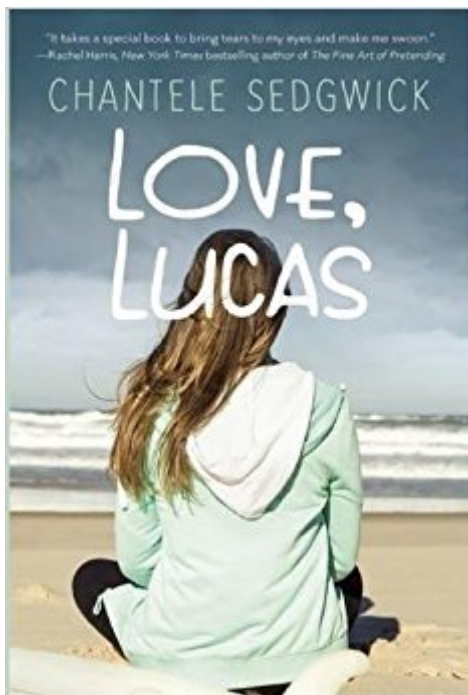


The book was found

Love, Lucas



Synopsis

A 2015 Whitney Award Nominee! A powerful story of loss, second chances, and first love, reminiscent of Sarah Dessen and John Green. When Oakley Nelson loses her older brother, Lucas, to cancer, she thinks she'll never recover. Between her parents' arguing and the battle she's fighting with depression, she feels nothing inside but a hollow emptiness. When Mom suggests they spend a few months in California with Aunt Jo, Oakley isn't sure a change of scenery will alter anything, but she's willing to give it a try. In California, Oakley discovers a sort of safety and freedom in Aunt Jo's beach house. Once they're settled, Mom hands her a notebook full of letters addressed to her from Lucas. As Oakley reads one each day, she realizes how much he loved her, and each letter challenges her to be better and to continue to enjoy her life. He wants her to move on. If only it were that easy. But then a surfer named Carson comes into her life, and Oakley is blindsided. He makes her feel again. As she lets him in, she is surprised by how much she cares for him, and that's when things get complicated. How can she fall in love and be happy when Lucas never got the chance to do those very same things? With her brother's dying words as guidance, Oakley knows she must learn to listen and trust again. But will she have to leave the past behind to find happiness in the future?

Book Information

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Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce #86

in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Depression & Mental Illness

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 6 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7—Oakley Nelson has just lost her older brother and best friend, Lucas, to cancer. Her parents are heading toward divorce in the aftermath of their grief. Oakley herself is struggling with depression. Her mother decides to take her to California for a stay at her aunt's beach house. After they settle in, Oakley's mother hands her a notebook, containing letters from Lucas. They are full of funny memories along with some good advice, like "Try something new" and "Don't be afraid of being embarrassed." When she gets to the one written by her mother, Oakley knows this is the last letter. Oakley begins to see a way to be herself without her brother. Along the way she meets Carson, a surfer and kindred spirit who becomes her first boyfriend. Carson has his own problems that he is working out with his family. Just as readers think they know how this story is going to end, a big plot twist changes the tale's course. Although the parents are rather simplistically drawn, their grief is believable. Fans of Sarah Dessen and realistic fiction with a poignant and sad slant will find this an enjoyable read. VERDICT For general purchase, and especially for those school libraries needing realistic fiction.—Deanna McDaniel, Genoa Middle School, OH --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Just as readers think they know how this story is going to end, a big plot twist changes the tale's course. . . . Fans of Sarah Dessen and realistic fiction with a poignant and sad slant will find this an enjoyable read. VERDICT For general purchase, and especially for those school libraries needing realistic fiction." —School Library Journal "A deeply moving tale of unimaginable loss and the redemptive power of love. Sedgwick masterfully delves into the painful details of losing a loved one, breaking your heart even as her beautiful words stitch you back together. Romance and friendship, true growth and authentic healing, this story blew me away. It takes a special book to bring tears to my eyes and make me swoon." —Rachel Harris, New York Times bestselling author "Chantele Sedgwick's *Love, Lucas*, is a beautiful story about finding hope, first loves, and learning to live again after the loss of a sibling. With a fantastic cast, and the gorgeous setting of the California coast, this book is one fabulous read." —Jolene Perry author of *The Summer I Found You* "A beautiful, moving novel of loss and love. Sedgwick's elegant prose weave a heart-breaking tale that stays with you long after you have finished the last page." —G. R. Mannering, author of *Roses* "An emotional summer of love, hope, and healing! *Love, Lucas* is easy to adore with Sedgwick's real relationships, sweet romance, and tale of renewal." —Lizzy Charles, author of *Effortless With You* "Chantele Sedgwick navigates the dark waters of grief with a deft hand and plenty of heart. *Love, Lucas* will drag readers under before

bringing them back to the surface for a life-saving breath of hope." —Amy Finnegan, author of Not In the Script

This book has left me speechless. As a former teacher who is now retired, I'm always looking for books that I can recommend to young people. This book has everything - family sadness, family loss, sibling relationships, young people having difficulty with their parents, a love story, and it's relationship difficulties, growing up, facing the hardships of making tough decisions. . . I could go on and on. . . I was brought to tears at various times while I was reading this story. It reached way down deep, and touched my heart. Awesome piece of work for sure!

I gave Chantele Sedgwick five stars because her book was full of twists and turns. From what happened between Carson and Oakley. To the incident with the shark. Where Oakley was dragged apart from Carson at the end of the summer. One thing that I really lived about the story was Lucas's letters he wrote to Oakley

Well... I'm done crying now so I can write a review! LOVE this book. Absolutely touching story that you don't want to miss. Definitely a tear-jerker but also completely wonderful. A great story about life and picking yourself up to make the most of it - chaos and all!

Absolutely loved this book. It's a short read, but definitely worth the story. Oakley's love for her brother is so inspiring and beautiful; and gut-wrenching. Carson was just the whole package and really was what Oakley needs. Unexpected twists and heartwarming relationships: definitely recommend.

Beautiful story full of tragedy, grief, despair, but an ultimate sense of hope mingled within all of the circumstances. I do not cry in books, but this one brought forth legit happy and sad tears that regrettably stained some of the pages. This book is definitely worth the read.

Having a baby brother that I live for and who reminds me so much of Lucas, this book touched my soul. Be prepared to cry.

I totally fell in love with the characters in this book! My heart ached for them and I cried. Then I rejoiced and felt hope and love! I highly recommend this amazing book!

Sad but an amazing book that you must read! It's a little old at some points so have mom or dad read it first if your kid isn't a teenager!

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