illustrating
what it means to live, to die and to survive. TWENTY BOY SUMMER had
beautiful prose and an undercurrent of hope that we, as the readers,
couldn’t help but feel. I felt that her descriptions were so lovely and so
realistic that it was almost like she picked us up and tossed us on the
sands of the beach at Zanzibar Bay. We can really feel the sun on our
face, the sand beneath our toes, and most importantly, the raw emotion
that fills the pages.

There were points in the book where I couldn’t help but to wonder if this
story was a little too deep and dark for young adults. I quickly realized that
whether it was dark or not, the story was real. Anna and Frankie display
real emotion as they grieve in their own separate ways. Ockler shows us
that despite the darkness, despite the despair at losing a loved one, life
really can go on. This, above all, made me an absolute fan of this story. I
loved the romance, both remembered and new, and the realism that
Ockler gives it. With writing as colorful as the various shades of sea glass,
Ockler created a true winner.

TWENTY BOY SUMMER is the debut novel for author Sarah Ockler. She
can be found online at[...] where links to her Facebook, Myspace and
Twitter pages can be located.

Cinnamon
ENCHANTING REVIEWS
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