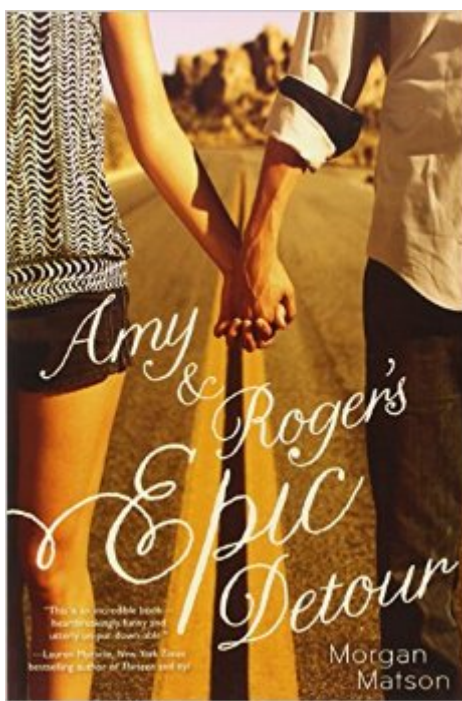


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Amy & Roger's Epic Detour



Synopsis

Amy Curry thinks her life sucks. Her mom decides to move from California to Connecticut to start anew--just in time for Amy's senior year. Her dad recently died in a car accident. So Amy embarks on a road trip to escape from it all, driving cross-country from the home she's always known toward her new life. Joining Amy on the road trip is Roger, the son of Amy's mother's old friend. Amy hasn't seen him in years, and she is less than thrilled to be driving across the country with a guy she barely knows. So she's surprised to find that she is developing a crush on him. At the same time, she's coming to terms with her father's death and how to put her own life back together after the accident. Told in traditional narrative as well as scraps from the road--diner napkins, motel receipts, postcards--this is the story of one girl's journey to find herself.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 790L (What's this?)

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (May 3, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416990666

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (193 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #49,017 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#80 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying](#) [#92 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings](#) [#104 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

I don't know about you but I love debut novels. One of the main reasons why I do is because you seriously do not know what to expect, unlike, say, picking a novel up by one of your favorite authors. They can rock your socks and make you have a new favorite author or you can end up detesting the book and have an author you're not too sure about. Though either way you still get a taste of something new and exciting. Thankfully, Amy & Roger's Epic Detour was one of the former of those

two ways debut novels can go because, quite honestly, it was outright amazing in a way that I loved. This book was sweet, funny, touching, and, well, basically all the positive adjectives out there, which made this one book I could not get enough of and sure many others will feel the same exact way! In the start of Amy & Roger's Epic Detour, I wasn't too fond of Amy. I didn't like how closed off she was from the world around her and how awkward she was around others. I mean I understand why she was that way, I would be too if I was her, but it just bothered me a bit. Though as the novel progressed she began to be a better improved version of her prior self as she made amends with her past, learning how to move on yet remember, and shinned in result, leaving her to become someone I truly cared about. Adding to this, I adored Roger! He was swoon-worthy in a way that only literary male characters can be and I loved how he ended up being one of the main people along the trip who made Amy come out of her shell. While the minor characters parts were small, they still ended up leaving a big punch and made you wish that they had page space a bit longer than what they did.

I am not a big fan of formulaic, Sarah Dessen-type summer YA romances, but the reviews of Amy & Roger's Epic Detour were so glowing, I wanted to give it a try. I did enjoy it, as much as I can enjoy a story that employs such genre cliches as makeovers and two teens sleeping in the same bed because, oh my!, there are no other options available. The book is cute and sweet, engaging and a very quick read. The main characters, albeit fairly superficially drawn, are nice, likable people. Although Amy is in a state of grief over her father's death, her narration, to my relief, never becomes an overblown angstravaganza (like, let's say, *Revolution* - another YA novel about grief and guilt). Unhealthy, stalkerish and abusive relationships are not promoted here. The format is great too, it is sort of scrapbooky, with tons of notes, pictures, and receipts. I have to say, however, some of the scrapbook pages are not inserted into the narration very well, they interrupt the flow of the story. But it's a minor flaw. As for negatives, they are mostly genre-related - the story is fairly predictable, the characterization is basic and the dialog is not as interesting as it could have been. My major beef with the novel is the hook-up scene in the end (it's fade-into-black BTW). Amy's first encounter with her college BF is handled well, but when it comes to Amy's tryst with Roger, the author never explores the emotional implications of non-committed sex. Why would Amy feel differently about sex this time is unclear, after all she was in love with both guys. I wish this scene would never have been in the book, but I guess the genre requirements called for it?

This one for me, 2 1/2 stars. Hmmm, I'm not really sure why this book got so many high ratings. I

found it on a book list for similar reads to 'Anna and the French Kiss' which I LOVED. This book, however, not so much. It started out promising enough, girl loses father, brother is in rehab, mom moves across country to buy a new home and set up leaving said girl to bring the car a month later with a guy who will be living in Philadelphia with his father for the summer. Sounds good, right? I was really looking forward to this book. Well, it totally fell flat, SO flat. I kept waiting for the 'getting to know you' part and it didn't come until SO far into the book (like about 70% or more in) that I didn't really care as much anymore (and even when it came it wasn't even that good). I have read MANY books before about teens with problems (every kind you can imagine) and Amy was no different except that the author gave you nothing to really want to root for her. She wasn't interesting. I kept waiting for that WOW moment when I just started falling in love with her, wanting her to have dialog instead of all these vague internal references about why she was the one who killed her father. There really was not much more to it. She just sat in the seat beside Roger and stared out the window for 90% of their trip. BORING. Then Roger, who was much more interesting than Anna in the beginning, also didn't contribute much either. I was actually really sad about this because he could have given SO much more to the story. He started out interesting to me and fun, and I wanted to know more about him, but the more hours that stretched by in the car the more irritated I got when absolutely NOTHING was revealed.

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